

STRABAN TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Debbie Arnold, Deb Kammerer, Joyce Wentz, Tom Adair, Peter Sontheimer

MEETING OF: JULY 20, 2015

The Straban Township Parks & Recreation Advisory Board met this date, as publicly advertised, at 7:00 p.m. in the meeting room of the Straban Township Municipal Building, 1745 Granite Station Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325 with Board Chair Debbie Arnold presiding. Others in attendance were: Vice Chair Deb Kammerer; Secretary Joyce Wentz, Member Peter Sontheimer; and Office Manager Robin Crushong. Treasurer Tom Adair was not in attendance.

Others in attendance: Mark Darnell, Gettysburg Youth Baseball Association (GYBA).

Board Chair Debbie Arnold brought the meeting to order.

Minutes:

Ms. Wentz moved, seconded by Mr. Sontheimer, to approve the May 18, 2015 minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports:

The beginning balance as of May 1, 2015 was \$9,425.09. There were no expenses for the months of May and June 2015. There was interest earned in the months of May and June 2015 in the amount of \$.79. There were no recreation fees collected in the months of May and June 2015. The balance in the Recreation Account is currently \$9,425.88. **Ms. Kammerer moved, seconded by Mr. Sontheimer to approve the Treasurer Report as presented.**

Appearances:

Mark Darnell, Gettysburg Youth Baseball Association (GYBA) – Mr. Darnell stated that his organization's Board reviewed the e-mail from the Recreation Board and they are pleased that the township is willing to work with them. The organization would like to perform conversion on Field "A" only, not "B". The organizations that use Field "B" would be "coach" pitch or "tee-ball" pitch and that field is good for those age groups. The conversion of Field "A" would include moving the pitching mound so that young/older boys can play on the same field. This would be two (2) different age groups. The organization would like to purchase separate pegs so that the pegs that are not being used can be covered. The conversion will also require enlarging the field. Mr. Darnell stated that what they are looking for from the township is:

- 10 feet of grass taken out (radius) with a sod cutter
- Gravel brought in – would like to use tractor to spread it out
- Use tractor to remove pitching mound and make surface level

The organization will purchase and donate labor:

- Purchase pegs
- Purchase covers for all (6) pegs

- Purchase clay for mound
- Not sure of the cost of gravel

Mr. Darnell expects this conversation to take about 2 weekends to complete. Ms. Arnold asked that Mr. Darnell get a proposal to the Board within three (3) weeks so that it can be presented to the Board of Supervisors and then work could commence thereafter.

Mr. Darnell mentioned that he was also good with switching locks and keys every year instead of purchasing non-rekeyable locks for the storage boxes on Fields "A" and "B".

Old Business:

Benches for Field C – Ms. Crushong informed the Board that a donation was received from the Gettysburg Area Girls Fastpitch Softball team that use Field "C" in the amount of \$500.00. They would like to see the donation go towards the purchase of new team benches, or if the township felt that it needed to use it elsewhere, that would be fine too. The cost of four (4) new 15' aluminum benches (without back) would cost \$839.96. **Ms. Arnold moved, seconded by Mr. Sontheimer to recommend to the Board of Supervisors to purchase the aluminum benches for Field "C". Motion carried unanimously.** Mr. Sontheimer asked if there would be a recognition of donor. The Board has not had to deal with this before because this is the first donation received.

Recommendation for 2016 use of Recreation Fund fees for park maintenance – Ms. Arnold stated that Straban Township collects taxes to cover the maintenance of the park. Because of that, wouldn't it be most prudent to continue using Recreation Funds for improvements and not maintenance? The Board agreed that it needs to maintain the recreation fund and maintenance should come out of the general fund. **Ms. Kammerer moved, seconded by Mr. Sontheimer to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that the 2016 maintenance expenses of the Recreation Park continue to be paid out of the Straban Township general fund account. Motion carried unanimously.**

There was discussion then about the Joint Comprehensive Plan that the County is coordinating. There will be public meetings and surveys for the citizens and visitors to Gettysburg. Ms. Kammerer indicated that Ms. Koch is putting together the survey and if we would have any questions for the survey to send them to Ms. Kammerer within the next two (2) weeks.

Mr. Sontheimer would like to see walking/biking trails to connect the back of Hunters Crossing to Twin Oaks (110 Gordon Ave.) to the North Trail along Old Harrisburg Road. He is aware of a good possibility of where this connection could take place. He welcomed the Board to meet him at Hunter's Crossing sometime to look at how this could work. Ms. Kammerer stated that we could look at the Recreation Park Plan and implement trails around the township in the plan. The Board agreed to schedule a workshop at the next meeting in September 2015.

New Business:

Recommendation for change to Rules and Regulations regarding damage to fields and/or facilities – Ms. Arnold stated that there really isn't anything in the Rules and Regulations concerning loss of park privileges when damage is done to the park in as how long the privileges are lost. Ms. Arnold

recommended that another bullet be added under “Guidelines and Policies” to state that the township reserves the right to bill park users for damages to the park and/or facilities that township personnel deem to be beyond normal use. Any misuse of the park may also result in denial of any and/or all future park privileges. Mr. Sontheimer suggested charging a security deposit if you have a history of damage. **Mr. Sontheimer moved, seconded by Ms. Arnold to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that an additional bullet be added under “Guidelines and Policies” stating “The township reserves the right to charge a security deposit to any party that has had a history of damage to the park.” Motion carried unanimously.**

Recommendation on Pitching Mound Repairs – Ms. Kammerer moved, seconded by Ms. Arnold to recommend that the Board of Supervisors approve the renovation of Field “A” at the Recreation Park, pending receipt of construction costs from Gettysburg Youth Baseball Association (GYBA). Motion carried unanimously.

Acceptance of monetary donations - Ms. Arnold asked what the Board’s feelings were on putting language on the reservation request form that the township accepts donations. It was agreed that no language would be added to the reservation request form concerning donations at this time.

Township Picnic – The annual picnic was recommended for Sunday, September 20, 2015 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. with Mr. Adair doing the grilling. Ms. Wentz and Ms. Arnold will do the shopping and the office personnel will get the invitations out to the current/past board members.

Public Comment:

None.

Adjournment:

With no further business to come before the Board, Ms. Arnold moved, seconded by Mr. Sontheimer to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. this date.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin K. Crushong
Office Manager

NEXT MEETING:

SUPERVISORS: August 3, 2015
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD: September 21, 2015