

CENTRE REGION PARKS AND RECREATION AUTHORITY BOARD
APPROVED REGULAR MEETING SUMMARY

#01

May 19, 2016

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: Sue Mascolo, Ferguson Twp.; Diane Ishler, Harris Twp.; Chris Hurley, Patton Twp.; Kathy Matason, College Twp.; Shannon Messick, SCASD

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

Others: Dick Mascolo, resident; Laura Dininni, Ferguson Twp. Supervisor

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

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING SUMMARY

Following Ms. Ishler's request involving some text clarifications, Mr. Hurley made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the regular meeting held on April 21, 2016, to include those suggestions. Ms. Ishler seconded the motion, which then passed unanimously.

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

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

V. BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

Patton Twp. - Mr. Hurley reported that their Committee also held a park tour that he was unable to attend, although he did attend their monthly meeting. The tour went to (the new) Cecil Irvin Park, Tudek, Suburban and Millbrook Marsh Nature Center; Mr. Carpenter drove the group in the CRPR van. The landscape architect who designed Bernel Road Park made a brief presentation to the Twp. Supervisors about re-evaluating their Master Plan for the remaining undeveloped lands there and expanding the playground. They would like to add some more aircraft-themed playground equipment for older youth. There was also discussion about putting a skatepark there; no decisions have been made. Mr. Woodhead mentioned that a meeting with the Borough and skatepark folks will be held on Tuesday at Orchard Park and that Bernel Road Park will be added as a location option for them.

Harris Twp. - Their meeting was rescheduled to next week.

College Twp. - Ms. Matason reported that they met on Monday. Most of the discussion was about planning the addition of the ramps to the pedestrian bridge over the creek and about restroom building replacement at Spring Creek Park. The Committee also discussed a plan for the new playground at Dalevue. Their park tour will be June 5.

SCASD, State College Borough, Ferguson Twp. - No updates.

VI. STAFF REPORTS

A. Director's Report- Presented by Ron Woodhead

1. Staff Activity Report for April (Attachment #3) - The staff report for April is 6 pages long and includes photos and a graph to compare pre-season pool pass sales over the years.
2. 2016 Centre Foundation Endowment Report (Attachment #4) - The annual summary on the performance of CRPRA Endowments at the Centre Foundation was distributed. It lists

the Authority's endowments from donors along with the annual growth of each fund since 2005. The earnings from 2015 (and the resulting distributions in 2016) were reduced but we still appreciate the donors who created each endowment.

3. 2016 "CRPR Spring Spruce-Up Day" Report- (Attachment #5) Mr. Carpenter reported that the day was very successful. The attachment showed that 157 volunteers helped at 13 different parks on Sat., April 23.
4. PennDOT US Rt. 322 "Plant Rescue Project"- Clearwater Conservancy inquired with Ms. Freed about transplanting/rescuing some native plants from the US Rt. 322 construction site at the Potters Mills to the nature center. It was decided that it was likely that many of the plants would not survive in the marsh environment, however there are a few appropriate species that can be moved to the nature center.
5. Mr. Woodhead noted that the final construction meeting was held at the Millbrook Marsh Nature Center parking area. The project is substantially complete and will be opened today or tomorrow officially for full public use. Ms. Matason mentioned that it looks great and glad the trees made it through winter. (Those trees that did not survive will be replaced by the contractor at no cost to the Authority.)
6. Mr. Woodhead also noted that the agency has [posted on YouTube](#) the Welch Pool climbing wall being field-tested by some young swimmers. It was a chilly day but the kids insisted they wished to test the wall. The budget for the wall was \$24,500 and the amount paid was \$18,500, so that's great news.
7. Ms. Tourscher introduced our summer office Intern, Kyrie Hartzell. She started on Monday and will take the lead on planning the CRPR 50th Anniversary Celebration as her major project. Ms. Hartzell is enrolled at Slippery Rock University in Non-Profit Management.

