



Centre Region Council of Governments
CENTRE REGION PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
CENTRE REGIONAL RECREATION AUTHORITY

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Serving the Borough of State College and the Townships of College, Ferguson, Harris and Patton

Approved Minutes of Regular Meeting

Thursday, 16 August 2012 at the Millbrook Marsh Nature Center

I. CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL

Chair Sue Mascolo called the meeting to order at 12:15 PM.

Board members attending (5 of 6):

Sue Mascolo, Chair

Kathy Matason, Secretary

Chris Hurley

Roy Harpster, Vice-Chair

Donna Conway, Treasurer

Staff: Ronald J. Woodhead, Director

Molly Hetrick, Rec. Sup. Nature Ctr.

Chrissy Kisslak, Office Manager

Todd Roth, Aquatics Supervisor

Jim Steff, COG Executive Director

Niki Tourscher, Program Manager

Jim Carpenter, Parks Supervisor

Beth Lee, Rec. Supervisor Programs & Special Events

Virginia Shawley, Rec. Sup. Senior Ctr.

Jeff Hall, Rec. Supervisor

Others: Bill Keough

II. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - None.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Following a motion by Mr. Harpster and a second by Ms. Conway, the minutes from 19 July 2012 meeting were unanimously approved.

IV. VOUCHER REPORT - Following a motion by Mr. Hurley and a second by Dr. Ricketts, the June 2012 voucher report was unanimously approved.

V. COMMUNICATIONS - None

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS - Municipal Boards & Committees

Ferguson Twp. - the Phase 3 facilities at Tudek Park are under construction by Ferguson Twp. and should be completed in 2013. This phase includes sport fields and a pavilion.

Patton Twp. - Bernel Road Park is not yet open due to issues with the subcontractor for the tennis court fencing and the great lawn area is to be re-graded and seeded. The grand opening has been delayed by the Township.

Harris Twp. - the Park Improvement Plan has been submitted to the Board of Supervisors for review.

College, State College Borough & State College Area School District: No reports.

COG Parks Capital Committee - A joint meeting was held on 9 Aug 2012. The agenda focused on the presentation of the final report on the Centralized Parks Maintenance Site Study.

VII. STAFF REPORTS

Director's Report - Mr. Woodhead reviewed the July monthly report. This summer, in general, has been a success all around with the pools, camps, Hess Field Complex and what has been provided for the public. Staff attended a Child Protection Seminar at State College Borough and have recommended that training be added to our Child Safety Policy already in place. The new policy will be provided for this boards review in September.

Program Manager's Report - Niki noted that the Active Guide will be published and distributed this Sunday, (Aug. 19). Some new programs are Muck and Mess, Kitchen Concoctions, Scarecrow Stuff It and Kids Yard Sale.

Staff is going to meet and brainstorm on a stronger marketing plan for the agency including a logo and getting our branding out to the public.

Supervisor Highlights

Jim Carpenter - Parks Supervisor - wrapping up summer and heading into fall. The parks division is considering offering sportfield lining services to the various sports groups for a fee. This would be one way that the department can increase revenue to offset expenses. When the sport groups line their own fields they are sometimes not placed in the ideal location for safety of the children and the fields look much nicer when they are done with line painting equipment versus the aerosol can technique (which is not environmentally friendly). A time and materials study is underway with the sport group that uses Haymarket Park. This would also ensure that the mowing schedule and lining schedule are not in direct conflict with one another.

Beth Lee - Recreation Supervisor for Programs & Special Events - summer camps are over and were definite success this year with the help of the Summer Camp Coordinator position. Good and reliable staff this year made all eight weeks go better. Capacity this year at camps were between 80-90%. The fall will bring some new program that Niki highlighted and that we are excited to try here. Recruiting volunteers and marketing are also a main focus during this time.

Virginia Shawley - Senior Center Supervisor - searching for volunteers to present lunchtime talks to bring seniors into the center. Technology Thursdays will also begin to teach seniors the benefits of Skype and other computer technologies. The center's Open House will be September 12.

Molly Hetrick - Recreation Supervisor - Nature Center - the Scarecrow Stuff It event will take place on Saturday, September 29 at the Nature Center. We are encouraging youth groups, businesses and families to come out, bring their clothing and we provide the bag for the head, string and straw for the scarecrows. There may be some seasonal "harvest" related activities and even some t-shirts and refreshments. This could be a fund-raising event for the Nature Center and staff will pursue sponsors for the associated costs of the event. Fall preparations are underway for the Nature Center and family programs start in September. The school districts are struggling to find funding for field trips to the Marsh. Staff are attending meetings with the schools regarding this issue. The PA Fish and Boat Commission surveyed streams at the center where some stream restoration had been done by Penn State and they report that, over the past five years the native trout population is growing and flourishing. There are approximately five times more fish now then there was five years ago.

