

CENTRE REGION PARKS AND RECREATION AUTHORITY BOARD
APPROVED REGULAR MEETING SUMMARY

1

June 16, 2016

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Mascolo called the regular monthly meeting of the CRPR Authority Board to order at 12:14 PM at the Centre Region COG Building- Forum Room with the following individuals in attendance:

Board: Sue Mascolo, Ferguson Twp.; Diane Ishler, Harris Twp.; Kathy Matason, College Twp.; Shannon Messick, SCASD; Jim Dunn, SC Borough

Staff: Ronald Woodhead, Director; Niki Tourscher, Program Manager; Jada Light, Office Manager; Melissa Freed, Nature Center Supervisor; Jeff Hall, Sports Supervisor; Todd Roth, Aquatics Supervisor; Jim Carpenter, Parks Manager; Kyrie Hartzell, Intern; Joe Viglione, COG Finance Director

Others: Dick Mascolo, resident; Laura Dininni, Ferg. Twp. Supervisor; Alan Popovich, APArchitects; Jodie Dello Stritto & Ellen Konkle, Affinity Connection Inc.

II. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Ms. Dininni commented that last night Schlow Library had their Strategic Planning conversation with Ferguson Twp. One thing that came up is how pleased the residents are with the free libraries in the parks. She stated that Ferguson Twp. will be advocating for adding libraries in Ferguson parks.

Ms. Freed introduced 2 of the 4 students who are interning at the Millbrook Marsh Nature Center this summer: Keith Mark, LHU Recreation Mgmt. with an outdoor concentration, and Tori Herdt, PSU Physical & Environmental Geography. They are doing a great job helping with nature center programs and the summer day camps.

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING SUMMARY (Attachment #1)

Following some typographical revisions from Ms. Ishler, she made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the regular meeting held on June 16, 2016. Mr. Dunn seconded the motion, which then passed unanimously.

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

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

V. BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

SC Borough- No report

Harris Twp. – Ms. Ishler reported that Harris Twp. P&R Committee had their meeting last night. Their focus was Harpster Park and the Liberty Hill path development. The original plans were to connect the walking paths to the park, but the developer has changed some plans. The meeting was to discuss these changes with the developer and the residents at Liberty Hill. This was to discuss what is going to be done and the process; the meeting was productive. Harris Twp. is also proceeding to developing the Master Plan for new Tusseyview Pond Parklands. It is planned to be largely focused on passive activities. They are also discussing adding a piece of playground equipment to Eugene Fasick Park. It will be similar to the piece of equipment at Circleville Park that you can sit & tilt. The Township has it in stock and they are waiting to install it.

College Twp. Ms. Matason mentioned that their Committee Park Tour is on Monday. She also shared an email that she received from a friend stating how great the CRPR programs are and

most importantly, that they are offered. The new youth basketball league and the reversible shirts (that allow everyone to easily tell the teams apart) were pleasant surprises to the writer. SCASD- Ms. Messick informed staff and the Board that there will be a public forum at the Mt. Nittany Middle school at 7 pm to talk about the accelerated Facilities Master Plan. They will be discussing renovations for the elementary schools including Coral Street, Houserville, Lemont and Radio Park.

Ferguson Twp.- Ms. Mascolo mentioned that she attended the dedication ceremony for the improved baseball complex developed by Ferguson Twp. (the Teener Fields). When the sportfield lights came on, they were beautiful. The lights were directed straight down and didn't shine in any windows. It's a very nice baseball complex that will be used by the community.

VI. STAFF REPORTS

A. Director's Report- Presented by Ronald Woodhead

Mr. Woodhead reported on the framed 1995 print that was donated by Mr. Lew Roscoe and Mrs. Ann Farrell-Roscoe, who now live in Arizona. It is of Holmes Foster Park by Harold Altman and was donated from the Estate of Dr. Patricia Farrell. Dr. Farrell passed away in 2010. She was a life-long resident of State College and served on the faculty at the Penn State Recreation, Parks and Tourism Management Program. She was also the Borough's representative on this Board from 1974-1980 and served as President of the Mount Nittany Conservancy. Holmes Foster was the first municipal park in the Centre Region; 11 acres for the park was donated to State College Borough in 1927. The picture was purchased at Arts Fest years ago. The print will remain displayed in the lobby in the COG building.

