

January 12, 2009

The Straban Township Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting minutes from the January 12, 2008, 7:00 p.m. meeting held at 1745 Granite Station Road.

Present: Jon Priest, Joyce Wentz, Jim Stine, Deb Kammerer, Roy Thomas, and Sharon Hamm.

Minutes:

The minutes of December 8, 2008 were pre-read and approved by motion of Roy Thomas, seconded by Jon Priest, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

The current balance of the Recreation and Parks budget is \$97,266.37. The report was approved by Jon Priest, and seconded by Jim Stine.

Election of Officers for 2009

- Jim Stine nominated Roy Thomas as Chairperson. Joyce Wentz seconded Jim's motion. All were in favor.
- Jim Stine nominated Deb Kammerer as the Co-chairperson. Roy Thomas seconded the motion. All were in favor.
- Roy Thomas nominated Joyce Wentz as Secretary. Jim Stine seconded the motion. All were in favor.
- Roy Thomas nominated Jim Stine as Treasurer. Joyce Wentz seconded the motion. All were in favor.

2009 Recreation Board Officers are as follows:

Chairperson:	Roy Thomas
Co-chairperson:	Deb Kammerer
Treasurer:	Jim Stine
Secretary:	Joyce Wentz

Future Recreation Areas

- If a development has its own recreation area and a homeowner's association would they want other township residents using their rec. area?
- Sharon referred to the SALDO for clarification on this matter. According to that document, recreation areas in developments would be closed to other township residents. The homeowner's association would maintain the area.
- New Chester would be a good place for a park.
- Watch what type of land a developer is giving for recreation purposes.
- The land across from the township building would also make a nice park.

Ethics Policy

- Sharon handed the Board the township's new ethics policy and briefly described the policy and its purpose.
- The question was raised about who should be contacted regarding questions. It was decided to first go to the supervisors. If need be they will take the issue to the solicitor.
- Roy suggested we should read and highlight areas of the ethics policy, and discuss it at our next meeting.

Orientation of New Member

- Deb needs a copy of the Recreation Board Bylaws. Roy will contact Don to hand in his documents for her.
- Roy explained to Deb how the Rec. Fees from developers are to be spent within three years.
- The question was raised as to whether the interest needs to be spent within three years as well.

Recreation Park Improvements and Ideas

- The park sign has been ordered.
- We could put a well in the park for drinking water.
- West, on the south side of the railroad tracks there is a 15-foot right-of way the township does not own. We should look into getting this land as a gift.
- We might be able to apply for a grant for walking path use.
- Playground
- Soccer nets and a basketball hoop.
- Batting cages if they will get enough use.
- The question was raised as to whether Oakside Park has a fee for use of the fields.
- The survey pins for the park have been located. Roy suggested inserting a steel pipe in the ground at the location of the pins and painting it orange so the park boundaries are visible.

Tractor and gang mower

- Would this perhaps be considered a maintenance item instead of an upgrade?
- Would it be too costly to hire a contractor to mow the park?
- We need to evaluate the cost of the equipment and a place to store it.
- Sharon suggested talking with Marc regarding the Recreation Park maintenance.

Recreation Plan

- The Recreation plan is an outline of Straban's goals.
- Deb suggested there are two levels of planning, one across the township and the second specific for the Recreation Park.
- We should discuss facilities across the ages, as well as other ideas like a dog park.
- The current plan should be adapted to the current 14-acre park, and then be updated as more land is acquired.

- The Board will review the Recreation Plan and discuss changes at the February meeting.
- Deb asked, “Who is our customer?” The plan should be tailored to meet the requirements of the entity that requests it.
- If the plan is the base on which we collect fees, we need to show how the fees will be spent.

Public Comment

Sharon requested that the Board continue reporting to the Supervisors at their monthly meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

The next Recreation Board meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on February 9, 2009 at 1745 Granite Station Road.

**Joyce Wentz,
Straban Township Recreation Board**