Todd Roth - Aquatics Supervisor - the pools close in 18 days. The Dive-In Movie on August 8 at Park Forest Pool was a success - as were all of the family events scheduled at the pools this summer. Looking ahead to 2013 we will determine what worked this summer and what needs tweaked. In September the fall swim lessons will start at the High School Natatorium.

Jeff Hall - Recreation Supervisor for Sports & Fitness - softball leagues are winding up with championships this week. The Age 35+ ASA State Championships will be held at Hess Field this coming weekend with over 30 teams. Flag football will start next week with a new coed league. September 30 is the local Punt, Pass and Kick competition to be held at Hess Field for the first time. Concessions ended strong at Hess Field. There is a new tournament scheduled for October at Hess Field with the National Collegiate Club Softball Group with 10-16 teams. They are interested in trying Hess after playing at Williamsport last year. The group noted they felt there would be more nighttime entertainment in State College than in Williamsport.

VIII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Centre Foundation Grant Application - The CRPR grant proposal to construct the needed parking area at Millbrook Marsh Nature Center for remains one of three applications selected as finalists by the Centre Foundation for their \$10,000 Anniversary Circle Grant. Mr. Woodhead & Ms. Hetrick have been invited to make a 10-minute presentation to their Selection Committee on Tuesday, 21 Aug 2012, where the final recipient will be selected. The following partners are proposed:

\$10,000 Anniversary Grant from the Centre Foundation

\$28,000 in-kind services donation from Glenn O. Hawbaker, Inc. (amount pending)

\$12,000 Challenge Grant from an Anonymous Donor

\$10,000 from the CRRA Nature Center Capital Campaign

\$60,000 Total Project Cost

(Update: the Foundation selected one of the other finalists for their \$10,000 grant. Later, Glenn O. Hawbaker Inc. would only offer a \$5,305 discount (9%). End result: the parking area project has been tabled pending available

funding.)

Oak Hall Phase 1 Development - Based upon the Board action in July, the bid process for Oak Hall Regional Park - Phase 1 Construction (4 contracts) will continue on Monday, 20 Aug with a pre-bid meeting at the park. The eBids will open on 6 Sept (this date was later delayed until 11 Sept.) To be in time for discussion at the next joint meeting on Thursday, 20 Sept.

Refinancing of the Pool Loan - the most-recent discussions of the COG Finance Committee regarding the possible refinancing of the Authority's 2008 Pool Renewal Loan (for \$6 million). Four banks have indicated to the Concord Finance Group that they intend to submit refinance proposals. The intent is to explore reduced interest rates. Once all the quotes have been received and reviewed, an update will be provided.

The 2013 Budget Proposals - The 2013 CRPR Detailed Budget Proposals are now under development by staff. The proposals will be based upon the topics outlined in the COG Program Plan - and provided to the Board when the drafts are completed. Meanwhile, municipal comments on the Program Plan are being submitted to COG Administration; comments related to Parks and Recreation will be relayed to the Board as they become available.

IX. ACTION ITEMS

Parks Maintenance Site Evaluation Study - In response to the report presentations and based upon a motion by Mr. Hurley and seconded by Ms. Matason, the Authority unanimously accepted and endorsed the Site Evaluation Report and expressed Board support to work with the participating municipalities on the various issues, tasks and options to process with this needed project.

Regional Parks Consultant Agreement - Water Well Proposal - Following a motion by Mr. Harpster and seconded by Ms. Matason, the Board approved the second amendment to the Professional Service Agreement to provide fees and reimbursable expenses (at the rates listed in the original agreement) for consulting services related to the Water Well / Parkland Conversion Evaluation by PA Dept. Of Conservation and Natural Resources, and that the total fees and expenses shall not exceed \$5,000.

X. ADJOURNMENT - The meeting was adjourned at 1:15pm following a motion by Ms. Conway and seconded by Mr. Harpster.

FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

Joint Meeting with the COG Parks Capital Committee:	Thur., 13 Sep 2012 at the COG Bldg. Forum Room
Centre Regional Rec. Authority:	Thur., 20 Sep 2012 at the COG Bldg. Forum Room

Meeting summary prepared by Chrissy Kisslak, CRPR Office Manager

These minutes were approved by the Board on 20 Sept 2012. They will now be distributed and web-posted.

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