1. Staff Activity Report for May- (Attachment #3) Mr. Woodhead thanked the staff and participants for making the May activities successful. The new youth basketball league is very popular; it is offered in cooperation with the PSU Basketball Team.
2. Summer 2016 Staff Roster- (Attachment #4) The Summer Staff Roster was distributed to the Board, showing there are currently 217 full-time, part-time and seasonal employees across the agency.
3. Introduction of the summer interns at the Nature Center- (See public comments above)
4. Millbrook Marsh Nature Center- Parking Area Update- This project is complete.
5. Oak Hall Regional Park- Driveway Project Update- The construction started on Tuesday. Ameron is doing an outstanding job. They should finish up this week with good weather.
6. Action/Skate/Bike Park Proposal Update- Mr. Woodhead commented that for years this type of action park has been requested. CRPR received a proposal to proceed at Orchard Park. It's easily accessible by the bike path. There will be a meeting with the Neighborhood Association to talk about the location, concept and concerns. There is no plan or approval just a concept. This is just an idea stage.

(Comment from Public) Ms. Dininni asked if there was a funding source identified for the Action Park. As being a Director to Parks and Recreation for one of the biggest agencies in the State, she would imagine that Mr. Woodhead could do a per square foot "guestimate" on how much a skate park would cost. There is a similar park like this in Hershey, it's gorgeous! It was very expensive per square foot. She feels that the expense should be calculated before meeting with the neighborhood association and how it will bring hoodlums into the area.

Mr. Woodhead said that he could not provide a "guestimate" on the concept; he could show cost estimates of other skate parks but it's not yet clear if they would be relevant. That action would also indicate that some facility planning has been done, which has not been

done since the group remains in the concept stage. Right now the group is simply talking to the neighbors about the concept. At this point the typical response appears to be: yes there is a need for it but it shouldn't be located here.

Ms. Dininni replied that would state it's financially sound, which isn't the case. It should be financially sound first, then worry about where it's going to be built.

B. Program Manager's Updates

1. Winter/Spring 2016 Program Report- (Attachment #5)

Ms. Tourscher noted in the report that a Start Smart Lacrosse has been added, which helped to increase the youth sports programs. The aquatic program registrations are up. The Tennis Block Party was rained out both days, but we may be able to bring them back for our 50th Anniversary Celebration in late-August. There were also increases in the registrations for Knee High Naturalists and Puddle Jumper classes, as well as with total Agency Revenue. Internet registrations have increased and are working well.

2. Food Concession Services- Updates

There are few changes with Kona Ice and with Philly Pretzel. They have been very successful at the two pool locations and they offer great service. The food at Oak Hall is delicious. Ms. Tourscher met with the Oak Hall concessionaire about a few concerns with their maintenance and they are willing to adjust. Sales have been pretty good. We have not received any payments from them yet but it's because of the way the tournament are scheduled.

The agency also provided the Hess concessionaire (LPC Catering) another chance and he did not provide the required payment. There were two missed deadlines and he sent a post-dated check knowing we are no longer taking his checks due to prior problems. The check was returned and a letter stating that his services were no longer needed. The firm will no longer be serving food at the Hess Complex. Mr. Miranda may put a bid in next year but he will not likely be offered the job.

Mr. Hall has been working very close with the Tournament leaders to let them know there are no concessions there. There are vending machines and many teams bring their own grills and food with tents and trucks. They understand the situation we are in.

3. PA Dept. of Aging Grant Application-Update- Ms. Tourscher announced that the Authority received the grant offer as requested in the amount of \$65,774 for the renovation of the Active Adult Center. This will be primarily used to upgrade the kitchen cabinets, countertops, small appliances, and to purchase new tables and chairs. The tables are going to be similar to the ones that were purchased for the Spring Creek Education Building. They will flip up and roll away. The grant contract will be provided for signatures around September so until then we can't expend any of those funds until authorized by the state, probably later in 2016. We will work with Mr. Popovich to adjust the plans to provide for the eligible features to be provided by the grant.

C. Staff Highlights

- Jim Carpenter- Mr. Carpenter noted that the spring sports are slowing down and shifting into summer. It's graduation time, so pavilion rentals are again very popular. Everyone is very busy but doing a great job.
- Niki Tourscher- Ms. Tourscher reported for Ms. Lee (currently conducting day camp staff training). The first week of camp starts on Monday. Most of the weeks are full, which is great. Ms. Tourscher taught a CPR class for the staff. The CRPR Touch-a-Truck Expo will

be this Saturday at Mount Nittany Middle School from 1-4 PM. There will be a quiet time (no horns) for the last 30 minutes of the event for those with noise sensitivity. This was requested by a parent whose child is bothered by loud noises and the horns. Ms. Lee continues to work with Intern Kyrie on ideas for the 50th Anniversary Celebration on Sat. August 27.

