

CENTRE REGION PARKS AND RECREATION AUTHORITY
BOARD MEETING SUMMARY ~ APPROVED
November 20, 2014

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mascolo called the meeting of the CRPR Authority Board to order at 12:15 PM in the COG Forum Room with the following individuals in attendance:

Board (5 of 6): Meses. Ishler, Mascolo, Matason; Messrs. Dunn, Hurley.

(Ms. Messick was not available to attend this meeting.)

Others: Messrs. Woodhead, Director; Carpenter, Parks Manager; Roth, Aquatics Supervisor; Hall, Sports and Fitness Supervisor; Steff, COG Executive Director; Viglione, COG Finance Officer, Harlow, ELA Group; Pawelczyk, SCASD; Poprik, SCASD; Meses. Tourscher, Program Manager; Hetrick, Nature Center Supervisor; Lee, Recreation & Marketing Supervisor; Stahlman, Senior Center Supervisor; Concepcion, SCASD; Michael, PSU student.

II. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Hurley and a second by Ms. Matason to accept the minutes of the October Board meeting. The vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.

IV. VOUCHER REPORT

Following a motion by Ms. Ishler and second by Mr. Hurley to accept the October Voucher Report, the motion passed unanimously.

V. BOARD MEMBER ITEMS & UPDATES

Patton Township - Mr. Hurley reported that park surveys will be sent out Dec. 1; expansion of Bernel Road Park Disc Golf course (from 9 to 18 holds) is still under discussion; the Patton Twp. Parks Project Manager was planning to attend a DCNR grant workshop on Nov. 21; the Open Space Referendum passed and Twp. Manager Erickson is forming a committee to look at opportunities to establish more open space areas within the township.

State College Borough - Nothing to report

Harris - Ms. Ishler reported that their committee reviewed the Eagle Scout project being done at Yoder Preserve; they discussed the new park to be adjacent to Country Place Park and discussed applying for a grant; they are looking at their 2015-2019 Capital Improvement Program, and finishing up the replacement of park equipment at Nittany View Park.

College Township - Ms. Matason reported that they reviewed their Capital Improvement Program and approved a recommendation to Council to add the two Slab Cabin Pavilions to the list of 2015 CRPR reservable pavilions.

Ferguson Township - Ms. Mascolo reported that Teener League field, owned by the township and operated by the Teener League organization, is being renamed the Silvis Baseball Complex and they received over \$100,000 in donations to improve the ballpark.

VI. STAFF REPORTS

A. Director's Report:

Staff Activity Report: Mr. Woodhead reported that over 1,300 marchers and spectators attended the 68th annual regional Halloween Parade on Oct 26. The Fall 2014 Staff Roster was distributed - with a total of 80 employees, full-time and seasonal.

Hess Field Complex "2014 Report / 2015 Outlook": Ms. Tourscher highlighted information from the report which showed that 2014 Hess Complex revenue exceeded expenses. She reported that she and Mr. Hall will be looking at ways to reduce expenses and increase revenue in 2015. Mr. Dunn asked if the table showing concession income was gross or net and Ms. Tourscher said the commission payments represented the net amounts paid to the Authority.

Mr. Woodhead presented a letter from the COG Public Services & Environmental Committee relating to Whitehall Road Regional Park; a letter from College Township Council authorizing CRPR to add the Slab Cabin pavilions to the 2015 reservable pavilion list; and a letter from the Governor regarding the \$87,500 grant to the Nature Center for the parking lot. Mr. Woodhead also noted that he would also be attending the DCNR Grant Workshop, although CRPR would not be submitting a grant application this year. He has offered to assist with preparing any municipal grants that are planned.

B. Staff Highlights:

Ms. Tourscher reported that Carol Clitherow, Staff Assistant at the Senior Center, submitted her letter for retirement effective Friday, 3 Apr 2015. Ms. Tourscher said that she has been working on strategic plan measurements, reaching out for marketing ideas from peers in the field, and studying for her Playground Safety Certification exam.

Mr. Hall reported that the fall sport leagues are wrapping up, and he is working on the 2015 tournament schedule.

Ms. Stahlman reported the Senior Center had a successful first-ever "Carn-E-vil" and they are planning a mini-Winter Olympics (indoor) fundraiser.

Ms. Lee reported there was good promotion in the Centre Daily Times and on StateCollege.com for the Halloween Parade and that she is working on the Active Guide which will come out on 14 Dec 2014.

Mr. Carpenter reported that they are finishing up leaf removal and closing things up and that they will be installing the ice rink next month at Blue Spring Park.

Ms. Hetrick introduced Abby Michael, a Penn State Rec Park student from the Women's Leadership Initiative, who is shadowing Ms. Hetrick for the day. At the 2 Nov 2014 Harvest Festival, the nature center hosted about 550 people during the 3-hour event, which was great for a very cold day. Also, most programs are done until early spring, but they are already working on summer camp plans.

