



Recreation Advisory Council

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

February 2, 2010

In Attendance: Rhoda Ioerger, Theresa Eberly, Jim Smith, Nate Spade, Scott Pepperman
Absent: Karen Harlacher Jason Sanserverino, Dave Stine, Dick Norrie
Staff: Kristy Owens, Jeff Williams
Other: Ed Rigg, RAC applicant

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm.

There was no quorum

Approval of the minutes from the January 5, 2010 meeting was tabled due to lack of quorum. Scott addressed Theresa's comment regarding them Mill project. An explanation was given by staff regarding the TreeVitalize "Tree tender" training that is coming up in March. Rhoda announced she will not be at the next meeting. Ed Rigg, prospective RAC member, was introduce Ed and welcomed. Rhoda stated that she enjoyed working with Ed when he was on RAC in previous years. He was on RAC about 5 years ago.

Public Comment

None

Liaison

Nate Spade provided the Liaison report. Proposal for the financial analysis for purchasing a new building for Township offices are due this week to the Board. The Board continues to look at the Rt. 144 and Willow Mill Park Road property. There are three options: the Willow Mill Park Road properties construct a new building here on site and renovate the current building for the police, and 1300 Bent Creek Blvd. An appraisal will be done next month. Rhoda praised the Board and its direction. Discussion continues on the new building. Chief Sadler requested a downgrade to Sergeant. This was approved by the Board and Sadler will continue as acting Chief until a replacement is found. Scott asked about what commercial businesses pay in recreation fees when they develop. Scott would like to see some contribution from business to open space. Do they already pay? Staff will find out prior to the next meeting.

Director/Assistant Director Report

OLD BUSINESS

- DCNR \$200,000 grant request for Stony Ridge Phase III was denied. Staff will take "Plan B" to the Board based on a reduced project developed by staff and Rettew. SSYBA is to contribute \$190,000. The sand volleyball court and walking path extension may be done in-house. Backstop, benches, and fence will be added to the 2011 budget. Nate asked if staff was planning on applying for another grant. Jeff explained that Phase III doesn't look like a project DCNR would rate highly due to the narrow benefit (baseball) specific age

group. Staff is looking at other projects for grant funds. Staff is attending a workshop February 9 in Carlisle on the grants. Scott wanted to attend.

- A discussion was held about where DCNR did allocate grant money; Mechanicsburg pool. Rhoda wondered if we're getting the word out to the public about the importance of parks and recreation. It was felt that we need to promote that education piece more. Kristy mentioned geocaching in our parks. Scott suggested that we need to ingrain ourselves more in the community. There is over \$12,000 budgeted beyond what is required for the reduced Phase III project. RAC is in favor of the Phase III project but a motion was not made since there was no quorum.
- Jeff shared the reports submitted for Board review by the Friends of Willow Mill. The Friends will be at the February Board Workshop meeting next week and give an update and answer questions the Board may have. RAC is invited to attend and ask their own questions. RAC's concerns included ongoing maintenance, the role of the Friends after renovation is complete, naming rights for amenities outside the mill itself, accuracy of information sent to the public. Nate felt that the Board needs to address the naming rights of all park facilities.
- Rhoda shared that Ed Rigg, applicant for appointment to the RAC vacancy, was very active when on RAC before. Jeff suggested doing an email poll. He will forward a recommendation to the Board.
- Tree Tender training is on March 17. Jeff Seifert, Kristy, Jeff and Dick Norrie are registered. Cost was \$15 each and the money was budgeted for.
- Kristy met with the Howards and the Township engineer to look at the land the Howards want to donate next to Hidden Creek Park. RAC supports looking into all the facts related to land donation.
- Kristy has made minor changes and upgrades to the camp registration forms and information. This was mailed to past registrants and is now available to the public.
- Jeff announced the Board approved Oaktree Septic out of Carlisle for the portable restroom contract.
- The Board also approved BMW Fence to replace the backstop at PWMP field #3.
- Purchase orders for the skid loader and mower are in. The turf management contract for year 2 was signed.

NEW BUSINESS

- Staff will conduct interviews for seasonal parks maintenance this week.
- DCNR grants workshop will be held next Thursday in Carlisle. Kristy and Jeff are registered. Scott expressed an interest in attending and Jeff will register him. There is no fee.
- Kristy discussed the growing trend of using public/social technology to keep the public informed and to promote programs. Facebook, Twitter, etc.
- Staff will set up park tours for RAC in April on a Saturday.
- Egg Hunt is March 27 at 10:30 am at Pleasant View Park.
- The trial year for allowing dogs in parks is almost up. No action taken and it was tabled until the March meeting. RAC's recommendation will be taken to the Board after that. It was suggested that more signs be put out.
- Numerous trees at Hidden Creek Park were taken down to accommodate the pathway extension and remove weak and diseased trees, particularly those overhanging the playing field.

- Kristy provided a brief program update. Registration numbers were excellent for fitness programs; Zumba, Line Dance, and Pilates.
- The Junkin House tent dedication marker committee is meeting bi-weekly. Jeff and Scott are on the committee doing logistics.
- The PCA (arts) grant report from the summer concerts is due. Staff are looking at other grant opportunities.
- Staff will attend several trainings; KAFMO on athletic field maintenance, DCNR grants, and other turf management..

Other Business

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm on a motion by Rhoda, seconded by Jim.

NEXT RAC MEETING: Tuesday, March 2, 2010 – 6:00 pm

Respectfully submitted by Kristy Owens and Jeff Williams