

CENTRE REGION PARKS AND RECREATION AUTHORITY BOARD
APPROVED REGULAR MEETING SUMMARY
July 21, 2016

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Mascolo called the regular monthly meeting of the CRPR Authority Board to order at 12:15 PM at Millbrook Marsh Nature Center (Spring Creek Education Building) with the following individuals in attendance:

Board: Sue Mascolo, Ferguson Twp.; Diane Ishler, Harris Twp.; Chris Hurley, Patton Twp.; Jim Dunn, SC Borough

Staff: Niki Tourscher, Program Manager / Acting Director; Jada Light, Office Manager; Melissa Freed, Nature Center Supervisor; Jeff Hall, Sports Supervisor; Todd Roth, Aquatics Supervisor; Jim Carpenter, Parks Manager; Kyrie Hartzell, Intern; Deryk Montgomery, Nature Center Intern; Joe Viglione, COG Finance Director; Jim Steff, COG Exec. Director

Others: Alan Sam, SC Borough Arborist; Laura Dininni, Ferguson Twp. Supervisor; Jamie Bestwick, Jeremy Manno & Erik Scott, Advocates for Action Park; Jean Dietrich & Jim Miller; residents.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Freed introduced Intern Deryk Montgomery to the Board. Deryk is one of the 4 Millbrook Marsh Interns this summer. He is a student at Lock Haven Univ. in Recreation Management.

III. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no comments.

IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING SUMMARY (Attachment #1)

Mr. Dunn made a motion to approve the meeting summary from the regular meeting held on June 16, 2016. Mr. Hurley seconded motion, which then passed unanimously.

V. VOUCHER REPORTS (Attachment #2 A-B)

Ms. Ishler questioned why the invoice for the fundraising study was charged to the P&R and Nature Center budgets instead of also including the Active Adult Center budget (since the current fundraising effort is for that facility)? Mr. Viglione replied that it's initially coming out of Parks budget since there is no money in that line item for this year. In 2017 there will be a proposal to add \$8,000 to that contract to expand fundraising and will include the Active Adult Center. Mr. Steff advised that it may be good to mention to their governing bodies that approving the \$8,000 addition is priority. Ms. Ishler also asked about the insurance line in the finance report. It looks like they are paying us to have insurance. Mr. Viglione replied yes that is correct and the next report will show it coming out. The first half of the year they give us a return of the premiums and rebates and the second half of the year they take out the premiums.

Mr. Hurley made a motion to approve the May Voucher Reports (Attachment #2A). Ms. Ishler seconded the motion; it then passed unanimously.

VIII. BOARD CHAIR AUTHORIZED TO MOVE TO LINE 8A & 8C PART 2 ON THE AGENDA

A. **Skate/Bike/Action Park Concept:** Ms. Tourscher introduced Jamie Bestwick, Jeremy Manno and Erik Scott to the Board. Mr. Bestwick began his presentation by telling a little background about himself. He has been a resident of State College for 18 years. Mr. Bestwick is a professional BMX rider and holds records at the X Games. He is also traveling to Rio to

the Olympics to be a commentator. Mr. Bestwick is a huge advocate for sports in State College and getting kids out and exercising. He also spends much of his time raising money for Wounded Warriors and for cancer research. Mr. Bestwick brought before the Board some examples of five different Action Parks. They all have different square feet with different price tags. He reiterated that these are just examples, not proposals. Mr. Bestwick explained that the reason why he was so interested in State College for an Action Park was that there is an abundance of stick and ball sports and so many of the beautiful parks are under-utilized. Action Sports are also very under-used. They allow kids to be social. There are a lot of great bike trails but no place to learn tricks, a specific sport or to gather. There are many rumors and misinformation be spread in the community, such as “we are losing a park and its natural beauty. This will be a place for hoodlums to gather and full of drugs. This park will depreciate the value of homeowners in the area.” This is all misinformation. Mr. Bestwick explained that the concept is intended as a community-based project. He wants all the neighbors to have their say and to be happy. There will be 100% communication. This is a way for us to get children off the streets. Mr. Bestwick used the new Skate Park in Phillipsburg as an example. It was a little rough around the edges to start but when the kids saw that the mentors continued to visit and work with the kids, over time they learned respect. He wants the park to be beautiful and not an eyesore. The bike paths aren't a safe place to congregate and learn action sports and they have no intentions of hosting the X Games in any parks. The kids are not drug users or hoodlums. We don't pass the message of disrespect and destruction; we pass the message of embracing a great community and working together.

