

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

Thursday, April 16, 2015

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Mascolo called the meeting of the CRPR Authority Board to order at 12:16 PM in the COG Forum Room with the following individuals in attendance:

Board: (6 of 6) Sue Mascolo, Ferguson Twp.; Chris Hurley, Patton Twp.; Diane Ishler, Harris Twp.; Kathy Matason, College Twp.; Shannon Messick, SCASD; Dr. Dunn, State College Borough.

Staff: Ronald J. Woodhead, Director; Niki Tourscher, Program Manager; Cindy Stahlman, Senior Center Supervisor; Kim Hacker, Senior Center Staff Assistant; Jim Carpenter, Parks Manager; Jeff Hall, Sports Supervisor; Beth Lee, Recreation Supervisor; Molly Hetrick; Nature Center Supervisor; Todd Roth, Aquatics Supervisor; Jada Light, Office Manager; Jim Steff, COG Executive Director; Joe Viglione, Finance Director

Others: Molly Kunkel, Centre Foundation; Bill Keough, resident

The Director introduced Ms. Kim Hacker as the new Senior Center Staff Assistant and Ms. Molly Kunkel, Executive Director at the Centre Foundation. Ms. Mascolo congratulated Dr. Dunn on the award that he received from The Barash Group for Human Services.

**II. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC** There were no comments from the public.

**III. APPROVAL OF MEETING SUMMARY**

Mr. Hurley made a motion to approve the meeting summary; Ms. Ishler seconded the motion with a few corrections and it passed unanimously.

**IV. VOUCHER REPORTS**

Ms. Ishler made a motion to approve March 2015 voucher reports; Mr. Hurley seconded the motion; and it passed unanimously.

**V. BOARD MEMBER ITEMS & UPDATES**

FERGUSON- No report.

PATTON- Mr. Hurley reported that Patton Township continues to work on the update to their Parks Plan which has included a public survey. The last meeting discussed all of the replies that they got back so far. This Tuesday we will be going over the final rough draft of all the comments. They also talked about the Circleville bike path. The bids submitted were about \$100,000 above their estimate. The Planning Agency is looking to update the bike path plan and will be at the upcoming meeting to discuss the plans. Mr. Hurley asked if we could request to look at the plans since it may affect CRPR services. Mr. Woodhead said we could request it. There will be a review of the letter from CRPR to establish a dog park at Circleville Park. Their seasonal parks tour will be held on May 19<sup>th</sup> at 4 PM.

HARRIS- Their parks tour was held yesterday. There is a really nice view from the new park (Tussey Pond Park). A grant application for master planning has been submitted to the state. A grant for development assistance will also be required. A butterfly garden was suggested for a park, and that led to a discussion about a township-wide policy to plant only native trees and also pollinator-friendly species.

COLLEGE- Ms. Matason commented on Earth Day Birth Day at the nature center. It was the first one she was able to attend she really enjoyed it.

SCASD- Ms. Messick also praised the Earth Day Birthday event at the Millbrook Marsh Nature Center. She also mentioned that nature center staff will be attending 3 additional schools next year for afterschool programs, which is great. The programs offered by the nature center are very popular with the students.

**VI. STAFF REPORTS**

Director- Mr. Woodhead reported the annual Easter Egg Hunt very well... 7,000 eggs again vanished in less than 2 minutes. There was great coverage on the paper and TV. Perhaps due to the harsh winter, Year-to-date Revenue stands at 91% compared to last year. Both full-time Park Caretaker positions have been filled. The

Staff Assistant position at the Senior Center has also been filled (by Kim Hacker). The part-time Staff Assistant position will be advertised soon. The bids for the Hess driveway project are out. We have received a few calls from potential bidders about the project. The sealed e-bids are placed via the Internet and will be opened next Wednesday. It is hoped that the contract can be awarded on Thursday at a Special Meeting of the Board. The Linden Hall Road neighboring household has signed their agreement from the Solicitor. We can now proceed with planning the curbing/guiderail project there. Staff is also working with the engineers and PA DCNR on the parking area project at Millbrook Marsh Nature Center. We are hoping that bid can go out in May/June.

**Niki Tourscher**- Everyone is working hard on preparing for the Oak Hall Regional Park Grand Opening. There were 100 invitations mailed out.

**Jim Carpenter**- Jim reminded everyone that "Spring-Spruce-Up/Park Partner Day" is next Saturday (26 Apr). There are currently 12 groups with 180 volunteers signed up. Most of the seasonal maintenance staff will be starting soon. Mowing has already started and the drinking fountains and restrooms are being opened for the season.

**Molly Hetrick**- Spring programs started last week. Summer Camp enrollment is looking good with many camps already full. The Connections Program will celebrate later in April the 20,000 visit by a student they paid for with those funds. This was the 9<sup>th</sup> year for annual "Earth Day Birth Day" event at the nature center.

**Todd Roth**- Spring Swim lessons are wrapping up. Last week was the beginning of the lifeguarding class. The pools will open in 36 days! We are about 75% staffed for the summer. Having two cold/rainy summers in a row has caused a decline in selling pool passes. Mr. Roth is starting to fill Park Forest and Welch will be filled shortly. There are some routine repairs to be made before the openings.