B. Staff Highlights

- Niki Tourscher- Ms. Tourscher reported that we have started working with Affinity Connections Inc., which is the fundraising company that was approved and engaged. Ms. Stahlman is currently at the Senior Expo event so she isn't able to attend today's meeting. An AED has been purchased for the Senior Center. We have also secured janitorial services two days per week for that facility.
- Jim Carpenter- Mr. Carpenter noted that his crew is working very diligently to keep up. The ballfields look better this week than they did two weeks ago. The pavilion rentals are picking up so it's been very busy. His staff is on board now with the exception of one employee who is out with a broken leg and another employee on paternity leave.
- Melissa Freed- Ms. Freed announced that they have been very busy hosting school class visits. Also, from late-April through May, there are a lot of birthday parties booked. Their 4 summer interns started on Monday. There has been lots of training and getting ready for the summer.
- Beth Lee- Ms. Lee stated that the spring programs are coming to an end. She is currently hiring summer staff for camps and registration looks great. The new summer youth basketball league will be starting with great interest at Circleville Park involving a partnership with PSU Basketball.
- Kyrie Hartzell- No report at this time other than she is very excited to be here.
- Todd Roth- Mr. Roth reported that there are currently about 2,540 season pool passes sold, which is very close to last year at this time. We typically sell 4,500 for the season. The swimming classes as well as swim team sign-ups are going very well. Both pools are fully staffed and ready to go. The pools will open in 9 days (on May 28).

Mr. Hurley asked if the daily admission is increasing / decreasing? Mr. Roth said it usually depends on the previous year's weather. The daily admissions were up last year in July when the weather got very hot. This year that hot weather helped with season pass numbers. We believe that the new climbing wall will also help both sales and admissions. These pluses may help offset the slight negative effect of the High School construction and the impacts on pool patron parking.

- Jeff Hall- Mr. Hall reported that there was a tournament that consisted of 20 teams at Oak Hall and 20 teams at Hess. With the help of the maintenance crew and the tournament crew, only 3 hours were lost of playing time due to the miserable weather of snow, sleet and hail that took place over the weekend. The tennis classes are trying to be played around all the rain so there are quite a few make-up classes. There are 52 teams in all of the softball leagues. The women's league didn't secure enough teams to operate this year. The youth basketball league will be very popular. Centre Lacrosse will be holding a play day at Oak Hall Reg. Park with 7 teams from the area.

(Comment from the Public) Ms. Dininni informed the Board that Cory Miller with UAJA is reconstructing the sewer laterals to the homes abutting Suburban Park. They will no longer have easements on each homeowner's property. With the cost savings they will plant a buffer of trees. Mr. Miller is looking to work in other parks to help align water conservation efforts.

Mr. Hurley made a recommendation that we look into putting a pickleball court at the mall and the new Active Adult Center. If one could be put in the mall parking lot, it may be a hit with the Center. Mr. Woodhead replied that he will look into it. Mr. Hall commented that we do get inquiries from OLLI since they recently conducted pickleball classes at two local parks, so there is interest in that sport. (Recently the agency lined 10 outdoor courts to serve both tennis and pickleball.)

VII. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

A. Proclamation of "Parks & Recreation Month" (Attachment #6A-B)

The Board was asked to approve the Proclamation in support of July being "Parks and Recreation Month". This promotion is occurring across the country by the National Recreation and Park Association, so we would like to adopt it as well. Mr. Hurley made a motion to approve the Proclamation in support of naming July 2016 "Parks and Recreation" month, Ms. Matason seconded the motion; it then passed unanimously.

B. 2016 Tourism Grant Award from the Central PA Convention & Visitor's Bureau

Ms. Tourscher confirmed that the Authority was awarded a 2016 Tourism Grant to prepare a paper / digital brochure to highlight the Centre Region parks, pools, nature center and other park facilities. The total grant requested was \$4,000; the agency was awarded \$2,000. Mr. Woodhead, Ms. Tourscher and Ms. Mascolo attended a ceremony at the Visitors Bureau to accept the grant. Since we don't have funds budgeted to make up for the reduced grant award, we expect to produce the brochure solely in digital format. It was noted that the grant amounts were not revealed to each group until after the press conference arranged by the Bureau.

