



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, 18 October 2012 at the COG Forum Room

I. CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL

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

Board members attending (6 of 6):

Sue Mascolo, Chair	Roy Harpster, Vice-Chair	Kathy Matason, Secretary
Donna Conway, Treasurer	Donna Ricketts	Chris Hurley
Staff: Ronald J. Woodhead, Director	Niki Tourscher, Program Manager	
Jim Carpenter, Parks Supervisor	Chrissy Kisslak, Office Manager	
Beth Lee, Rec. Supervisor Programs & Special Events		
Todd Roth, Aquatics Supervisor	Virginia Shawley, Rec. Sup. Senior Ctr.	
Jim Steff, COG Executive Director	Jeff Hall, Rec. Supervisor	
Others: Oak Hall Residents - Stan Smith, Jos. Westrick, Sanford Lindenbaum		
Joe Rocco, Comcast	Dick Mascolo, Ferguson Township	
Jessica VanderKolk, Centre Daily Times		

II. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - None.

III. SPECIAL PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD - Mr. Joe Rocco presented to the Board a donation from the **Comcast Foundation** as a result of the 2012 "Comcast Cares" Volunteer Workday held on Sat. 21 Apr 2012 at Millbrook Marsh Nature Center and at 11 other park sites. The \$3,097 donation will be applied towards constructing the year-round Visitor Reception Lot at Millbrook Marsh Nature Center. The amount of the donation was determined by the number of volunteers at the various CRPR sites. Our sincere thanks to Comcast and to community volunteers for this multi-year partnership to improve the parks in the Centre Region.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - following a motion by Mr. Harpster and second by Mr. Hurley the following minutes were unanimously approved: (1) Regular Meeting on 20 Sept 2012, (2) Special Meeting on 24 Sept 2012 (for pool loan refinancing).

V. VOUCHER REPORTS - following a motion by Ms. Conway and second by Ms. Matason, the voucher reports from July & August 2012 were unanimously approved. The

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS & MEMBER UPDATES - the following reports were given:

State College Borough - no report

Patton Township is hoping to approve and open the Bernel Road Park by November 1.

Harris Township has cut the curb at Harpster Park. On November 4, new playground equipment will be installed at Fasick Park.

Ferguson Township is installing the new sidewalks at Tudek Park Phase 3.

College Township met but did not have a quorum. There was a plan presented by a PSU group that detailed a new bridge to cross Spring Creek off of Houserville Road. In addition, the Committee felt the playground equipment relocation project at Daleview Park was moving too slowly.

SCASD Community Education is holding a pasta fundraiser to benefit the Literacy Fund.

VII. STAFF REPORTS

Agency Activity Report - the report was presented by Mr. Woodhead with no follow up questions.

2013 CRPR Budget Proposal - The updated CRPR Budget Proposal and Summary Budget was distributed for Board information. The entire COG Budget will now be recommended for review and comment by the five participating municipalities. The municipal comments will be relayed to the Authority Board at future meetings.

Welch Pool Renewal - Mr. Woodhead reported that the final grant reimbursement was received. With that action, a summary report of all capital expenses for the two pools and the nature center building can now be prepared for Board review before the end of the year.

2012 Concession & Vending Commission Report - Ms. Kisslak presented a report showing year-to-date concession revenue for 2012 was \$11,261. Welch Pool proceeds represented 47.2% of the commission, Park Forest Pool 27.4% and Hess Field Complex 25.4%. Vending machines (all three locations) make up 54% of the revenue, Rita's Italian Ice (all three locations) 33% and Sutliff Concessions (at Hess only) 13%. There are still several tournaments scheduled at Hess Field for 2012. Updates will be provided once the facility is closed for the season.

2012 Summer Program Report - Ms. Tourscher presented the report and highlighted how well the pools performed this summer. In addition, sportsfield reservation revenue increased due to the fee increase for the year. In view of the 2012 numbers, staff is looking for ways to present new and exciting programs to the public.

2012 United Way Day of Caring - Mr. Carpenter summarized the day (held on 4 Oct 2012) with over 80 individuals reporting for work. All of the assigned jobs were completed which saved staff time and resources. Lowe's and Home Depot each donated paint for the projects.

Supervisor Highlights - the following reports were given:

Todd Roth - Aquatics Supervisor - swim lessons at the natatorium are going well and are well attended. Staff added a new program (indoor Springboard Diving) at the natatorium. It will run in conjunction with lessons utilizing the shallow end of the pool and diving at the deep end of the pool. Winterization at the pools is about half complete. We will continue to run filters until it gets too cold and then the remainder of the winterization can take place. The parks crew is also assisting with off-season landscaping issues.

Jim Carpenter - Parks Supervisor - hired three new full-time caretakers to fill vacant positions. Two were external candidates and one was a seasonal worker. There were over 30 applicants for the positions. All three will be on board by 22 October. For parks maintenance, the focus moves from grass maintenance to leaf collection.

