

CENTRE REGION PARKS & RECREATION AUTHORITY BOARD
MEETING SUMMARY
(APPROVED AS CORRECTED)
Thursday, 18 September 2014

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

Board (5 of 6): (1) Mses. Mascolo, (2) Matason, (3) Ishler, (4) Messick; (5) Dr. Dunn.

Others: Messrs. Carpenter, Parks Manager; Roth, Aquatics Supervisor; Hall, Sports and Fitness Supervisor; Viglione, Finance Officer; Pawelczyk, resident; Keough, resident; Mascolo, resident. Mses. Tourscher, Program Manager; Hetrick, Nature Center Supervisor; Lee, Marketing and Special Events Supervisor.

Ms. Tourscher was serving as Acting Director in the absence of Mr. Woodhead, who was traveling outside the area.

II. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public.

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING SUMMARY

Following some revisions to the August meeting summary, a motion was made by Ms. Ishler and seconded by Ms. Matason to accept the summary of the August CRPRA Board meeting. The vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.

Following up on an item in the August summary, Ms. Mascolo inquired about the status was of the Mountain Bike Group and the Action Park. Ms. Tourscher said that the skate park proposal is in the hands of Alan Sam at the Borough because the Borough has a park in mind and CRPR is waiting for the Borough to schedule the community meeting with residents. The Mountain Bike Group is looking at a "pump track" (which is different from what Jamie Bestwick proposed, but there may be a way to incorporate both parks together). Ms. Tourscher said that the park the Borough is considering for the action park may not be conducive to a "pump track" (mountain bike facility). The Mountain Bike Group is also to looking raise funds for a feasibility study, and they may partner with Mr. Bestwick at that time.

IV. VOUCHER REPORT

Ms. Ishler questioned why "Fund 45" figures were not included on the Voucher Report. Mr. Viglione explained while what used to be known as Fund 45 is under COG and not the Authority Board, those figures can be provided to the Board. Ms. Ishler stated that she felt since the Board was overseeing the parks that, they should see all of the figures. Ms. Ishler made a motion to accept the August Voucher Report; second by Ms. Matason with a unanimous vote.

V. BOARD REPORTS

Ferguson Township - No items to report.

College Township - Their meeting was cancelled.

State College Borough - Dr. Dunn reported that he had attended meetings about the Holmes Foster Park Master Plan and also about the High School Project.

Harris Township ~ Ms. Ishler stated that the Harris Township Committee had met at Nittany View Park because some unsafe playground equipment had to be removed and they were considering what replacements to install there. The Township has not received the official documents for the Gates Parkland, but the committee hopes to visit the park soon.

State College Area School District – No items to report.

VI. STAFF REPORTS

Administrative Updates

August Activity Report: Ms. Tourscher reported that the Fall Active Guide was published on 10 August and staff has been working hard on the 2015 Budget proposals.

Summer 2014 Program Report (distributed in the agenda packet): Ms. Tourscher reported that the summer camps were very successful, being full or close to full. Also, facility rentals increased at Millbrook Marsh this summer.

Action Park & Mountain Bike Proposals: Ms. Mascolo would like to see these projects advance.

Flagpole Dedication in Memory of Roy F. Harpster – A ceremony will be held on Sat., 4 Oct 2014, 11:00 AM at the Hess Field Complex to dedicate the flag pole and cast bronze plaque presented in memory of the community service of Roy F. Harpster. The date was selected on the basis of the tournament schedule and with the support of Mrs. Harpster. The public ceremony will be held during an intermission of a collegiate softball tournament that weekend. The flag will be raised by the Boalsburg Fire Co. Honor Guard. The tributes were funded jointly by the CRPR Authority Board and the Harris Twp. Board of Supervisors.

Staff Highlights

Ms. Tourscher reported on behalf of Ms. Stahlman, Senior Center Supervisor, that the Back to School Yard Sale made over \$250. The Senior Center will also be having a Haunted House and Carn-evil this fall in partnership with the Penn State RPTM group. Ms. Mascolo asked how that money is handled and Ms. Tourscher explained that monetary donations are entered as a donation via the MUNIS financial software. Ms. Tourscher also noted that there also is a Certificate of Deposit (about \$5,000) which is overseen by a committee of Senior Center patrons with guidance offered by CRPR and Mr. Viglione

Mr. Carpenter said that the parks crew is actively completing fall sportfield turf work and getting the fields ready and lined for soccer, football and bocce. He reported that CRPR is lining sportfields for two soccer groups on a regular basis. He said that he needs to do some time studies to get more defined costs but the charge is currently \$75 per field. Ms. Mascolo asked how things were going at the Tudek Dog Park. Mr. Carpenter reported that things were relatively quiet this year. Ms. Tourscher said that a little dog was in the big dog area and was bitten. Mr. Mascolo stated that the small dog had since died, and Ms. Mascolo pointed out that the little dog had been (improperly placed by the owner) into the big dog area.

Ms. Lee reported that we are using many avenues (the Active Guide, e-newsletter, radio, flyers, social media) to build awareness of CRPR programs. Last weekend was a movie night under the stars with about 60 – 65 people attending. She is looking at possibly changing the summer movies to fall to get more people attending. She has been working with Borough staff to assist with a “Day of Play” to be held at Tusseyview Park on Sat., 28 Sept 2014 from 1–3 PM.

Ms. Hetrick reported on the recent “Shine a Light” event where lighted sculptures were placed in the stream by a local artist who had suggested the event. Staff was expecting approximately 100 people but 450 attended on Friday evening and 350 on Saturday evening. Staff would like to work with Hamer Center for Design at PSU to make this an annual event. Puddle

Jumpers is underway; they are working with the expanded afterschool programs by SCASD; and preparations are being made for the 2014 Harvest Fest.

