

## **STRABAN TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**

*Peter Sontheimer, Deb Kammerer, John Colgan, Greg Hofe and **Vacant***

### **MEETING OF: MAY 20, 2019**

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 Peter Sontheimer presiding. Others in attendance were; Vice-Chair Deb Kammerer; Secretary/Treasurer John Colgan; and Office Manager Robin Crushong. Member Greg Hofe was not present.

Others in attendance: Dennis Hicketier and Eric Meyer.

Board Chair Peter Sontheimer brought the meeting to order.

### **Minutes:**

Ms. Kammerer moved, seconded by Mr. Colgan, to approve the March 18, 2019 minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Reports:**

#### **Treasurer:**

The beginning balance as of March 18, 2019 was \$33,668.59. There were expenses totaling \$608.03. There was interest earned in the months of January, February, March and April in the amount of \$4.98. There was \$3,000.00 collected in recreation fees and \$500.00 collected in donations from the Girls' Softball Fast Pitch Team. The balance in the Recreation Account is currently \$36,565.54. **Ms. Kammerer moved, seconded by Mr. Sontheimer to approve the Treasurer Report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

### **Appearances:**

Mr. Hicketier and Mr. Meyer were present to speak to the Board about the Boyd's School Trail ("BST"). This is a proposed 1.2 mile trail for pedestrians and bicycles that runs along Boyd's School Road between Old Harrisburg Road and Route 34 (Biglerville Road). The trail would link to the existing North Gettysburg Trail which currently runs between Gettysburg High School and the borough of Gettysburg. Several key businesses, organizations, and communities would have direct access to the BST including Adams County employees at the offices located at 525 Boyd's School Road; The Gettysburg Place Apartments, located at 500 Boyd's School Road; St. Francis Xavier School near the intersection of Boyd's School Road and Table Rock Road; and Gettysburg High School at Old Harrisburg Road and Boyd's School Road. The BST would therefore provide a safe alternative travel route between these locations and, with the connection to the North Gettysburg Trail, a route all the way into Gettysburg. There are challenges. We need to determine the exact routing along Boyd's School Road and whether the trail can be built within the road right-of-way or whether it will need to be constructed on properties adjoining the road. We may need to secure rights-of-way from these property owners. The BST will need to cross Rock Creek and another stream that connects to Rock Creek via bridges. The bridges are not wide enough to accommodate the trail. It appears that the

best route to connect this trail to the North Gettysburg Trail would be on the Gettysburg High School property. This will have to be worked out. Funding for engineering and construction will need to be identified and developed.

The Recreation Board members gave their support for this proposed trail. This would need to be presented to the Board of Supervisors at some point. At this early stage of the process, this Board will wait for Mr. Hickethier and Mr. Meyer to contact them.

### **Old Business:**

**Update on the North Gettysburg Trail Extension Study** – G.B. Groat, Inc. is out at Twin Oaks working on the storm sewer system maintenance project. When they are finished or when appropriate, they will install the curb ramps at the intersection of Johnson Drive and Old Harrisburg Road.

**Discussions with Gettysburg Riding Club** – Ms. Kammerer did speak with Carol Kassel from the Gettysburg Riding Club and Mark Clowney from the Adams County Land Conservancy. It does not look like the Adams County Land Conservancy agrees that the Gettysburg Riding Club property is property they should pursue.

Mr. Sontheimer contacted Mrs. Anne Knox with the telephone number provided by Mr. Sanders. They spoke for about an hour. She indicates that any development of that property will be handled through Marty Hill. This property is proposed for high end homes in the near future. The Board discussed that the development would have to go through a Land Development Plan so recreation fees/land would need to be negotiated at that time. The Board could possibly request an easement across the property for the trail to connect Twin Oaks to Hunter's Crossing.

**Recreation Park Status and Scheduling** – The fields are all scheduled with ball teams practicing as weather permits. So far there have been no conflicts or vandalism to the park.

**Countywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan** – Mr. Sontheimer indicated nothing new to report. We will remove this from the agenda.

**Park Improvement Plan Revision: Project Prioritization** – Ms. Crushong had available for the Board members the original Recreational Park Improvements scope of work dated March 19, 2012 by C.E. Williams Sons, Inc. Ms. Kammerer indicated that only part of Phase I was complete (the soccer field improvement was not done). The drainage/swale on the lower field was done. Phase III – Pervious paving of upper parking lot and driveway was done in 2014. Ms. Crushong informed the Board members that the Board of Supervisors would prefer not to invest money in a bathroom facility at the park. There are too many additional expenses that go along with the expense of the facilities along with the maintenance of the facility. There are no fees being collected for use of the park so accommodations are not needed. The port-a-potties serve the purpose. The Board of Supervisors are agreeable to enlarge the maintenance building and an additional pavilion at Field B and additional parking. The Board discussed using the funds collected to purchase easements over properties to connect trails within the township.

### **New Business:**

None.

### **Public Comment:**

None.

**Adjournment:**

With no further business to come before the Board, Ms. Kammerer moved, seconded by Mr. Colgan to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. this date.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin K. Crushong  
Office Manager/Secretary-Treasurer

**NEXT MEETING:**

SUPERVISORS: June 3, 2019

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD: July 15, 2019