

CENTRE REGION PARKS AND RECREATION AUTHORITY BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING SUMMARY  
*AS REVISED & APPROVED*

May 21, 2015

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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

Board: Sue Mascolo, Ferguson Twp.; Chris Hurley, Patton Twp.; Diane Ishler, Harris Twp.; Kathy Matason, College Twp.; Jim Dunn, State College Borough

Staff: Ronald J. Woodhead, Director; Niki Tourscher, Program Manager; Jada Light, Office Manager; Molly Hetrick, Nature Center Supervisor; Bryan Kolodziej, Nature Center Intern; Jeff Hall, Sports Supervisor; Todd Roth, Aquatics Supervisor; Beth Lee, Rec. Supervisor; Jim Carpenter, Parks Manager; Jim Steff, COG Executive Director; Joe Viglione, COG Finance Director; Trish Meek, CRPA Planner.

Others: Residents Bill Keough and Laura Dininni

Ms. Hetrick introduced Bryan Kolodziej to the Board. Brian is a Nature Center Summer Intern.

**II. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Ms. Matason mentioned that she was recently walking the perimeter trail at Oak Hall Regional Park and 3 different people stopped her and mentioned how nice the park is and how beautiful the view is. No other public comments were made at this time.

**III. APPROVAL OF MEETING SUMMARY**

There were 2 sets of minutes for Board action:

Attachment 1A: Regular Meeting on April 16 2015- After Ms. Ishler recommended a few changes with wording for the Harris Twp. update. Mr. Hurley made a motion to accept the Meeting Summary for that meeting with those revisions; Ms. Matason seconded the motion; and it passed unanimously.

Attachment 1B Revised: Special Meeting on April 23 2015- , Mr. Hurley made a motion to accept the Meeting Summary for the April 23 meeting; Mr. Dunn seconded the motion; and it passed unanimously.

**IV. VOUCHER REPORTS**

The Finance Officer continues to work on the format of the reports to make them easier to review with respect to the Authority approvals. Ms. Ishler made a motion to accept the April voucher report for Authority invoices; Ms. Matason seconded the motion; and it passed unanimously.

**V. BOARD MEMBER ITEMS & UPDATES**

Harris Twp.-No Report

State College Borough- No Report

College Twp. Ms. Matason reported there was a meeting on Mon. May 18. Trish Meek made an informational presentation on the Regional Bike Plan.

Patton Twp.- Mr. Hurley reported their committee went on a park tour this past Tuesday. They went to Bernel, Sunset, Orchard & Oak Hall parks.

Ferguson Twp.- Ms. Mascolo attended the Ferguson Twp. Open House and said it was very nice. Many groups, including CRPR, had information tables at the event.

**VI. STAFF REPORTS**

**A. Director's Report-** Mr. Woodhead-

- I. Staff Activity for April- Pointed out Attachment #3A, the staff activity report. Mr. Woodhead thanked everyone for their help with the Oak Hall Reg. Park Grand

Opening. The day went very well and everyone enjoyed themselves. It took most of April to prepare for the day. Year to date agency revenue through April is at 90% compared to 2014. As of May 21 we are at 91%. Staff is watching the numbers closely in case changes must be made with respect to expenditures. The online registration is up over last year, thanks to waiving the Convenience Fees.

## 2. Project Updates-

- Hess Driveway Improvement Project- The project is 95% complete. The pavement lines & guiderails are the only thing missing. There was a job meeting yesterday and no issues were reported. Hawbaker's are doing a great job. Mr. Woodhead asked for approval on the authorization that was made for a change order involving an additional cost of \$2,200.00 to extend the side road (ramp) so it wasn't so steep. We are still \$1,000 under budget even after change order. Mr. Hurley made a motion to approve Mr. Woodhead's authorization; Ms. Ishler seconded the motion; and it passed unanimously.
- Whitehall Road Regional Park -Phase 1- This project is still on hold; waiting on status of discussions with Toll Brothers. Mr. Hurley asked what is the benefit for waiting on the Toll Brothers? Mr. Woodhead answered the Toll Brothers will be providing utilities to the park as well as the public access road. If we don't wait for them we will have to incur those costs.
- Linden Hall Road Curbing & Guiderail- A plan has been received from the consultants for the project. We are making sure the plans are acceptable to the Smiths. Hoping that in June or July we will be asking the Board for approval to go out for bid. The windrow of crushed stones will be removed and, if requested by the Smith's, sand bags will be placed there instead (until the curbing is installed).
- Nature Center Parking Area Project- The documents required for approval by the State are being compiled. Once all details are sent to the state and approved, we can proceed with the bid process.
- Agency Fundraising Feasibility Study- The development of the RFP for the fundraising study remains delayed. Ms. Mascolo asked if CRPR would be doing the fundraising ourselves or looking for an outside professional? Mr. Woodhead answered that we have money in the budget for a consultant to research which would be the best method.
- "CRPR Spring Spruce-Up/Park Partner Day" on 25 April 2015- Mr. Carpenter reported that a special thank you letter went out to individual groups as well as published in Centre Daily Times. Attachment #3B is the listing in the paper. Clearwater Conservancy also placed a CDT ad that listed our partnership with their "Watershed Clean-Up Day", held the same day. This year went a lot smoother than past years.
- Review Items Previously Tabled- The child safety policy will be brought forward in June. We are hearing different answers to the same question – so more research is needed. We are scheduled to attend a webinar with a speaker who is very knowledgeable about the new state laws. The deadline is July 1 for implementation. Our current process sufficiently covers at this point. Studying the feasibility of closer ADA parking spaces at Welch Pool is currently on hold until the State College High School project moves forward.

