

STRABAN TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Peter Sontheimer, Deb Kammerer, John Colgan, James Dunlop and Mike Flaherty

MEETING OF: MARCH 18, 2024

The Straban Township Parks & Recreation Advisory Board met this date, as publicly advertised, at 7:00 p.m. at the Straban Township meeting room, 1745 Granite Station Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325. Those in attendance: Peter Sontheimer, Chair; John Colgan, Treasurer; James Dunlop, Secretary; Mike Flaherty, Member and Office Manager Robin Crushong. Deb Kammerer, Vice-Chair was not present.

Others in attendance: None.

Board Chair Peter Sontheimer brought the meeting to order.

Minutes:

Mr. Sontheimer moved, seconded by Mr. Dunlop, to approve the January 16, 2024 minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports:

Treasurer:

The beginning balance as of January 16, 2024 was \$319,167.06. There were expenses totaling \$458.33. There was interest earned in the months of January and February in the amount of \$62.40. There were deposits totaling \$100,080.00. The balance in the Recreation Account is currently \$418,851.13. **Mr. Flaherty moved, seconded by Mr. Dunlop to approve the Treasurer Report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

Appearances:

None.

Old Business:

Recreation Park Status and Scheduling: The park is now open. There were some conflicts to be worked out between Fields A and B, however, everything is worked out and all teams are ready to go. In the Fall we should look into aeration of the fields. This should be an annual thing since these fields are being used constantly during the year. This should be discussed at the August meeting to put bids out.

Pickleball at Park: There have been numerous requests for pickleball courts at the Recreation Park. The Board discussed this and there just is not enough room at the current park. The play area is 44x20 for each court and we would need to put at least 2 courts if not 4 courts. The Board may look to add this to additional property that the Township may purchase.

Riding Club Property: Mr. Colgan spoke to Carol Kessell, President of the Riding Club Board, about this property. Ms. Kessell suggested a multi-purpose which would include equestrian. Mr. Dunlop stated that he and Ms. Kammerer attended the Board of Supervisors meeting last month and discussed an option of land swapping. The Board does not think that it has enough funds to purchase land and do a swap. It was suggested that a list of options be written down and presented to the Riding Club Board. The options looking at would be: 1) Appraised Value; 2) Buy with discount (lease); 3) Purchase Option; and 4) They continue to exist and we use property. Mr. Dunlop will write the options out and send to everyone by email and then pass along to Ms. Kessell. The first step would probably be to get an appraisal on the property. **Mr. Dunlop moved, seconded by Mr. Sontheimer to recommend to the Board of Supervisors ask the Riding Club Board if the township could get an appraisal on its property to be paid for by the Recreation Funds. Motion carried unanimously.**

New Business:

Projects to work on in 2024 –

1. Larger Maintenance Building = 30x40
2. Purchase of triangle shaped portion at corner of property on Smith Road with Tractor Supply to house the Air Monitoring Unit from DEP - .20 acres
3. Purchase property from Gettysburg Riding Club = playground, tennis courts/pickleball, dog part, etc.
4. Purchase property from TKC (behind park) = nature trail, bird watching, etc.
5. Pollinator garden at corner of park – 8-10 ft.
6. Kortney Meadow development = trail to loop all developments together (Twin Oaks, Kortney Meadow, Hunters Crossing and North Gettysburg Trail)
7. Maintenance Agreement on the North Gettysburg Trail between = Gettysburg Borough, Cumberland Township, Straban Township and Gettysburg Area School District
8. Grants: DCNR / Adams County Parks Rec Green Space (PRGS):
 - a. Flashing light at crosswalk on Old Harrisburg Rd / speed limit reduction at High School (this might be accomplished under the Kortney Meadow traffic study)
 - b. Maintenance Building
9. GaGa Ball Pit = see if the Boys Scouts/Eagle Scouts would want to do this as a project
10. Phased parking for 25 initial spaces; grading for 25 added space expansion
11. A second pavilion with 13 additional parking spaces
12. Horseshoe pits
13. Sand volleyball courts
14. Bleachers at Field B
15. Dugouts at each Baseball Field
16. Upgrading the Message Board
17. Recreation Board to have more correspondence with Planning Commission on developments proposed in the township – wish list

Things in the far future:

1. Public Sewer/Water hook-up stubs / bathroom facilities

Mr. Sontheimer will work on convening everyone for a meeting to develop a Maintenance Agreement for the North Gettysburg Trail. The entities to be included would be GARA (Gettysburg Borough and Cumberland Township), HABB, Park Service, Gettysburg Area High School District and Straban Township. He is looking at Wednesday, June 5, 2024 sometime during the day to be held at the Gettysburg High School.

Public Comment:

None.

Other Matters:

None.

Adjournment:

With no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Colgan moved, seconded by Mr. Flaherty to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. this date.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin K. Crushong
Office Manager/Secretary-Treasurer

NEXT MEETING:

SUPERVISORS: April 1, 2024

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD: April 15, 2024