



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, 19 July 2012 at the Centre Region Senior Center

**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
Chris Hurley	Donna Ricketts
Staff: Ronald J. Woodhead, Director	Niki Tourscher, Program Manager
Molly Hetrick, Rec. Sup. Nature Ctr.	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	Joe Viglione, COG Finance Officer
Others: Alan Popovich, A/P Architects	Justin Harclerode, A/P Architects
Andrew Biddle	

**INTRODUCTION:** Mr. Woodhead introduced Ms. Niki Tourscher, CRPR Program Manager to the board. Niki started work at CRPR on 17 July.

**II. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - None.**

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES -** Following a motion by Mr. Hurley and a second by Ms. Conway, the minutes from 21 June 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.* - Approved new playground equipment and fencing at Park Hills Park.

*Patton, Harris, College, State College Borough & State College Area School District:* No report.

**COG Parks Capital Committee -** Mr. Woodhead indicated that the 12 July meeting was instrumental in providing the guidance necessary to complete the bid documents for the Regional Parks which this Board will act on today.

**VII. STAFF REPORTS**

**Director's Report -** Mr. Woodhead reviewed the June monthly report. The Senior Center statistics for June show 2,056 program visits however the Senior Games which spanned through the month were not counted in these numbers. The CoPilot software for the Senior Center will be purchased by the Agency and half of the cost will be reimbursed from the County. The Nature Center capital campaign (Phase 1) is completed. The Nature Center needs a parking lot so staff is pricing the various options relating to that project. The Board unanimously supports this venture. Finally, there are 208 employees (both permanent and seasonal) at the agency at present.

**Supervisor Highlights**

*Todd Roth (for Jeff Hall - Recreation Supervisor for Sports & Fitness)* - there have been two 3-day youth tournaments at Hess Field to date. One had 28 teams one had 27 teams. Two scheduled adult tournaments scheduled that were scheduled but cancelled due to lack of teams. There are five softball leagues through CRPR and they are doing well. An Adult Co-ed Flag Football League will be added this fall.

*Todd Roth - Aquatics Supervisor* - Summer is about half over and the pools have sold over 5,000 season passes to

date. This is well above last season and beyond all expectations. The passes are selling even with summer half-over. Admission numbers are also up as well as program enrollments. There are over 400 youth enrolled for the swim teams alone. Special events at the pool are very popular this year. The youth triathlon is this weekend.

*Virginia Shawley - Senior Center Supervisor* - just finished up Senior Games. The All-Senior Picnic is 3 Aug at Sayers Dam with a Halloween theme. All county centers join together for a picnic and fun. Most of the senior bus trips have been cancelled due to lack of enrollment. Program focus for the fall is Food for Thought which would be a lunchtime speaker for the boomers that want to come in for a short subject talk over lunch.

*Beth Lee - Recreation Supervisor for Programs & Special Events* - Summer camps are in full swing at about 80% enrollment on average. The Peanut Carnival is next Thursday 26 July. There may be a need to change the use of real peanuts for the carnival in 2013 due to child allergies. There were over 300 kids at the Kids on Wheels Parade on 4 Jul. We are marketing programs and events with newspapers, e-mails and social media. The fall Active Guide will be out 19 Aug.

*Molly Hetrick - Recreation Supervisor - Nature Center* - camps are going very well at the half way point. Geocaching camp is next week with Wetland camp the final week. These camps has been entirely planned by interns in order to save money to pay instructors. The Nature Center is trying to create a partnership with First Energy in order to possibly get some in kind services when work on the parking lot begins.

*Jim Carpenter - Parks Supervisor* - maintenance is busy maintaining parks including baseball and softball fields. The Remembrance Trees are needing water bags due to the lack of precipitation. Jim attended the preconstruction meeting for Tudek Park Phase III, to include one youth ballfield, one full-size soccer field and several smaller soccer fields along with one pavilion and a drinking fountain. Hess Field tournament logistics have been interesting but for our first year we are doing well. The agency plans to fill the 3 Parks Caretaker vacancies this fall; one of those positions should be skilled as a mechanic to work on agency equipment and vehicles.