## B. Staff Highlights

1. Ms. Cindy Stahlman c/o Ms. Niki Tourscher- She reported for the Senior Center due to Ms. Stahlman being at Millbrook due to the center being closed for Fraser Centre construction. There are trips scheduled all of the days that center is closed except on the holiday Monday. All of the feedback from the seniors about moving the facility has been positive except one gentleman, He works at Penn State and he would be unable to

- attend lunch and make it back to work on time. There has been a good amount of participants for the programs and Ms. Hacker is doing fantastic.
2. Ms. Beth Lee c/o Ms. Niki Tourscher- Camps will be starting June 15. Right now staff is preparing for the camps. Kidventure's numbers are down a little this year due to only being at one location. The Wee Kidventure numbers are also a little low. Ms. Lee attended the Centre Tennis Play day that was held May 16. We partnered with Centre Region Community Tennis Assn. for this event with 60 participants.
  3. Ms. Niki Tourscher, Program Manager- Currently looking very closely for a new location for the Senior Center. Starting to work on the 2016 Program Plan for the COG Budget. When the job descriptions were revised earlier this year, some of the tasks were transferred to Niki, including agency marketing.
  4. Mr. Jim Carpenter, Parks Manager- Everyone has been very busy. The crew is doing a good job keeping up with mowing. The Patton Twp. Park Tour was very interesting since they also visited parks outside Patton Twp. On another topic, there was an accident involving a CRPR truck and trailer hauling two mowers. The two mowers could possibly be a total loss by the insurance company. Unfortunately, one mower was a demo model that we were trying out to see if we wanted to purchase. Currently talking with insurance company to find out the damage. There were no injuries.
  5. Mr. Todd Roth, Aquatics Supervisor- The pools are ready to go and they open on Saturday. Hoping for last week's warm weather. There are only a few minor cosmetic things that need to be cleaned up. We are 98% fully-staffed. Swim lessons are currently going on at the Natatorium. The pool pass sales are still currently lower due to weather. The School Construction Manager has been in contact and they will be starting some demolition projects this weekend. He assured us that there would be no impact on the pool traffic flow. He has been very good with communicating with Mr. Roth.
  6. Ms. Molly Hetrick, Nature Center Supervisor- School groups are still scheduled through early June. The kids and teachers love the trips to the nature center. Currently working on preparation for summer camps.
  7. Mr. Jeff Hall, Sports Supervisor- The winter/spring season is finishing up. There are 20 teams signed up for bocce at Orchard Park. We have been hearing a lot of good things about the new fields at Oak Hall and people are very appreciative for them. There were 42 teams signed up for the tournament this past weekend. They played at Hess Field and Oak Hall. Several people asked Mr. Hall about providing concessions during the week rather than just tournaments. Mr. Steff asked if there had been any issues with traffic since Oak Hall has opened. Mr. Hall stated not that he knows of.

## VII. ACTION & DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. The Regional Bike Plan- Ms. Trish Meek from Centre Regional Planning made an informational presentation to seek input for a new Regional Bike Plan. In 2012, the League of American Bicyclists designated the Centre Region as a Bronze-level Bicycle friendly community. From public recommendations it was decided that preparation of a Regional Bike Plan would be in our best interest. This plan is overseen by the COG Transportation and Land Use Committee which is made up of elected officials. Bicycles are no longer just a form of recreation; they are now a form of transportation. State College is #9 in the country with the real estate score for a bike friendly community. Attachments #4A/B/C contain the Centre Region Bicycle Facilities Map, Plan Schedule & the bike plan public input flyer. The red lines are paths that are separate from roadways. The Blue Lines are bike paths along the side of the road. The yellow areas are routes that are appropriate areas to ride bikes. There are rules for bikers as well as drivers. Ms. Meek encourages everyone to fill out the public input form if they haven't done so already. 1% of the riders are strong and fearless and will

ride anywhere. 7% are a little more cautious. 60% want to ride more and learn more about it. The 33% are “no way, no how” do I want to ride bikes.

**B. Senior Center Access & Relocation Updates**

1. **S. Fraser St. Access**- Fraser Street will begin one lane access starting tomorrow May 22 rather than mid-June and continue for 16 months.
  2. **Senior Center Relocation**- No site visits yet for any relocation of the Center but everyone is helping with the search, even the seniors. Ideally we are looking for a sole occupancy facility but open to anything. Mr. Woodhead asked for authorization to engage APArchitects on an hourly basis to attend the walkthroughs. Mr. Hurley made a motion to approve APArchitects to assist with the walk-through evaluations; Mr. Dunn seconded the motion; and it passed unanimously.
- C. **“New Park” Requests for 2016**- June 30 is the annual deadline for the municipalities to request CRPR services for any new parks. The deadline is put in place so we can put it into 2016 budget for maintenance costs. .
- D. **The 2016 Program Plan**- Step 1 of the 2016 budget program is getting started. The 2015 work plan is largely used as a guide. The COG expressed that they would like each agency to stay under a 3% increase. The cost of living increase for staff will be 1%.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Hurley made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Dunn seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 1:32 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jada Light, Recording Secretary

*This summary was approved (as revised) for distribution by Board action on 18 Jun 2015.*