Virginia Shawley - Senior Center Supervisor - the center hosted the PA Lottery to film various activities for a You Tube promotional video. Lottery proceeds benefit senior programs across the state. The center is preparing for the Halloween Costume Party on 31 October. Next week the center will observe the UN Day of Sharing with celebrating participants nationalities. Flu shots will be available on 14 November.

Jeff Hall - Recreation Supervisor for Sports & Fitness - fall tennis is wrapping up and flag football playoffs are next weekend. New sessions of fitness classes begin in two weeks. There was a 7 team club softball tournament at Hess last weekend from all over the east coast. They loved the facility and committed to returning next spring. There will be a 24 team youth fast pitch tournament at Hess Field next weekend.

Beth Lee for Molly Hetrick - Recreation Supervisor - Nature Center - School field trips are under way. Connections grant was only partially able to fund the number of trips schools can take to the Nature Center. The 10th Annual Harvest Fest is Sunday, Nov. 4. There is a team of PSU RPTM students planning the event again this year. The Scarecrow "Stuff It" event was held on September 29 with seven groups participating. You can view and "like" your favorite scarecrow on facebook. The most "likes" will win the most "liked" award.

Beth Lee - Recreation Supervisor for Programs & Special Events - children are enjoying the new Muck and Mess program which meets each Thursday morning at Tudek Park. The six children enrolled (ages 3-5) are finger painting, toe painting, creating scarecrows, pumpkin carving, etc. The Kids Yard Sale (Tudek Park) held on September 29 was a success with 25 children participating (ages 8-12). Dark in the Park is scheduled for Oct. 24 and the 67th Annual Halloween Parade will be held Oct. 28 (Note: the 2012 parade was cancelled due to weather conditions).

Niki Tourscher - Program Manager - there will be a new format for the Active Guide where the activities and programs will be divided by age and category. The supervisors job descriptions will also be reviewed in the near future to reflect the new Program Manager position and the associated changes.

VIII. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Tudek Dog Park Update - Mr. Woodhead outlined the current park regulations with regard to the two size areas for dogs and a letter from a local group of dog park users. Mr. Woodhead and Mr. Carpenter have since met with group representatives regarding their requests, which remain under consideration. The Ferguson Township Manager and staff recommended that the regulations should stay as they are for the short term and will study the possibility of establishing a 4th fenced area for mixed-size dogs. There is currently a spare regrowth pen but it is reserved for when the grass wears down in the existing pens. With regard to the groups request that an Advisory Committee be formed, staff feels that because the two regional parks will also have dog parks eventually an Advisory Committee is a welcomed idea. This is something that staff is not yet ready to act on but feel in the near future, could prove beneficial.

Centralized Parks Maintenance Facility - Mr. Woodhead updated the Board on the scheduling status of the Centralized Parks Maintenance Building with respect to the Phase 1 planning and construction of Whitehall Road Regional Park. The General Forum will discuss this at their October 22 meeting. Following a motion by Mr. Hurley and seconded by Ms. Matason:

“The Centre Regional Recreation Authority supports locating the new Centralized Parks Maintenance Facility at the Whitehall Road Regional Park.”

IX. ACTION ITEMS

Proposed Pool Policy Revisions - Mr. Roth outlined both staff and resident recommendations for 2013 pool operations. Following a motion by Mr. Hurley and seconded by Ms. Conway, the Board unanimously approved the policy revisions as outlined. In summary, the nonresident rate for children ages 3 and under will increase from \$2 to \$3. Also, there will be an increase the rates for 2013 season passes by \$5 except for children ages 3 and under.

Child Safety Policy Updates - Ms. Tourscher reviewed the proposed updates to this policy. The current updates focus on expanding staff training & awareness along with the reporting process. Following a motion by Mr. Hurley and seconded by Ms. Matason, these proposed updates were unanimously supported by the Board.

Oak Hall Regional Park - Conservation Easement - following a motion by Dr. Ricketts and seconded by Ms. Matason, the Board unanimously approved the Conservation Easement as distributed at the Joint Meeting on 11 Oct 2012. This agreement is related to the development of Oak Hall Regional Park. As indicated by his letter enclosed with that agenda packet, the agreement has been reviewed by Solicitor Williams.

Oak Hall Regional Park - Phase 1 Development Bids - after thoroughly discussing the bid process and bid results (approx. \$400,000 over budget) and following a motion by Dr. Ricketts, seconded by Ms. Matason, the Board unanimously approved

“That all four bids for the Oak Hall Regional Park Project, Phase 1 be rejected and rebid with a restructured bid documents.”

X. ADJOURNMENT

FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULES

- Joint Meeting: CRRRA & COG Parks Capital Comm. - Thur., 8 Nov 2012, 12:15 PM, COG Forum Rm.
- CRRRA Board: Regular Meeting - Thur., 15 Nov 2012, 12:15 PM, COG Forum Room

Meeting summary prepared by Chrissy Kisslak, CRPR Office Manager

These minutes were approved by the Board on 15 Nov 2012.

They will now be distributed and web-posted.

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