

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

MEETING OF: NOVEMBER 16, 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; Treasurer Tom Adair; Secretary Joyce Wentz; Member Peter Sontheimer; and Office Manager/Treasurer Robin Crushong.

Others in attendance: Rob Thaeler and Kelly Koch from the Adams County Office of Planning and Development.

Board Chair Debbie Arnold brought the meeting to order.

Minutes:

Mr. Adair moved, seconded by Ms. Kammerer, to approve the September 21, 2015 minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports:

The beginning balance as of September 21, 2015 was \$9,926.28. There was an expense for Field C benches in the amount of \$839.96. There was interest earned in the months of September and October 2015 in the amount of \$1.23. There were no recreation fees collected in the months of September and October 2015. The balance in the Recreation Account is currently \$9,087.55. **Ms. Wentz moved, seconded by Mr. Sontheimer to approve the Treasurer Report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

Appearances:

The Board had invited Rob Thaeler and Kelly Koch from the Adams County Office of Planning and Development to its meeting tonight to discuss some options and get some direction from the County. Ms. Kammerer explained to Mr. Thaeler and Ms. Koch that this Board wants to explore some possibilities in connecting Hunter's Crossing Development with the Twin Oaks Development to connect to the North Gettysburg Area Trail. The Board would also like to look at the possibility of creating a trail on Shealer Road because there is a lot of pedestrian traffic and that road has no shoulder and not safe in its current state. Some of the Board members met with the Board of Supervisors at one of its workshops and discussed the options. The Board of Supervisors are supportive of the effort but not sure how to begin the process. It was suggested to ask the County to weigh in. How does a Recreation Board initiate this plan?

Mr. Thaeler suggested that the Board review the Feasibility Plan that was done for the North Gettysburg Area Trail System back in 2000. This study mentioned a wide variety of other trails. Mr. Sontheimer asked if a new feasibility study would need to be done but Mr. Thaeler stated that an evaluation of the current

situation like updating demographics, citizen surveys etc. would need to be done. Two (2) issues since the beginning of this project have been ownership and maintenance of the trail. These issues were never dealt with and are going to have to be worked out. Mr. Sontheimer stated that he spoke to a representative of Spirit Trust and they seemed interested and he also spoke to Dr. Redding of the Gettysburg Area School District and there was not much interest if costs are involved. Mr. Thaeler indicated that at some point the township engineer may have to get involved. It was suggested that once the Recreation Board received and reviewed the Feasibility Study of the North Gettysburg Area Trail System that the Board could sit down with the County representatives and discuss some ideas and see where Straban Township can go from here.

Old Business:

Update on Mound Repairs – Ms. Crushong received information from the Gettysburg Youth Baseball Association (GYBA). The proposal is to convert Field A from a 46'/60' field to a 50'/70' field. The dimensions are defined as the pitching mound to home plate length and the base path length. The conversion will allow the field to be used for both dimensions so that the younger age groups can still play on Field A when needed and desired. GYBA is willing to purchase all materials needed. This includes the "pegs" and "covers" for the new base locations; new clay for the mound; new pitching rubber for installation; removable "pitching rubber" that will be utilized when the field is used for the 46'/60' younger groups; and manual labor. What they are asking from the township is to remove the current pitching mound and create a flat area on the infield in order for the new mound to be installed; and to cut and remove approximately 10 feet of the outfield grass in order to extend the infield. It would also ask that the township drag this new area repeatedly so that the ground becomes level and work to the current infield "gravel/dirt" into the new area. The estimation of "installation" can be accomplished in 1 weekend, but GYBA will be willing to work during the week if needed in the evenings to finalize everything. The Board was good with this proposal. Ms. Crushong will check with Mr. Darnell and coordinate with the Road Crew when the work can be done. **NOTE:** Spoke to GYBA and they are looking to do this late winter/early spring 2016.

Update on damaged bench at Field "C" – Ms. Crushong informed the Board that the company that supplied the benches sent a new bench and the township was able to keep the damaged bench for parts if needed in the future. The benches on Field C were installed by the road crew on October 29th and 30th. The softball team donated \$500.00 so the total cost to the recreation fund was \$339.96 and the total cost to the general fund was \$1,808.84. Ms. Crushong also mentioned that Gene Baugher, the road crew member that takes care of the park, will be retiring on December 31, 2015. The township has an advertisement out now to hire a part-time person to maintain the park and help on the roads when needed.

Update on possible trail connecting Twin Oaks and Hunter's Crossing – Mr. Sontheimer informed the Board that he, Ms. Kammerer and Mr. Adair met with the Board of Supervisors and the Supervisors are fine with the Recreation Board seeking out options for a trail to connect Hunter's Crossing with Twin Oaks with the North Gettysburg trail. A workshop was scheduled with the County Planning and the Recreation Board to meet on Monday, December 14th at 4:00 p.m. at the township office to review some options.

Update on maintenance of the North Gettysburg Area Trail – Ms. Crushong informed the Board that she spoke to Commissioner Randy Phiel and Larry Steinour at the County ordered the new bike decals and Gettysburg Borough has the process and equipment to put the decals down. Ms. Kammerer also informed the Board that she spoke to Mr. Sanders and he would be asking the County to sweep the bike trail two or three more times a year.

New Business:

Recreation Plan review/update – Ms. Arnold suggested that each Board member review the plan and identify what they feel needs to be updated and come back to the next meeting ready to put a draft revision together. It was discussed that trail development on page 4 and page 7 should be added. Also, the County can help in bringing the population and housing studies up to date. Ms. Crushong will send a copy of the plan to the County for review and to add suggested revisions. Mr. Thealer suggested that the Board may want to suggest to the Board of Supervisors to revise the Recreation Fee Ordinance to do the calculations based on land value and compatibles to bring it more in line with the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code. Ms. Arnold will bring this idea up to the Board of Supervisors for its consideration.

Ms. Crushong also noted that Mr. Baugher suggested that the Board should plan to replace the benches on Fields A and B with plastic decking wood from Schmuch's Lumber; consider putting more mulch on the playground area; and purchase a fertilizer spreader for behind the tractor.

DCNR Grant Workshop – Ms. Wentz and Ms. Crushong attended the grant workshop in Carlisle last month. Ms. Wentz gave an overview of the workshop. Most of the things that they are looking at in order to grant monies is community input and partnerships. It takes about 1 ½ years to prepare a project and get it approved for funding. It was determined that this Board is in the early stages of applying for grant monies. Mr. Thealer informed the Board that there is Act 13 monies that the County receives. The County is in the process of getting an application program started which may be up and running as early as next Spring.

Annual Report – Ms. Wentz and the office personnel will work on getting this Report ready for approval by this Board at the next meeting and presentation to the Board of Supervisors.

Public Comment:

None.

Adjournment:

With no further business to come before the Board, Ms. Arnold moved, seconded by Ms. Kammerer to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. this date.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin K. Crushong
Office Manager

NEXT MEETING:

SUPERVISORS: December 7, 2015
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD: January 19, 2016 (Tuesday)