C. Senior Center Lease Amendment (Attachment #7)

A second draft of lease amendment has been provided by the Mall owner for Board action. The first version of the lease amendment (approved by the Board in March) was not countersigned; the owner stated that the \$3.50 per sf/yr. was incorrect. This version

includes additional rent of \$4 per sf/year to pay for the approved renovations. While the Mall will be paying to replace/upgrade the HVAC system (as provided in the original lease), going forward all HVAC work will be the responsibility of the Authority. The increased rental charges will begin when the Code Agency issues their Certificate of Occupancy for the new space. Mr. Hurley noted that we have to make sure the HVAC units function properly. Mr. Woodhead stated that Mr. Popovich will confirm that the renovations proceed per the approved plans. In response to a question from Ms. Ishler, Mr. Woodhead confirmed that Solicitor Williams has endorsed the proposed amendment (as well as the original lease with the mall). Mr. Hurley made a motion to approve the Lease Amendment for the Senior Center, Ms. Matason seconded the motion; it then passed unanimously. Upon signature by the Chair, the amendment will be returned to the mall owner for his signature. *(Update: The Board-signed amendment was subsequently signed by the Mall owner and returned to the CRPR office.)*

D. Renaming Options for the Senior Citizen Center (tabled at the April meeting)

Mr. Woodhead asked the Board to act on the request to rename the Senior Center upon the relocation to the new, larger space. A month-long voting period by senior center patrons produced their top three choices:

- A. Centre Region Active Adult Center
- B. Centre Region Senior Social Center
- C. Centre Region Center for Healthy Aging

The name recommended by staff is “The Centre Region Active Adult Center” in hopes of expanding the appeal of the center to younger seniors (ages 55+). Ms. Mascolo noted that she does not like omitting the word “senior” in the name. She feels that younger adults (under 55) will then come to the Center, not knowing it is for ages 55+. Ms. Tourscher noted that she has been doing research on this topic and there are numerous Senior Centers moving forward to change their names to this format. Ms. Messick mentioned the example of the age 55+ adults living center at the Liberty Hills development.

Ms. Ishler agreed that older residents may not come to the Center because they don’t classify themselves as “seniors.” This has happened with a luncheon at her church. She asked how we will keep adults age 20-30 from coming to the Center. Mr. Woodhead replied that there would be a subtitle listed under the name saying “for adults age 55+.”

Ms. Ishler made a motion to approve the Senior Center name change to Centre Region Active Adult Center with the stipulation of adding the qualifier underneath listing Adults 55+. Mr. Hurley seconded the motion; the motion passed 4-1 with the Ms. Mascolo voting nay.

E. Oak Hall Regional Park Driveway Project (Attachment #8)

The quotation requests for the drainage improvement project at Oak Hall park driveway were sent out to ten contractors. The lowest quote was from Ameron Construction Inc. in the amount of \$17,400. The engineers and staff are recommending to award the contract to the lowest quotation (Ameron Construction) since it is within the budget, and the project has also been endorsed by the Smith Family, PennDOT and College Township.

Mr. Hurley made a motion to approve the bid quotation from Ameron Construction Inc. and award them the Oak Hall Regional Park Driveway Project in the amount of \$17,400 (lump sum). Ms. Matason seconded the motion; it then passed unanimously.

(Comment from Public) Mr. Mascolo asked if there was a completion date for this project. Mr. Woodhead answered that completion is specified by the end of June. The contractors must work around weekend tournaments, evening leagues and access to the rental house.

F. The 2017 COG Program Plan (Attachment #9)

Ms. Tourscher mentioned that when there are any new positions to be requested in the upcoming Program Plan, the proposal must first be approved by the COG HR Committee. The Senior Center has requested considering adding a part-time (20 hours/week), year-round Staff Assistant for the Senior Center. With the growing center, there is a huge need for assistance at the front desk. The staff are completely busy and the volunteers haven't provided the necessary coverage. The frequent turnover of volunteers has also been problematic.

Mr. Hurley asked what groups are being solicited for volunteers Ms. Tourscher answered that it is Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). They are all volunteer seniors. Ms. Ishler mentioned that we could watch the volunteers for the remainder of the 2016 year thru 2017. If we find that we don't need to hire a person that would be okay, we don't have to fill the position just because we put it in the budget.

Ms. Matason made a motion to authorize including the proposed position in the Program Plan and proceeding with the HR Committee request. Ms. Ishler seconded the motion; it then passed unanimously.

G. Agency Director Transition

The COG Office of Administration reported that they are ready to schedule interviews for the five candidates selected. Mr. Hurley requested that even though he isn't in the hiring process, he would like to be in the loop.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

At 1:15 PM 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 for distribution by Board action on 16 June 2016.