

Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes

October 17, 2012

In Attendance: Board members Stephanie McIlwee (Chair), Susan Naugle, Jill Herr, Steve Fehringer, Roger Heyser, Phil Cosden and Gareth Biser. Absent: Randy Smith and Carlos Wampler. Other attendees: Borough Finance Director Ramona Overton, Council Members John Butterfield and Graham Weaver, Little League representatives Kenny Hassinger, Lea Haskins, Jim Sixeas and Mike Bishop and Gettysburg Times reporter Jesse Haines.

Public Comment:

John Butterfield advised members that he had spoken to a member of the Rotary Club who indicated that the Club is interested in making a donation to the Rec Park after the Master Plan is received. Nothing is final.

Kenny Hassinger, President of the Little League, spoke about the recently adopted fee schedule. He indicated that he had expressed a desire to be part of that discussion. He explained that he had met with Manager Ford and Public Works Director Hilliard in 2011 and worked out a reimbursement agreement based on the actual hours that borough employees spent maintaining the field. Director Hilliard kept a record but Little League never received a bill. Susan Naugle confirmed that records show that none of the leagues paid registration fees to the Borough in 2011. Mr. Hassinger said he sent the agreement to Manager Ford but never received anything back. He states the Little League charges players \$50 and cannot pay the per player fees adopted by the board (\$16 and \$20). Susan pointed out that the fee is only a few cents higher than what was previously charged. He responded that they cannot cover increased costs and have to contribute an additional \$11 per player. They are unwilling to raise the fees on kids.

Mr. Hassinger also objected to the higher charge for non-residents stating that some nonresident parents own property in the Borough. He pointed out that the Board needs to recognize the hundreds of hours spent by volunteers to repair damage and maintain the facilities. Most recently the Little League painted the dugouts. They are planning to fund raise to do upgrades. He also discussed the difficulty the league faced in switching scheduled games to accommodate a tournament. He requested a contract which specifies the period that the fields are solely for the use of the league. He commented that we are not charging near enough for use of fields by tournaments. Board members agreed and plan to raise fees next year. The league is considering organizing tournaments. Phil Cosden offered that one problem is that our fields do not meet safety codes. Mr. Hassinger stated there is much that needs fixing or replaced – lighting, bare wires, new fence, etc. - and the league is willing to raise funds. He also reported that the American Legion is one of four organizations interested in donating funds for ball field upgrades.

Jill Herr asked if there was room on the schedule to host tournaments. Kenny explained they cannot make a schedule until March so tournaments could schedule dates before they have their schedule set. He stated that it was the LL that lined the

fields for the Future Stars Tournament and that the lights, which the board had decided to charge an extra \$100 for, are billed to the LL.

Ken stated the borough maintenance staff and the manager were good to work with but everybody seems to be confused about who is doing what. He appealed to the board not to charge the planned fee this year because it would be a hardship to the league. He is willing to open his books for review. He talked about the pride the LL has in the park. He stated South Middleton has a contract with the league for \$1 and the league does the improvements. If the fees continue, they will be forced to look for other options.

Roger Heyser advised that the Board knew nothing about the arrangement the leagues had made with the Borough Manager and there was certainly no intent to push the leagues out. He thinks we can work out a long-term contract. Stephanie McIlwee stated the board will consider the Little League's position.

Minutes of the September 19 meeting were approved as presented on a motion by Jill Herr and second by Roger Heyser.

Old Business:

Regional Recreation Commission: Members Heyser, Biser, Naugle and Fehringer attended the Cumberland Township Recreation Committee meeting on 9/26 to discuss forming a regional commission. All thought the meeting was very worthwhile and very positive. Susan Naugle confirmed that the Borough Council unanimously approved a motion supporting the discussion. The next meeting is scheduled for October 24 at 4 pm at the Cumberland Township office. The focus will be on creating an action plan. All members were encouraged to attend. Steve suggested that we should consider including the school district to take advantage of facilities. He thinks the current leadership would be more supportive of the concept.

Mural Project: Borough council approved the design at its October meeting. Stephanie advised the panels are on display at the Arts Council until the 26th when they will be sent for clear coating. Susan advised that she approached Judy Marti at the Arts Council about a joint dedication since both projects were on track to be completed by the end of the month. November 8 is the likely date with trail dedication at 3 and mural at 4 and light refreshments in between.

Farmer's Market Response: A letter was sent to Kathy Glahn per the direction of the board at the September meeting. Stephanie has talked with Kathy. The season is over and vendors did not do as well as last year. Their annual meeting is coming up and the future of the market will be discussed. Kathy also wants to discuss with the participating farmers and vendors. Jill advised that Healthy Adams County director Kathy Gaskin hoped there would not be a fee. The market is being used by local residents. There may be some help available from the hospital.

Biser Trail Upgrades and Dedication: Susan reported on the status of the trail upgrades. Weather has been a factor but the first paving is scheduled for tomorrow. If that occurs we should be on track to complete the upgrades by the end of the month with the dedication on 11/8.

Progress of Master Plan: Susan reported that consultant Jim Sauer has shared a draft of the final plan. She provided members with the final sketch design. He will be sending a final draft report for review. Following that he will present the plan to Council and the Board and then hold a final public meeting. No dates are set for those presentations.

Board Appointments: Susan advised that council approved reappointment of Roger and herself.

New Business:

There was none

Board Member Comments:

Steve offered that we should consider in-kind work done by organizations by having different fee levels.

Lefty said it is not good to commit to a schedule as we did with the league and then circumvent it. He wondered who Ken should be talking with and feels we cannot operate as a Rec board if we don't know what is happening

Mona Overton presented members with a draft recreation budget for 2013 and other budget information and explained the budget process. The information did not include the Parks and Grounds budget. She requested the board create a budget for action by council at its November meeting. Susan pointed out that the board is not scheduled to meet prior to the council meeting. Members discussed holding a special meeting but opted instead to move the November 21 meeting to November 7. Susan requested that Mona provide her with electronic copies so they can be shared with the absent members. Susan will send Mona's email address to all so that they can provide comments or ask questions.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:17 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 7, 2012 at 4:00 pm.