## VIII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

**Parks Maintenance Site Evaluation Study** - Mr. Alan Popovich presented the draft site evaluation study that the Authority authorized in April. APArchitects evaluated three potential sites for a new "Centralized Parks Maintenance Facility." Official Board action to receive the report will be requested when the final report is submitted. In the interim, the estimated costs from the report will be used in developing the 2013 Budget Proposal and to consider financing options with the participating municipalities. In summary, the recommended site is at Whitehall Road Regional Park. The ideal scenario would be to erect a new facility (8,000 sf equipment sheds and 8,000 sf maintenance / storage building) which is estimated at \$1.8 to \$2 million dollars depending on options. The schedule at present is that CRPR must be out of the current facility by December 2013. Mr. Steff added that the facility seems warranted and the cost seems appropriate however there is an urgent need to understand the timeline as the COG process will take us easily into early 2013 for approval and then there is financing, bidding, etc.

**Update on Refinancing of the Pool Loan** - Mr. Viglione updated the Board of the most-recent discussions of the COG Finance Committee regarding the possible refinancing of the Authority's 2008 Pool Renewal Loan (\$6.67 million). At present, the 20 year loan has a fixed rate of 3.95% thru 2028. If the COG opts to refinance this loan the debt service savings would be approximately \$20,000 per year. The Finance Committee did not feel that the Parks Maintenance Facility project was far enough along to factor it into this refinance plan. This process should go before the General Forum in September 2012 and would also involve CRRA actions.

**The 2013 Program Plan** - The *2013 COG Program Plan* has been released by the COG Office of Administration. Pending municipal comments, this document provides the basis of developing the 2013 Detailed Budget in August. Mr. Steff added that this plan identifies new proposals for 2013. Therefore, there should be no surprises, unless there is something of an emergency nature; what is in the plan is what will be proposed in the detailed budget document.

**Active.Net Internet Registrations** - *This topic will be postponed to a future meeting.*

## IX. ACTION ITEMS

**Oak Hall Phase 1 Development** - the Board unanimously authorized seeking bids of this project based on a motion by Mr. Hurley and seconded by Ms. Matason. There are many add-alternates associated with the project so that the project can be selectively priced. Based upon the discussions at the 12 July Joint Meeting, updates will provide to the Board to prepare for the planned Bid Opening on 2 Aug 2012 and the award bids on 13 Sep 2012. Construction would begin in October 2012 and the park would open in the fall of 2014.

**Softball Batting Cage Proposal** - In late-2011, Mr. Andrew Biddle submitted a request to plan, construct and operate a softball batting cage operation at the Hess Field Complex and/or at the future Oak Hall Reg. Park. Since that time Mr. Biddle has worked with staff to update his proposal for a 2-bay installation at the Hess Field Complex for Spring 2013. It is proposed that the compensation to the Authority be based upon a base monthly fee (in operational months) plus a percent of gross revenue from the batting cages. No expenditures by the Authority are proposed; the Authority will essentially rent the land to Mr. Biddle with the proceeds to offset CRPR operational expenses for the Hess Complex. Mr. Biddle updated the proposal and based upon that update, the Authority authorized staff to begin work with the Authority Solicitor on preparing a draft license agreement for future Board action.

**Pool Admission for “Non-Swimming Adults”** (Residents & Nonresidents) - Effective immediately, the Authority unanimously approved the amended definition (as underlined below) based on a motion by Mr. Harpster and seconded by Ms. Matason.

Currently: • Non-Swimming Adult \$2 (Not attired in swimwear)

Proposed: • Non-Swimming Adult \$2 (Not attired in swimwear and not entering the water.)

(By comparison: Regular Daily Admission for ages 11-64 is \$7 R / \$9 N)

X. **ADJOURNMENT** - The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 PM with a motion by Mr. Harpster and a second by Ms. Matason.

## FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

- COG Parks Capital Committee (Joint Meeting): Thursday, 9 Aug at the COG Forum Room at 12:15 PM
- Centre Regional Rec. Authority: Thursday, 16 Aug at Millbrook Marsh Nature Center, 12:15 PM

*The minutes were approved by the Board on Thursday, 19 Aug 2012.*

*They will now be distributed to Municipal Managers, SCASD and posted on the CRPR website.*

Meeting summary prepared by Chrissy Kisslak, CRPR Office Manager

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