

CENTRE REGION PARKS AND RECREATION AUTHORITY BOARD
APPROVED REGULAR MEETING SUMMARY
 Thursday, September 17, 2015

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

Board: (4 of 6) Sue Mascolo, Ferguson Twp.; Diane Ishler, Harris Twp.; Kathy Matason, College Twp.; Jim Dunn, State College Borough (Absent with advance notice: Mr. Hurley & Ms. Messick)

Staff: Niki Tourscher, Program Manager/Acting Director; Jada Light, Office Manager; Melissa Freed, Acting Nature Center Supervisor; Jeff Hall, Sports Supervisor; Todd Roth, Aquatics Supervisor; Beth Lee, Rec. Supervisor; Jim Carpenter, Parks Manager; Cindy Stahlman, Senior Center Supervisor; Joe Viglione, COG Finance Director

II. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC- There was no comments from the public.

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING SUMMARY

Ms. Ishler made a motion to accept the Meeting Summary for the August 20 meeting; Ms. Matason seconded the motion. The motion then passed unanimously.

IV. VOUCHER REPORTS

Ms. Ishler made a motion to accept the August Voucher Reports c/o the CRPR Authority. Ms. Matason seconded the motion. The motion then passed unanimously. Mr. Viglione is hopeful that the September voucher report will be presented in the requested format.

V. BOARD MEMBER ITEMS & UPDATES

Harris Twp. – Ms. Ishler reported they were moving ahead with the pollinator discussions to qualify Boalsburg as a “Pollinator-friendly Township.” Their intern gave a report as to what other municipalities are doing. The new Boal Mansion Executive Director came to speak to the Committee about looking to connect downtown areas with the mansion. He also supports the pollinator project. Also, a representative of “Traditions of America Inc.” (the owners of the Liberty Hill development) requested that the Township change the walking paths routes that were in the original plans. Due to increased development, some of the paths now go too close to their homes.

College Twp. –No Report; their meeting isn’t until Monday.

State College Borough - No Report

Ferguson Twp. –Ms. Mascolo reported that the Board of Supervisors officially named the new park beside Pine Grove Mills as “Cecil Irvin Park.”

SCASD - No report

Patton Twp. – No report

VI. STAFF REPORTS

A. Director’s Report- Presented by Ms. Tourscher

1. Staff Activity Report for August (Attachment #3): The numbers for the Senior Center visits are up in July & August because there were a lot of referrals and a lot of seniors coming to say good bye before the move to the Nittany Mall. The summer program report will be distributed at the October Board meeting.

2. Project Updates

a. Tennis/Pickleball Re-lining- Mr. Carpenter is not having any luck in finding local contractors to paint lines on the 10 courts.

b. Linden Hall Road Curbing & Guiderail & Nature Center Parking Area Project- Both projects are currently out for bid. CRPR is hoping to secure one company to win both bids. The deadline was set for Monday, September 28, 2015 at 1pm. (The deadline was extended until Wed., September 30, 2015 at 1 PM). There will be a short special meeting on Friday, October 2 at 12:15 to award the contracts.

- c. Nature Center Supervisor Position- The position is being advertised with an application deadline of Sept. 30, 2015. Then we will move forward with the interview process. Ms. Freed continues to work as the Acting Supervisor; she has also applied for the permanent position.
 - d. As mentioned earlier, on September 8, 2015, Ferguson Township Board of Supervisors officially named the new park in Pine Grove Mills “Cecil Irvin Park” as recommended by the Board.
 - e. 2015 Day of Caring- This annual event is scheduled for Thur., Oct. 1. There will be numerous groups doing assigned jobs at 4-5 parks. The seniors at the center are also hosting a work party to stuff mailers for the annual United Way Campaign.
3. Review tabled or future agenda items
- a. Whitehall Road Regional Park- This project remains on hold pending action by the adjoining developer, Toll Bros. In the meantime, staff is compiling options to proceed.

B. Staff Highlights

Mr. James Carpenter, Parks Manager- Mr. Carpenter reported that they will be painting field lines for the lacrosse, football & soccer fields over the next 2 weeks. The sport groups are then invoiced for this service. The weather has been nice so the mowing hasn’t stopped. They are hoping to catch up with various park projects and maintenance in September and October.

Mr. Todd Roth, Aquatics Supervisor- The pools are officially closed, however due to the beautiful weather some people are upset the pools didn’t stay open after Labor Day. The next step is to start winterizing both facilities. This year’s numbers turned out to be good considering how much rain we received at the beginning of the summer. Pool pass sales were down; however, the daily admissions numbers were up. Swimming and diving classes start up again next week. Aqua Dog Day went great and was sponsored by Order Up. All event revenue was donated directly for purchasing more shade trees for Oak Hall Regional Park (for spring 2016 planting).

