



Recreation Advisory Council

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

December 7, 2010

In Attendance: Scott Pepperman, Theresa Eberly (meeting opening only), Jason Sanseverino, Dave Stine, Nate Spade, Rhoda Ioerger
Absent: Jim Smith, Dick Norrie, Ed Rigg
Staff: Jeff Williams and Kristy Owens
Other: None

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Stine at 6:00 pm.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from September November 9, 2010 were approved with a name correction on a motion from Scott, seconded by Rhoda.

Liaison

Nate Spade indicated there was not much to report this month. Rhoda inquired about the Hempt Farms re-zoning, Associated Products portable restroom issue, and the Rt. 114 development project. Nate reported that the Twp. Planning Commission approved the re-zoning for an amended proposal with less acreage. This will come back to the Board in mid-February. Citations based on a new Twp ordinance were given to Associated Products. The development on Rt. 114 near Carlisle Pike will have office buildings, a strip mall, drug store and a bank.

Director/Assistant Director Report

OLD BUSINESS

- Budget update –Jeff presented some detail on the 2011 budget as submitted to the Board. Parks and Recreation’s request is pretty much intact going to the Board. Scott asked for the bottom line revenue vs. expenditure comparison for 2010 and 2011. Jeff suggested a meeting with Scott and any other RAC members interested to provide more facts on the budget, current and future.
- Jeff gave an update on the Phase III work at Stony Ridge Park.
- The Mountaineer Farms request to negotiate a lease for the undeveloped portion of Paul Walters Memorial Park was approved by the Board.
- Jeff reported that Giant Foods has indicated that we will get the six benches we requested donated; 2 for Hidden Creek Park and 4 for Stony Ridge Park.
- The ceremony organized by SSYBA to recognize sponsors for the Phase III field construction went well. Print media has been good at giving us coverage on this and other events.
- There is \$10,000 left in the TreeVitalize grant program through the County. Deadline to submit new grant requests is 2/1/11.

- The Municipal Greenway and Open Space planning grant from DCNR will require a Study Group. This includes representation from RAC. Scott expressed willingness to be in the group and Dave agreed to be an alternate.
- Jeff presented a national model on cost recovery for recreation programs. The model includes different levels of tax support and subsidy for different types of programs. There are several tiers to assign different levels of subsidy and cost recovery. Programs that benefit the all or most community should be subsidized. Those that are very skill specific and/or benefit a select group of residents should recover all of the cost. There are varying gradients of subsidy within the tiers. The Township already recovers all direct costs for programs with the exception of the Fall Festival. All other programs recover enough revenue to have a positive operating margin. Scott expressed a desire to recover some costs through volunteerism and 'cost avoidance'. This would involve having partnerships that could help with maintenance and construction through donations and volunteers.
- SSYBA is progressing with their field house fund raising for Stony Ridge Park Memorial Field. Scott asked if water would be run to the building. Staff explained that it would not but field irrigation, flexible lines are being considered with Filson Water offering to pay for it.
- Staff suggested mounting the egret wood carving on top of a stump near the wetlands or near the gazebo at Willow Mill Park. Concern for damage to the sculpture with youngsters climbing on it is primary. Staff is open to suggestions. Scott suggested mounting it in front of the new Township administration building.
- Jeff has submitted a memo to the Board along with Rhoda's request to be re-appointed to RAC. The Board will consider this at their reorganization meeting in early January.

New Business

- Kristy provided a report on the Tree Lighting. Thanks to RAC for the help. We had about 200 people and some new partners.
- CV Softball met with Jeff about the transition in 2012 of Paul Walters Memorial Park (PWMP) fields to softball when SSYBA moves to Stony Ridge Park. Softball is working with ASA on donations for four new fields at PWMP.
- Jeff described several plans out for review by the Board and Planning Commission.
 - A Self Storage Facility (Kollas) just off Carlisle Pike near Middlesex Twp., an addition to Lawrence Chevrolet, and an addition to an existing warehouse by Jacobsen Companies. There are no recreation fees involved and no action or opinion was requested.
- Kristy provided a written summary on new email group members from the public. It indicates growth over a period of months. Kristy suggested that requests seem to spike following Twp newsletter releases.
- Staff provided an update on training. They are becoming involved in various committees in the County and attending some workshops to increase knowledge but primarily to develop networking and contacts.
- Scott asked about the Mechanicsburg Pool operating expenses. Jeff stated that seasonal pools rarely operate in the black if major renovation costs and/or bond issues are figured in. It was expressed that spray pads can operate for much less expense. Scott is researching info on this.

- The Twp has a Strategic Planning Committee that presented their work to date to staff this past Monday. RAC will be surveyed at some point and get a presentation as well.
- Scott asked about dog traffic at parks. Jeff responded that it remains fairly constant.

Other Business

- Kristy discussed the 5K in March, "Gold in the Cold". Ideas were discussed.
- Dave asked about the Friends of Willow Mill. Staff had no further update, but the top three action items for renovation in the Twp engineers' recommendation are in the 2011 budget with full reimbursement by the Friends.
- Kristy showed the draft of the January newsletter. RAC was impressed.
- Jason mentioned godaddy.com as a possible resource for marketing.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm on a motion by Rhoda, seconded by Scott.

NEXT RAC MEETING: Regular Meeting, Tuesday, January 4 – 6:00 pm

Respectfully submitted by Kristy Owens and Jeff Williams

APPROVED: 1/4/11