**Beth Lee**- There was 75 6-8<sup>th</sup> graders who attended the 2015 Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt held at the Millbrook Marsh Nature Center. There are typically 500-700 for the annual Easter Egg Hunt. Ms. Lee is working on the Summer Active Guide which will be published Sunday, 26 April. Camps are being held in different locations this year due to High School construction which has affected the numbers. Wee Kidventure Camp will be held at Corl St. Elementary and Kidventure Camp will be held at Park Forest Middle School.

**Cindy Stahlman**- Ms. Stahlman is working through the transition of Carol retiring and training Kim. The March Murder Mystery lunch went well. "Wear Red Day" will be on 14 May.

**Jeff Hall**- There was 24 teams signed up this season for volleyball. It is now play-offs so it's almost over. There are 48 teams signed up this year for the softball leagues. The equipment bids were awarded and items have been ordered.

## **VII. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

### **A. Centre Foundation Updates-**

- 1.** Executive Director Molly Kunkel stated how pleased the Foundation is to work with us. There are currently 4 endowments that benefit the Authority: 2 for the MMNC and 2 for the State College Area Municipal band. The funds are doing very well. The total of the 2015 disbursement totaled \$5,298.90. If any other groups would like to learn about endowments, they would love to talk with them about the Foundation.
- 2. 2015 "Centre Gives" Participation-** This a 36-hour online fundraising event preparing for its 4<sup>th</sup> year. The rules have been revised this year so that only those nonprofit groups who must submit a Form 990 to the IRS may participate – which now will exclude Millbrook Marsh Nature Center. Mr. Hurley asked if the MMNC Friends group would be eligible? Ms. Kunkel stated no because that group is under the CRPR Authority umbrella and the Authority is not required to submit an IRS Form 990.

### **B. Nature Center Advisory Committee-Proposed Member Appointments-**

Mr. Hurley made a motion to transfer the volunteer appointment of Ms. Jennifer Shuey from the ClearWater Conservancy representative to an "At-large" member with a term to expire on December 13, 2016 and to appoint Mr. Steve Miller as the volunteer representative of that organization with a term to expire December 31, 2015. It is further proposed that this action by the board automatically transfer that appointment to the new Executive Director of Clearwater Conservancy, when finalized. Ms. Matason seconded that motion and it passed unanimously.

C. **Sports field Schedule Overview-**

Mr. Hall referred to Attachment #4 showing sportfield usage in such high demand. Every field this Spring/Summer is being utilized. Mr. Hall noted that Oak Hall Regional Park was an excellent investment by the community.

D. **Updating the CRPR Child Safety Policy-**

After talking with our Child Safety Awareness trainer, we are getting mixed answers on applying the new state requirements. Certain requirements are being questioned by other groups so they may change before the new deadline of 1 July. We would like to table action on the proposed policy update.

E. **Drones in the Parks-**

The current municipal park ordinance prohibits the operation of any radio-controlled or tethered aircraft unless CRPR issues a permit. While there have been very few requests, no permits have been issued due to lack of firm user guidelines and a safe, dedicated space to fly. With the increase of popularity for drones, we should re-evaluate these guidelines. Attachment #5 is a regional map that shows the various parks and the required 5-mile radius from University Park Airport; within this area the FAA requires all drone pilots to notify the airport tower in advance of any drone flights. This process is expected to be part of the 2016 CRPR Work Plan since it may require the revision of the municipal park ordinances.

F. **South Fraser St. Access to the Centre Region Senior Center-**

No additional information has been provided by the Borough with regard to the proposed van loading areas during the Fraser Centre project. CRPR staff have noticed other groups inspecting the Senior Center space, escorted by Boro Staff.. When asked if they need help, they are "just looking."

G. **Regional Parks Financing Discussion-**

The COG Finance Committee reached a consensus at their April 9 meeting to consider a proposal from the Concord Finance Group to refinance the existing Regional Parks Loan and to incorporate financing for the Centralized Parks Maintenance facility as well as the extra cost resulting from the supplemental storm water controls at Oak Hall Regional Park.

H. **Regional Park Updates-**

- **Oak Hall-** Ms. Tourscher confirmed the Grand Opening at Oak Hall and the "Day of Play" for Sat. 2 May. There will be special guest speakers during the 30-minute Dedication Ceremony, plus events during the day for all ages including an adult softball tournament, professional kite demos, face painting, food vendors, pitch hit and run, kick ball homerun derby and a trail walk. Discussions with Pashek Associates to close-out the Oak Hall project continue.
- **Whitehall-** This park project remains tabled until the Toll Bros. project completes their Land Development Approval Process. Discussions are scheduled with the Toll Bros. staff with regard to coordinating the projects.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Ishler made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Messick seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 1:28 pm.

A Special Meeting of the Board has been scheduled for Thursday, 23 April 2016, 12:15 PM at the COG Forum Room.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jada Light, Recording Secretary