(Comment from Public) Ms. Dininni made a recommendation that they shouldn't jump the gun about putting the Action Park in any specific park; they should check with the region. This shouldn't be done before a comprehensive plan for each park is done.

Mr. Bestwick noted that that was discussed at the start of his presentation and since Ms. Dininni arrived late, she missed the statement that these were just examples of action parks; no proposals are being made and no specific park has been chose. Orchard Park is a park of interest due to the central location near a bike path and is a larger park with a lot of underused space.

Mr. Manno introduced himself. He has 5 kids and the oldest is 8. All but the baby rides bikes. He is civil engineer and is very excited about this project. It's a great thing and has been a long time coming for State College.

Mr. Hurley replied that he thinks everyone on the Board is very supportive of an action park but it's all in the Borough's hands now.

(Comments from Public) Two neighbors of Orchard Park (Ms. Jean Dietrich and Mr. Jim Miller) informed the Board that they wanted to come to hear the truth since there are so many rumors going around. They are very glad they did and thanked Mr. Bestwick for a great presentation.

C. Fundraising Study/ Project Update: (Attachment #5)

Part 2- Ms. Tourscher Introduced Jennifer Shuey who is the Nature Center Advisory Committee Chair and member Dr. Rick Marboe. Ms. Shuey mentioned that the Millbrook Marsh is a beautiful space but there is still need for more improvements. A fundraising study for “Phase II” will be soon on its way. The Advisory Committee already met with Affinity with fundraising staff and Alan Popovich to revisit concepts and the planning for

Phase II of the building. Dr. Marboe added that they are looking to create a whole package of improvements for Phase 2. The fundraising is not just to finish Phase II of the building but to also include the projects listed on the attached roster. They are proposing the Board to endorse the projects recommended by the Millbrook Marsh Advisory Committee for planning the Phase II Capital Campaign for the Nature Center. (In August the Board will be presented with a proposal from APArchitects to finish the diagrams and overall cost estimates.)

Mr. Hurley made a motion to endorse the projects recommended by the Millbrook Marsh Advisory Committee for planning the Phase II Capital Campaign for the Nature Center. Ms. Ishler seconded the motion; it then passed unanimously.

Mr. Steff commented that they are adding a presentation into the program plan looking to add municipal funds to pay for Capital improvements at the Millbrook Marsh Nature Center such as the boardwalk. This isn't the case now; all contributions are only public donations.

(Returning to the correct agenda order)

VI. BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

SC Borough - No report

Patton Twp. - Mr. Hurley reported that they held their meeting this past Tuesday and it was a very long meeting. They are revisiting the phasing plan for the new Grays Woods Park. The Board was shown a draft proposal on the playground equipment with many examples of natural-theme play equipment. They also looked at the Master Plan for Bernel Road Park. Patton Twp. is interested in expanding the disc golf at that location and they are also starting to focus on events for teens and active adults. A neighborhood survey is going to be compiled regarding updating the facilities at Green Hollow Park.

Ferguson Twp. - Ms. Mascolo noted that the Township is about to complete the Phase 1 construction of Cecil Irvin Park (5 acres) and then the park will be transferred to CRPR for operations (as approved by the Authority Board in 2015).

Harris Twp. - Ms. Ishler reported that Harris Twp. held their meeting last night. They realized Harris Twp. was a wonderful place to be 7,000 years ago... there were some delays related to an archeological survey, but the new trail bridge over the wetlands is moving forward. There is also a bear den in the woods in the planned site for Tussey Pond Park. The Township Manager is participating with the Pokémon Go game and is listing on the website about some stops & gyms at the parks in hopes to get more people in the parks. Harris Twp. is also expanding their pollinator plants to center of town to educate residents about it. There are also many pollinator plants at the Millbrook Marsh Nature Center.

College Twp. - No report

SCASD - No report

VII. STAFF REPORTS

A. Director's Report- Presented by Acting Director Niki Tourscher

1. Staff Activity Report for May - (Attachment #3) Ms. Tourscher reported that the summer is going very well. The camp enrollment numbers are up and the pools are very doing well due to the hot weather. The park turf areas are very dry so the mowing has been reduced.
2. Oak Hall Regional Park - (Attachment #4) PennDOT has inspected and closed their permit for the driveway drainage project on the park driveway and along Linden Hall Road. The

driveway is also much smoother since the project included paving over the culvert pipe replacement.

