

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

MEETING OF: MAY 16, 2016

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 Tom Adair presiding. Others in attendance were Vice Chair Deb Kammerer; Secretary/Treasurer Peter Sontheimer; Member Debbie Arnold; and Office Manager Robin Crushong. Member John Colgan was absent.

Others in attendance: Ken Stevens, Recreation Park Maintenance/Road Crew.

Board Chair Tom Adair brought the meeting to order.

Minutes:

Mr. Sontheimer moved, seconded by Ms. Arnold, to approve the March 21, 2016 minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports:

Treasurer:

The beginning balance as of March 21, 2016 was \$23,640.47. There were no expenses. There was interest earned in the months of March and April 2016 in the amount of \$.88. There were no recreation fees collected in the months of March and April 2016, however, there was a donation in the amount of \$269.77 from Concerned Citizens of Straban Twp. The balance in the Recreation Account is currently \$23,911.12. **Ms. Kammerer moved, seconded by Mr. Sontheimer to approve the Treasurer Report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

Appearances:

None.

Old Business:

Update on a possible trail connecting the Twin Oaks and Hunter's Crossing developments – Mr. Sontheimer stated that there was no update at this time. It was decided to “table” this matter until a later time. When this matter comes back up, it will be added to the Agenda under “New Business”.

Update on the North Gettysburg Trail Extension Study – Mr. Sontheimer attended a meeting with various members of organizations interested in extending the North Gettysburg Trail. Chris Caba, Jim Hoffman, Ron Kline, Andy Merkel (County Planning and Development Office) and Tom Jolin. Discussions

with PennDot indicate that it does not approve crosswalks at “mid-block” but require crosswalks at intersections. The members of the meeting had discussed that Johnson Drive, across from Dr. Dodson driveway would be a logical “intersection”. It was discussed that a sidewalk would need to be installed from SpiriTrust to Johnson Drive to cross over at a crosswalk to continue on the North Trail. The process would be for a representative from PennDOT to meet at the site and indicate what PennDOT would approve; Requests for Proposals (RFP) would be handed out to various local entities; and the final cost would need to be worked out among the interested organizations. It was also suggested at this meeting that approval be sought for bike lanes in the right-of-ways on Boyd School Road and Shealer Road. Mr. Sontheimer also indicated that SpiriTrust is expecting to expand its trail inside its property line and make it “public”. The Gettysburg Area School District will be going ahead with paving of the farm lane on its property.

Recreational Questionnaire/Survey – Mr. Sontheimer informed the Board Members that the on-line survey is being used and that 96% of the responses so far want more paths/crosswalks. Mr. Sontheimer also presented to the Board members door hangers and posters that Mr. Colgan prepared. The door hangers will be hung on doors in the township and the posters will be posted on the North Gettysburg Trail and at the park.

Recreation Plan review/update – The Board reviewed the document and agreed that it was ready to be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors for review and approval. **Ms. Arnold moved, seconded by Mr. Sontheimer to recommend approval of the revised Recreation Plan and forwarded to the Board of Supervisors for review and approval. Motion carried unanimously.**

Conversion of Field “A” update – Mr. Stevens informed the Board Members that the conversion of Field “A” is complete and the baseball organizations that use the field are pleased with the work that was done. The road crew came in and cut out the section of the grass that needed to be removed and replaced that area with Clapsaddle sand. The road crew also extended the fencing on this field to 48’ from home plate to first base and 24’ from home plate to third base. With the extension of the bases, it caused a safety issue for spectators. Ms. Arnold asked how much this cost and where the funds for these improvements came from. Ms. Crushong indicated that the cost of these improvements totaled \$4,000.00 which came out of the General Fund budget.

Mr. Adair asked Mr. Stevens if there were any other improvements that were requested by the organizations. Mr. Stevens indicated that there was a request for the tree at the entrance of the park to be removed. He also indicated that additional stones were dumped on the overflow parking because of how wet the Spring has been. There were no ruts, but it was pretty wet. Mr. Stevens indicated that this parking area may need to be increased. It was noted, however, that more impervious area would mean stormwater management and we needed to be careful with this. It was also noted that Field “B” could use more parking. There is additional parking planned for Field “B” by the railroad tracks and extending the existing parking, however, it was also noted that there is still a drainage problem there. We have funds in our account, however, not enough to do the paving for additional parking.

New Business:

Recreation Park Status and Scheduling – Ms. Crushong stated that the park is continuously being used. The calendar is posted at the park. There were no real conflicts that could not be worked out through the office.

Public Comment:

None.

It was discussed that a Thank-You letter should be sent to Ken Knox for the front-page article that he put in the Gettysburg Times on May 6, 2016 concerning the survey.

It was also discussed and decided that the Monday, July 18, 2016 meeting would be cancelled and a meeting would be scheduled for Monday, August 15, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

The tentative date for the annual picnic was scheduled for Sunday, September 18, 2016 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the recreation park.

Adjournment:

With no further business to come before the Board, Ms. Arnold moved, seconded by Mr. Sontheimer to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. this date.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin K. Crushong
Office Manager

NEXT MEETING:

SUPERVISORS: June 6, 2016
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD: August 15, 2016