Mr. Roth related that the 2nd Annual Aqua-Dog Day was held at Park Forest Pool with 123 dogs participating (no incidents) and that fall swim lessons were beginning that evening. Two weeks ago he had attended the State College Borough Council meeting regarding a handicapped parking issue that had been raised at Welch Pool, and Mr. Roth stated that the Board could expect to be receiving a letter from Borough Council. He pointed out that the pool meets all ADA requirements and that making changes may require significant expense to include engaging an engineering firm. Ms. Ishler commented that she had seen an advertisement that Penn State was offering swimming lessons. Mr. Roth responded that Penn State has been offering swimming lessons for the last 5-6 years and it has not significantly affected CRPR lessons, possibly in part because they don't have much parking near their pool.

Mr. Hall reported that they have finally finished the softball league games. In the CRPR fall leagues, there are 16 teams in flag football, 14 in bocce, and 22 in volleyball. Also, 12 children ages 5 - 7 are in the new Start Smart Lacrosse program. He also announced that the first youth baseball tournament was held at Hess Field with 5 teams. A collegiate club softball tournament will be held 4-5 Oct 2014, and on 18 Oct 2014, a USSSA tournament is being held with about 30 teams.

VII. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

A. 2015 Pool Policy Recommendations

Mr. Roth stated he was not requesting action at this time, but would be requesting action at the next meeting. Staff suggests moving Dollar Days to Father's Day weekend and July 4th weekend. It has previously been held on Memorial Day weekend leading to long lines and very crowded pools when staff is still becoming acclimated to their jobs. Mrs. Matason said she thought that was a good idea but asked if people bought season passes because they came to the pool for Dollar Days. Mr. Roth said that they did but since Father's Day weekend is right after school is out, he thinks the passes will still be bought at that time. Ms. Mascolo confirmed that safety is our first concern.

Mr. Roth explained that, based on religious modesty practices, there had been a request for "Women Only" swim time or aquatic programs for a time when women may use the pool without men present. Staff does not recommend offering this because they are not in favor of offering programs that are exclusionary in nature, because there are questions regarding the number of patrons who would be served by the program, and questions about what programs would have to be cancelled in order to provide this new program.

Staff suggested making a change to the policy and pricing regarding adults accompanying children ages 0-3. Current policy allows an accompanying parent to pay the non-swimmer rate. Staff believes that if a child, age 0-3, is in the water, the parent should be in the water beside the child and, therefore, should be required to pay the 'swimming' rate.

The pools closed at 6 PM on 4 July 2014 instead of 8 PM and staff recommends continuing that. Mr. Roth stated there were no complaints and the pools typically are not busy the evening of July 4th.

Fee increases are only suggested for Adults - Daily Admission Fees from \$7 to \$8; Resident Season Passes from \$85 to \$90 with Nonresident Fees increasing from \$128 to \$135; and for Groups reserving the Lap Pool or Lap Lanes and those fees would increase from \$80 to \$85 /hr.

Mr. Roth stated that summer 2014 was relatively cold and rainy and staff will be evaluating the effectiveness of the “Family Fun Nights” at the pools for the 2015 season. He also stated that staff will be seeking more proposals of food concessions for the pools, possibly in conjunction with Hess and Oak Hall.

B. High School Renovation Project – Updates

Mr. Roth reported that there has been no action yet, just an informational update. SCASD is looking at putting in a traffic signal so that patrons can safely cross Westerly Parkway. During construction, per the lease, the SCASD must still provide parking spaces for Welch Pool patrons but there are no specifications regarding how far those spaces will be from the pool. SCASD has been asked to provide CRPR with a timeline and a plan for pool parking during construction. Mr. Roth stated that preliminary thinking is that they hope to maintain the handicapped spaces on the south side for summer 2015 but for the following two summers they will be across the street at the North Building. Other patrons will park in the North Building lot all three summers.

Mr. Roth also noted that the staff has considered hiring Parks & Recreation staff to help patrons cross the street safely from the parking lot to the pool during the next three summers of construction.

Ms. Mascolo asked if SCASD had gone forward on getting the traffic signal installed. Mr. Pawelczyk stated that traffic counts, the initial steps needed, were going on last week. Dr. Dunn asked if a crossing guard will be needed, and Mr. Roth responded that a lot of people are already parking on the north side, and there have been several accidents where cars stopped for pedestrians have been rear-ended. Ms. Mascolo asked if the school district would be picking up the cost of the crossing guards, if needed. Mr. Roth said that he expected that would be part of the negotiations in the future.

C. Municipal Comments on the 2015 Program Plan

Dr. Dunn noted that the various municipal comments “seemed to throw the ball back into the COG cart.”

D. CRPR Strategic Plan 2015-2020 Final Draft

Ms. Tourscher reported that the budget had been completed one day earlier and copies were provided to board members. Ms. Tourscher pointed out that an addition on the last page of the Strategic Plan is a measurement tool to be used by staff for evaluation. A motion to accept the Final Draft of the CRPR Strategic Plan as presented was made by Ms. Matason, seconded by Dr. Dunn, and passed unanimously.

E. Oak Hall Regional Park – Phase 1 Construction

Mr. Carpenter said the punch list is continuing to be finished.

F. Whitehall Road Regional Park (Phase 1)

Mr. Mascolo commented that the first Monday in October Toll Brothers is expected to submit their proposal. He also stated that PennTerra is doing the infrastructure and they hope to have it approved by the end of the year.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the September meeting of the CRPRA Board was adjourned. The next regular meeting of the Board will on 16 Oct 2014 at the COG Building Forum Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Ginny L. Altenderfer, Recording Secretary

The summary was approved (as revised) by the Board on 16 Oct 2014 for distribution.