- Jeff Hall- Mr. Hall relayed that there are close to 160 youth signed up for the new basketball league that is held at Circleville Park. The softball leagues are in full swing. This past weekend there was a tournament with over 40 youth teams. There are a lot of people complimenting the venues and the restrooms.

(Comment from Public)- Mr. Keough expressed concern about the electrical service and the floor in the concession area at Oak Hall. Mr. Hall said the electricity was fixed and that the floor maintenance was discussed with the food vendor.

- Melissa Freed- Ms. Freed announced that there has been close to 2,400 program visitors in the spring season at the nature center. The summer staff is great and are ready to go. Some camps started this week. The staff is getting ready for the Romantic Moonlight Walk next week.
- Todd Roth- Mr. Roth reported that we are 21 days into the pool season with 80 days remaining. The numbers are on par with previous years and he expects the numbers to increase. There are currently swim lessons at both pools in the morning and in the evening in the HS Natatorium; most of the classes are full. There are typically 2-3 saves a week at the pools. The staff is doing a great job.
- Cindy Stahlman- Ms. Stahlman was excited to report that there was an engagement (between two patrons) at the Center and it was very exciting. There may also be a wedding at the Center at some point. Ms. Mascolo mentioned that Ms. Stahlman was being very modest... Cindy was running around to assure that everything was perfect for the event. They also held a Music and Munchies program at Millbrook Marsh with 27 people. The Senior Games were cancelled due to the increased patronage at the new center. There were only 3 people who inquired about it. There is a trip to Seven Mountains at the end of the month and everyone is very excited. The seniors have been very gracious and they help out whenever they can. Ms. Tourscher informed the Board that they received the new AED (Automated External Defibrillator) yesterday.

Ms. Mascolo asked staff to please bring some monthly activity calendars for the Board. Ms. Stahlman agreed to do so.

VII. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

A. Consider Revising the July and August Meeting Locations

The Board was asked to approve switching the July and August meeting locations since the renovations for the Active Adult Center are expected to be complete. If approved, the July 21 meeting would be at Millbrook Marsh Nature Center and the August 18 meeting would be at the Nittany Mall Community Room. Ms. Matason made a motion to approve swapping the location of the July and August Board meetings, Mr. Dunn seconded the motion; it then passed unanimously.

B. Active Adult Center Renovations

Mr. Woodhead stated that with the lease amendment signed, the mall is proceeding to select the contractors for the renovations. The lease also specifies that the cost for

architecture services during the Construction Phase will be split between Nittany Centre Realty LLC and the Authority. The Authority will engage the architect and then be reimbursed for 50% of those fees. As a result, staff asked the Authority to add in Mr. Popovich's services to the process. The supplemental services plus about \$2,000 authorized in December will be split with the mall. Ms. Ishler made a motion to include Mr. Popovich's services and amend the December contract. Mr. Dunn seconded the motion; it then passed unanimously.

C. Fundraising Study/ Project Update

Ms. Dello Stritto and Ms. Konkle from Affinity Connection Inc. attended the meeting to report on the stages of the fundraising plan. Ms. Dello Stritto informed the Board that there are three parts to study. Part 1 is preparing the marketing analysis and promotional materials for the Active Adult Center. They will be compiling data and doing staff interviews to get this information. Part 2 is planning the fundraising process for Millbrook Marsh Nature Center "Phase 2" Capital Campaign. There will be a meeting at the Nature Center on June 15 to further discuss the process. Phase 3 will be addressing Regional Parks. Ms. Konkle commented that she has met with everyone and all the data is compiled. There will be a lot of varied uses for the new Active Adult Center and that the Center serves many different interests. We just need to get the word out there. If there is anyone who would like to be a fundraising solicitor and knows some donors, please talk to Ms. Konkle.

(Comment from Public) Ms. Dininni questioned if the donors would be addressed case by case? The reply was yes, each campaign ask would be project-specific and directed towards donors interested in that cause.

D. The 2017 CRPR Program Plans (Draft #1) (attachment #6)

Mr. Woodhead informed the Board that the first draft of the Program Plan was submitted to COG Administration in early June and that copies of the drafts were provided to the Board for their comments and suggestions by the end of June.

E. Agency Director Transition

It was reported that the candidate interviews are almost complete.

(Comment from Public) Ms. Dininni mentioned that when the library hired their new Director, they focused on the candidate's fundraising experience.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

At 1:17 PM, Ms. Ishler made a motion to adjourn; Ms. Matason seconded the motion. The motion then passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jada Light, CRPR Office Manager

This meeting summary was approved for distribution by Board action on 18 Aug 2016.