3. 2016 Tournament Events - There was a large women's tournament this weekend with 29 teams. Currently 20 tournaments are scheduled for 2016. These softball, baseball and lacrosse tournaments are significant for the region since so many hotel stays are involved (in addition to hosting the local teams participating in the tournaments).

B. Staff Highlights

- Jim Carpenter - Mr. Carpenter confirmed that hot, dry weather has slowed the mowing schedule, but staff has been transferred to trail pruning. The Eagle Scout completed the bridge project at Oak Hall. A plaque will be added to the bridge. Since September is Suicide Prevention Month, the Meadows been granted permission to place (and later remove) colored ribbons in the parks to raise awareness about that campaign.
- Cindy Stahlman - As requested earlier by the Board, Ms. Stahlman distributed a Senior Center activity calendar to each Board member. Tomorrow is food tasting. This activity is free for all the seniors to try and vote on new food items.
- Melissa Freed - Ms. Freed reported that summer camps are running smoothly. There were approximately 90 people at the Moonlight Walk. She is starting to prepare for fall programs. Ms. Freed informed the Board that Mr. Donald Hamer passed away recently. He was a major donor and supporter of the Millbrook Marsh Nature Center. There is a collection for donations to plant a Remembrance Tree in his memory.
- Todd Roth - Mr. Roth reported that the numbers for daily pool admissions are up due to the very hot weather. Swim Lessons are going very well. The Pool-O-Ween was held last week and this Saturday is the Youth Triathlon.

VIII. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS (Continued)

B. Active Adult Center Renovations by the Nittany Mall

The renovation for the permanent space started July 12; they are currently working on the HVAC system. APArchitects will hold construction meetings every Wednesday morning. The Center is hoping to be moved in during September. Once the new space is completed, the center will be closed for a few days for the relocation to the larger, permanent space.

C. Fundraising Study/ Project Update/ Part 3

Affinity will be scheduling training sessions for each team member. The minimum goal for the Active Adult Center is \$100,000. Mr. Hurley asked if he knows someone who is willing to give money, may he do that and who should the check be made out to? Can he obtain the updated publications? Ms. Tourscher replied absolutely, they can make the check out to the CRPR Authority since the Rec Authority is a non-profit entity. Once we get the marketing materials from Affinity they will be distributed to the Board.

D. The 2017 COG Program Plan

The Draft Program Plan was completed and handed out to the Board. The final plan will be published after the municipal comments are received. No action is needed at this time. A couple added line items include funding for the P&R Comprehensive Plan and a part-time Staff Assistant at the Active Adult Center.

E. Tom Tudek Memorial Park- Master Plan Update (Attachment #6)

Ferguson Twp. approved an updated Master Plan for the dog park area. No Board action is required.

F. The 2017 Funding Shares for the Centre Region Active Adult Center (Attachment #7)

The funding for the center is calculated by the number of individuals attending from each municipality over the past 12 months. These shares are then used to calculate the contribution shares for the center in the 2017 Detailed Budget.

Mr. Hurley made a motion to approve the proposed funding shares to include in the 2017 Detailed Budget Proposal for the Active Adult Center. Ms. Ishler seconded the motion; it then passed unanimously.

G. New Municipal Park Area Requested for 2017

Each year by 30 June each participating municipality is required to request CRPR operations of new municipal park facilities for the upcoming year. With regard to the request from Patton Township to assume operations for the new Grays Woods Park in August 2017 (following construction), staff asked the Board to table action on the request until August Board meeting to obtain additional details about the proposal.

Ms. Ishler made a motion to table action on the request until the August Board meeting. Mr. Dunn seconded the motion; it then passed unanimously.

H. Agency Director Transition

Mr. Steff reported that the Director-designate is scheduled to begin on 22 Aug 2016.

Following an overlap period with Mr. Woodhead, she will assume the position of Director on 1 Sept 2016.

IX. ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Authority Board recessed the meeting at 2:15 PM to hold an Executive Session regarding a matter involving possible litigation.

X. ADJOURNMENT

At 2:40 PM the meeting reconvened and Mr. Hurley made a motion to adjourn; Ms. Ishler seconded the motion. The motion then passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jada Light, CRPR Office Manager

This meeting summary was approved (with revisions) for distribution by Board action on 18 Aug 2016.