Mr. Roth reported that winterization was finished at the pools, and he is working on information for the upcoming Active Guide. It is anticipated that pool pass sales will start in December, and in January he will begin hiring 2015 pool staff. Mr. Hurley asked if all the problem areas on the punch lists have been resolved. Mr. Roth said yes and that the pools are now starting to age and are starting to get normal breakdown and having to deal with routine repairs. Mr. Hurley asked if any "fun" items are being planned for purchase. Mr. Roth explained that staff prepared a 5-year plan, so this year a timing system will be purchased for one slide at Park Forest Pool. In the future, that will be a possibility for Welch. A climbing wall and an inflatable obstacle course are possible additions to the pools in the future. Mr.

Hurley commented that the pools have been very well-received and new items would help maintain the popularity of the pools.

VII. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

A. Wm. L. Welch Community Swimming Pool Shared Parking

1. ADA Parking Concern

Mr. Roth gave a background of the swimming pool and explained the current parking layout by using a PowerPoint presentation to show the current locations of the 5 ADA spaces, the bike racks (typically filled from both pool and school uses), and the stormwater drainage ways.

He also explained that the Borough Engineer prepared a concept plan to Borough Council to add two ADA parking spaces in the area currently used for bicycling parking. The cost for those two spaces is estimated at \$38,000 plus the cost of sidewalk renovations or engineering, or the cost to pave a new bicycle parking area. There is also a question as to whether the current ADA standards were used to design that plan.

Mr. Roth also explored the suggestion to permit ADA parking in the service drive – which would not be code-permitted and would not be advisable because of mixed use parking (trash/recycling trucks, delivery trucks, food vendor vehicles, CRPR staff and maintenance vehicles all use that service drive). He explained that the pool staff has allowed patrons with ADA needs to be dropped off in the service drive and then to enter the pool through that back gate.

It had also been suggested that off-duty lifeguards be used to provide a shuttle service from the ADA spaces in the parking lot. Mr. Roth investigated that option and found that an ADA accessible shuttle cart would cost about \$14,000 plus about \$6,885 to pay staff to operate it. A storage shed would also be required and there would be additional insurance plus maintenance costs. As for using off-duty lifeguards, Mr. Roth explained that that is not a possibility because of child labor laws and because Red Cross Lifeguard protocols identify how much break time lifeguards should have between scanning shifts. He also said that this service would need to be available whenever patrons might want to use the pool and there are swimmers in the pool from 6 AM to 8 PM. He pointed out that if the service is provided at Welch Pool, to have fair services at all facilities this service should also be provided at Park Forest Pool.

Mr. Roth said that staff felt the board had four options at this time: 1 – Take no action (since the facility is fully ADA compliant); 2 – Table action pending the finalization of the SCASD renovation plans; 3 – Engage a consultant to explore other ADA parking options ; 4 – Investigate providing a shuttle service.

Ms. Ishler asked for clarification of current ADA drop-off options, and Mr. Roth provided that clarification. Mr. Dunn asked if deliveries in the service drive happen while the pool is open and Mr. Roth said that deliveries happen all day long. Also, the food vendor is usually parked from noon until 5 or 6 if it is a hot day.

Mr. Hurley said he was not comfortable taking any action until he understood the new high school parking configuration. Ms. Matason agreed, saying that she thinks the board needs to understand what the new High School plan is before making decisions to spend money.

Mr. Roth pointed out that there were no funds put in the 2015 budget to make any ADA parking changes or to provide any ADA services. Ms. Ishler said that the Borough plan didn't seem cost effective to gain only two spots. Mr. Hurley asked if there had been any other complaints beyond the one letter that the board had received. Mr. Roth answered that one other person has expressed

concern to staff that the parking is too far away. Ms. Mascolo pointed out she lives with a disabled person and that he has found a way to use that pool. She said that she doesn't understand the expectation of the authority to change the modify the parking layout since it is fully-compliant. Mr. Roth noted that Park Forest Pool provides closer ADA parking spaces, but for social reasons they would prefer to continue using Welch Pool. Ms. Mascolo then asked about the proposed new location of the bike racks; she's concerned about the safety of those bicycling to the pool. That location has not yet been discussed.

Dr. Dunn moved that the Board table any action about ADA parking or service changes until the Board has clarity about the school plans. Mr. Hurley seconded and motion passed unanimously.

2. High School Project Plans / Welch Pool Parking

Mr. Roth recapped the applicable shared parking agreement provisions as well as the lease provisions for construction. He also reviewed the construction impacts on pool parking for the summers 2015 through 2018. He recapped the relevant topics discussed in a meeting between CRPR and SCASD including a signalized 4-way intersection (which needs PennDOT approval), a speed table intersection (which needs Borough approval), and a sidewalk along the loop road spaces for patrons to use when walking to the pool. He also showed where current ADA spaces are and where possible additional ADA spaces could be added to the plan. Mr. Hurley asked why we wouldn't just have those spaces there anyway, and Mr. Roth explained that the slope exceeds the ADA requirement and it needs to be investigated as to whether the area can be flattened enough to meet code requirements. Mr. Hurley stated that he is wondering if there should be a blinking caution light ahead of the intersection to warn drivers that they are coming up to that intersection.

