

**Springettsbury Township
Parks & Recreation Board
Meeting Minutes
17 September 2012
6:00 PM**

In Attendance

Board Members:

Sherry Nichols-Chair
Steve Wolf-Vice Chair
Sid Martin
Leslie Jones

Staff:

David Wendel, Director of Parks & Recreation

Absent:

Steve Barkowski
John Kerchner

Citizens:

Andy Mears

1. Call To Order:

Nichols

Ms. Nichols called the meeting to order at 6 pm. She welcomed the Board and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Welcome New Board Member: Leslie Jones

2. Action on Minutes: (16 July 2012)

Mr. Wolf moved to accept the 16 July 2012 meeting minutes. Mr. Martin was second. Motion unanimously carried.

3. Communication from Citizens:

Nichols

Ms. Nichols reported on comments from residents on two matters:

1. The crushed stone paths behind the condos at Springetts Oaks Park become displaced or washed out during heavy rain events. Resident would like to see these paths paved
2. Resident questioned why benches located on path above the north parking lot at Springettsbury Park face south rather than north.

Wendel

Mr. Wendel reported that an accessible route leading from the sidewalk at Springetts Oaks Park to the various facilities including the pavilion, playground and basketball courts was constructed several years ago as part of our ongoing ADA improvements. Connecting it to the existing crushed stone paths behind the condos has been discussed in the past; however, the terrain, soccer field location and drainage need to be addressed to determine feasibility.

In regards to the orientation of the benches at Springgettsbury Park, they are placed or positioned so the user faces the path rather than having their back to it. This is a common design practice for user safety.

Mears Mr. Andy Mears, a resident of Springgettsbury Township, inquired about where the Board stands with the development of trails to connect parks and make the Township a more walkable community.

Wendel Mr. Wendel reported that greenways and trails were addressed in the Comprehensive Recreation, Parks and Open Space Plan in 2008. We applied for a grant from DCNR to develop a path at Augustus Schaefer Park that would help in connecting our parks, in this case, Augustus Schaefer and Stonewood Park, however, we did not receive any funding for the project. We did acquire however, an easement from an adjacent property owner that will improve accessibility at Augustus Schaefer Park. We recognize that linkages to several neighborhood parks exists, and more focus needs to be placed on addressing this matter.

4. Communication from Board Members:

Jones Mr. Jones reported that the Historic Preservation Committee was considering raising funds to purchase the Shultz House which is located within the 115 acre property purchased by the Township formerly known as the Walters property adjacent to Camp Security Park. At this time, they are waiting for information from Historic York and the Board of Supervisors before deciding how to proceed.

Martin Mr. Martin shared his observations from visits to Springgettsbury Park to watch the youth summer basketball league. He stated that the event appeared to be well organized and managed. He heard no negative comments. On the other hand, he heard positive comments regarding the concerts and the availability and number of pet waste stations in the park.

5. Director's Report:

Wendel Mr. Wendel reported on the following matters:

- **Summer Playground:** This 8 week program which was held at 9 different park locations throughout the Township had a total of 1040 children registered. Over 400 youth could be found on our parks on a daily basis. We again partnered with the Art Institute of York for our Craft Exhibit at their Gallery. Very successful, high parent/child attendance. The Arts and Crafts Show at the Galleria Mall also proved successful with approximately 1000 pieces of artwork on display and judged. Overall, high quality staff and programs made for a great season of safe and fun leisure activities for the youth of Springgettsbury.
- **Sounds of Summer:** The concert season again drew capacity crowds throughout the summer with the exception of a few dates at the end that were impacted by inclement weather. The overall variety and quality of the acts seemed to be very appealing to our audience based on anecdotal evidence. The July 4 concert/fireworks attracted the largest crowd, estimated at 10,000+, on a very hot day. Many people showed up later than normal because of the stifling heat and humidity.

- **Partnership Development:** We had a very successful fundraising campaign for both Sounds of Summer and Saturday in the Park. We developed more partnerships and raised more funds than 2011. We generated \$40,127 in partnership dollars for Sounds of Summer which was approximately \$1,000 more than 2011. However, due to inclement weather over the last 4 concerts, concession commissions and donations came in lower, as a result, overall cost recovery was \$47,500 compared to \$48,200 in 2011.

For Saturday in the Park, we developed 44 partnerships compared to 42 in 2011. The result, \$29,925 in partnership dollars compared to \$28,900 in 2011. Our goal is always complete cost recovery for this event. With estimated event costs close to \$40,000, we should easily recover our costs if concession commissions, tickets fees, donations, and registration fees come in at the same level as 2011. The weather, however, is always the determining factor in this quest. Final totals will be reported at our October meeting.

- **Saturday in the Park:** The event is scheduled on Saturday, September 29. The Board was encouraged, if not volunteering already, to come out and enjoy the festivities and provide feedback at our October meeting.
- **Fall Newsletter:** The fall menu of programs was discussed with the Board. As always, we are trying to expand our program selections to meet a broader segment of the population.

6. Old Business: **None Reported**

7. New Business: Mr. Wendel made the Board aware of David Seilers resignation from the Parks and Recreation Board. He resigned so he could pursue a position on Zoning Hearing Board which he was appointed to. His resignation was made effective on August 10, 2012.

8. Announcements: Next meeting Monday, October 15, 2012 at 6 pm

9. Adjournment: Ms. Nichols adjourned the meeting at 7:40 pm.