Ms. Beth Lee, Recreation Supervisor- Ms. Lee reported that she will be taking over supervising the adult fitness classes from Mr. Hall. The Touch-a-Truck Expo (rained out in June) was rescheduled to Sept. 5 at Mt. Nittany Middle School and almost 400 kids attended the free event. The location was great and we hope to remain at that location. It was a cooler, cloudy day so it went very well. The movie “The Goonies” will be shown at Tudek Park on Sept. 18 (tomorrow). Ms. Lee & Ms. Tourscher are starting to work on the Winter/Spring Active Guide that comes out Sunday, Dec. 13.

Ms. Melissa Freed, Acting Nature Center Supervisor- Ms. Freed reported that they led 24 programs and hosted 3 rentals this month alone. There was a slight increase in rentals due to PSU holding retreats for the beginning of the school year. There were new interpretive signs placed throughout the boardwalk that were purchased with grant money from the Visitor’s Bureau.

Ms. Cindy Stahlman, Senior Center Supervisor- Ms. Stahlman reported that the move to the Nittany Mall went very well. Everyone did a great job and was so helpful. Since the move, they have had so many new referrals. It’s a very mixed group and is growing fast. The mall has been wonderful to work with. She is meeting with Mt. Nittany Rehab to start a walking program for the seniors. Ms. Stahlman and the seniors are also working with Penn State students to put on a fashion show in November. A bus trip is scheduled tomorrow for Bedford Springs. On Sept. 23, at 9:30 AM the Center will be visited by the Sea Fester (a little creature in a jet ski). There are also a lot of walk-ins asking about all the classes that are provided.

Mr. Jeff Hall, Sports Supervisor- The softball leagues are wrapping up and we are moving right into the football leagues (with 16 teams currently). Flag Football started this past Sunday. The Fall Bocce League will also be starting. Indoor volleyball will also be starting soon. There are more sportfield requests than ever.

VII. ACTION & DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. CRPR Child Safety Policy Updates- CRPR staff has proposed another update to the CRPR Child Safety Policy to remain current with recent state changes in the requirements. There were also a few gray areas in the policy so some definitions we added to make it clearer, along with a link added for volunteers. Volunteers can sign a waiver stating they have lived in PA for at least 10 years and then the FBI fingerprint check is not required. Volunteers also don't have to pay for the 2 state clearances. The clearances have also been changed to expire every 5 years rather 3 years. Ms. Tourscher will continue to closely monitor the state regulations for any other changes that are made.

Mr. Dunn made a motion to accept the changes that were proposed in the Child Safety Policy; Ms. Matason seconded the motion and it then passed unanimously.

- B. Senior Center Relocation Updates- The interim Senior Center opened on Sept. 1 at the mall, as scheduled. The center looks fabulous and the seniors love it. Renovations and architectural fees totaled was \$35,000 – which was higher than planned. There was a brief meeting with County Commissioner Steve Dershem and Administrator Tim Boyd to show both the interim and the permanent location. Mr. Woodhead asked for 25% assistance over a 10-year period, but first we finalize the numbers once plans for the interim space are complete. There will be an Open House with a brief ceremony on Wed., Sept. 30 at 9:30AM. Board and Staff members are welcome.

Mr. Popovich presented a proposal to do a feasibility study with different options for the renovations of the permanent space. He is concerned about meeting the project budget. His is also concerned that the seniors may be disappointed because the permanent space doesn't have "homey" features like the interim space. The Code Agency understood that this was an interim space so they were less stringent. They will not be lenient with the permanent space so everything will need to be done to code as an "assembly" classification. That is why he would like to do the study and be able to get closer to the cost. The mall has been cooperative and offered some help. The restrooms aren't up to code, the lighting is poor and HVAC units need to be replaced. Once we have a general sense of the layout and costs, the seniors will be involved with the planning process.

Ms. Matason made a motion to approve the proposal from APArchitects for the feasibility study for the permanent senior center space; Mr. Dunn seconded the motion. It then passed unanimously.

- C. The 2016 Budget Proposal- Ms. Tourscher handed out the draft outline for the 2016 Budget. She reported that the 2016 CRPR Budget Hearing was scheduled for Wed., Oct. 7 at noon in the COG Forum Room. Board members were encouraged to attend. In view of the Director's planned retirement on Aug. 31, 2016, funds were included for the hiring and possible relocation costs for the new director. It is also proposed that the pools contribute \$30,000 towards pool capital. The final version of the budget proposal will be submitted to COG Admin on Monday.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

At 1:01 PM, the meeting was adjourned. Mr. Dunn made a motion to adjourn; Ms. Matason seconded the motion. The motion then passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jada Light, Recording Secretary

Following a text correction, the Board approved these minutes for distribution on 15 Oct 2015.