Mr. Pawelczyk distributed a handout that showed the SCASD Preferred Concept plan that had been presented in October 2014 and also included the Updated Concept of November 12, 2014. This updated concept incorporated changes from the October concept plan by keeping the same traffic pattern in the summer as during the school year through elimination of the seasonal parking on the south side, by providing 183 pool parking spaces vs. only 106 spaces on the earlier plan, by putting ADA spaces as close to the pool as possible, and by providing safer access by moving the entrances and exits of the parking lots as far from the intersection as possible. Mr. Hurley asked about the status of the traffic signal and Mr. Harlow said it is a process. The Borough would apply to PennDOT and Mr. Harlow explained that there will still be some time before they are ready to get the Borough to approve being the permittee.

In answer to Mr. Hurley's question about how many patrons park on the north side, Mr. Roth said a fair number are already parking there. Mr. Hurley commended Mr. Pawelczyk on the re-design of the entrances to the parking lots but said that he was skittish about changing the wording to the agreement because something could change on the part of SCASD and the Authority would have no recourse. Mr. Pawelczyk explained that the plan would become an exhibit as part of the agreement.

Mr. Steff suggested that instead of striking "only on the south side" from the agreement, the wording be added "unless otherwise agreed to by the Authority and SCASD." A Memorandum of Understanding would then be created that specified what was being agreed to (i.e., a traffic light, a raised intersection, the additional sidewalk, etc.). Ms. Mascolo stated that she thought the agreement should not be revised until more details are available to the Authority Board. Mr. Pawelczyk explained that on December 14 the Land Development Plan will be submitted and they have to

define the direction they are going for land development. He stated that if the Board decides not to entertain the plan, SCASD will not entertain it for the rest of this project.

Mr. Hurley stated that he thinks what is currently being proposed is safer. People are already parking on the north side; they will be parking there during construction. Because they will possibly be parking there in the future, he feels the current plan is a practical approach.

Mr. Steff pointed out that with an MOU, the Board could specify what they would like to see, such as the traffic signal, a sidewalk, and a raised walkway. Mr. Harlow pointed out that there is no guarantee that PennDOT will approve the traffic signal or that the Borough will approve the raised walkway so those cannot be included as contingencies because SCASD does not have authority to approve them.

Mr. Hurley pointed out that the Authority already has an Agreement with SCASD and that everyone needs to cooperate to accomplish the safest environment. SCASD is the party now trying to change the Agreement. Ms. Concepcion pointed out that this plan would be attached as an exhibit. Mr. Poprik stated SCASD cannot guarantee that a traffic signal will be approved by PennDOT and when the Land Development Plan is approved, the traffic configuration will be set. If Board approval is contingent on the traffic signal being approved, and for some reason PennDOT would not approve it, the entire project would go into re-design. This would delay the project for about a year at a cost of approximately \$4 million. He said approval cannot be contingent on the traffic light. If that is the case, SCASD will move ahead with the agreement as it stands. A discussion ensued about exactly what land development means. Dr. Dunn explained that he feels the planned traffic signal is not in the correct spot. Mr. Harlow stated that the design team had looked at many options taking into account the many constraints such as buses negotiating curves and turns, etc. while trying to balance those constraints.

Mr. Woodhead stated that he and Mr. Roth had met with Mr. Poprik and he was pleased to see that SCASD had incorporated some of their suggestions into the re-design. He suggested that the Board authorize staff to take this plan to the next step. Ms. Matason said that she does not want to take the "south side" clause out but she wants to move forward. A discussion ensued regarding what the school district needs and the concerns of the Board.

Mr. Poprik said he can guarantee the District will continue support for the traffic light. Mr. Hurley stated that the CRPRA Board would want to support the traffic light. Mr. Woodhead pointed out that five municipalities have a financial interest in the continued success of Welch Pool.

Mr. Roth asked what the back-up plan was if the signal is turned down. Mr. Harlow said the Borough authorizes what happens on Westerly Parkway because it is their street. The High School will still be having students crossing that street nine months of the year so they would design it as safely as possible.

Mr. Hurley made a motion that the Agreement not be changed but to explore by amendment or addendum to work cooperatively with SCASD to resolve their issue in design and the Authority's issue of safety. Mr. Dunn seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Hurley made a motion that the regular monthly meeting be moved to December 4 to discuss this issue. Mr. Dunn seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Roth asked the process for putting a 4-way stop at the intersection. Mr. Harlow explained that it was the same process as for the traffic signal - it would require an engineering study and PennDOT approval. He also pointed out that with this re-design, there is much more flexibility to move the ADA parking spaces.

B. 2015 Fee Policy

Following a summary by the Director with updates made to the proposed policy, Mr. Hurley made a motion, seconded by Ms. Matason, to approve the 2015 Fee Policy, and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

C. Change Order #SG-09

Dr. Dunn made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hurley, that Change Order #SG-09 for \$950.14 for electrical service to the job trailer at Oak Hall Regional Park be accepted. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Hurley, seconded by Ms. Matason, and passed unanimously. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, December 4 at a location to be announced (and in lieu of the regular Dec. 18 meeting).

Respectfully Submitted,
Ginny Altenderfer, Recording Secretary

These minutes were approved for distribution by Board action on 4 Dec 2014.