



COLLEGE TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Monday, May 9, 2022
7:00 PM
1481 E. College Avenue, State College PA 16801
Hybrid Meeting (In-Person or via Zoom)

ATTENDED BY –

P&R COMMITTEE:

David Schulte
Kathy Matason
Janet Sulzer
Sue Smith
Earl Moore
Jude Simpson
Stephen Spoonamore

ABSENT:

Judi Sittler, Chair
Derek Kalp

STAFF:

Amy Kerner, Public Works Director
Sharon Meyers, Senior Support Specialist – Engineering

GUESTS:

Bob and Debbie Keller from Buchenhorst Rd.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Moore called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

OPEN DISCUSSION:

Mr. Moore reviewed Zoom meeting protocol then led the group in introductions as there is a new member to the committee and new a staff assistant.

Mr. Moore welcomed the Keller's and offered for them to start the open discussion. Mr. Keller stated he is concerned about Penn Hills Park and the fact that it is no longer being mowed in its entirety. Mr. Keller stated "there are lots of kids from the neighborhood that play there and parents are irate about the lack of mowing". Mrs. Keller stated the park has been mowed for thirty-five years and she doesn't understand why the sudden decision to stop mowing. Ms. Kerner explained the decision was not made lightly and the reason was "a staffing issue". The Township has recently hired two seasonal employees which will help with the mowing and other maintenance around the Township. Mr. Schulte suggested the hill be mowed twice a year and not every week. The Keller's stated the hill is not the problem, the upper level of the park is not being mowed and children play there every evening. Mr. Keller stated he and his wife visited other parks in the area and they "look like a par six golf course" and Penn Hills Park isn't being mowed for the first time in thirty-five years. Ms. Kerner explained some of the parks the Keller's had visited are Regional parks and don't fall under the Townships maintenance schedule. Mr. Schulte explained the difference between a Township park and a Regional park. Ms. Kerner clarified that the property line along the top section should be mowed as to differentiate the park property lines from the homeowner property lines, to eliminate confusion. Ms. Kerner suggested the possibility of mapping out a few paths to be mowed in order to tie the park together. Mr. Spoonamore suggested the top and bottom sections of the park be mowed, but not the hill. The committee suggested a motion for the mowing of Penn Hills Park. Ms. Kerner stated a motion would not be necessary and given staff availability a compromise should be sufficient. Mr.



Moore thanked the Keller's for presenting their concerns on Penn Hills Park.

MINUTES:

Ms. Matason motioned to approve the minutes. Mr. Schulte seconded the motion. Motion carried with six yes votes and one abstained vote from Mr. Spoonamore as he was not present.

OLD BUSINESS:

OB-1 Spring Creek Park Master Plan (Update)

Ms. Kerner updated the committee about the open house presentation of the Spring Creek Park Master Plan being made on Wednesday, May 11th at 6:00 p.m. Ms. Smith was not aware of said presentation and inquired how the presentation was being advertised. Ms. Kerner stated there are flyers posted at the Lemont Post Office and it was posted on the Township website, as well as social media posts through Facebook and Twitter. Ms. Sulzer remarked she does not see anything on her Facebook. Ms. Kerner stated she will talk to the IT personnel at the Township and make sure there is a posting made via social media.

OB-2 Maps of the Parks (Update)

Mr. Spoonamore voiced some concerns about Nittany Terrace Park. Particularly the signage for park access. Mr. Spoonamore believes the sign should either be repositioned or moved to another area all together. Ms. Kerner clarified there is no formal park access from Bush Avenue or Matilda Avenue. Mr. Schulte stated there is an access between two houses on Jay Street. Mr. Spoonamore is also concerned with a camper van being parked in the park parking area. Mr. Schulte stated that the park is closed from dusk to dawn, therefore there should be no parking in the park at night. Mr. Moore suggested Ms. Kerner reach out to the ordinance department about this matter. Ms. Kerner stated she will follow up with the ordinance enforcement officer.

Ms. Simpson indicated she did not receive a map. Ms. Kerner stated the bike paths were not mapped and the GSI technician is working on the Slab Cabin Overlook. However, the map does not have lot lines. Mr. Schulte suggested that Ms. Kerner provide Ms. Simpson with the maps of Slab Cabin Park and Dalevue Park because they display significant portions of the Township bike path along SR322.

OB-3 Donation Guidelines (Discussion)

Ms. Matason stated she realized "we have talked about this before" and brought to the committee's attention the Kissinger sign issue from the past and suggested those discussions from prior meetings could help with the current issues. Ms. Kerner suggested this is not an immediate issue and stated the people from the fall had withdrawn their request. Mr. Schulte wanted to thank Mr. Kalp for his "short, sweet and to the point" contribution to the donation guidelines and the Parks and Recreation Committee responsibilities. Mr. Moore suggested the matter be tabled until it comes up again. Mr. Spoonamore stated he has been through a similar process with two other states and will be a good resource for the committee.

Mr. Schulte moved to table the donation guidelines discussion. Ms. Matason seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

NB-1 Invasive Vegetation Removal Volunteer Program (Discussion)

Ms. Kerner explained the email she had received from Mr. Huang about invasive species in the Township parks and how he would like to volunteer to help trim the large amounts of bittersweet vines and honeysuckle plants. Ms. Kerner stated should any herbicides be used the Township staff will need to make those applications. Ms. Kerner also suggested the parks and invasive plants be prioritized, as well as, overseers be put in place for each park. Meaning, there should be a committee member, potentially the committee member in charge of that particular park, as well as a Township staff member as overseers. Mr. Schulte agreed and referred to the Service Project request form that requires signoff



from both the committee and township staff. Ms. Sulzer agreed oversight needs to be in place prior to starting any type of volunteer work. Ms. Sulzer questioned whether the committee is moving towards eradication or keeping invasives at bay by trimming and thinning. Mr. Schulte suggested someone from the committee reach out to Mr. Huang to find out if he is speaking about any particular park or all parks in the Township. Mr. Moore asked Ms. Kerner to forward the email from Mr. Huang to himself and he will reach out for details. Ms. Smith and Ms. Matason suggested Mr. Moore send a project service form to Mr. Huang.

NB-2 Placement of Picnic Tables (Action)

Ms. Matason moved to discuss the placement of picnic tables. Mr. Spoonamore seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Simpson stated “they are nice looking picnic tables”, but has concerns about the criteria used for the placement. Ms. Simpson questioned why the Parks and Recreation Committee were not involved in the decision of picnic table placement. Ms. Simpson also question whether the picnic tables are ADA compliant. She also suggested there be a criteria set for how placement of the tables is decided. Some questions regarding the criteria would be; Are they ADA compliant? The view should be taken into consideration. Are the tables able to be moved? What is the purpose of the picnic tables? Ms. Simpson stated the current placement of the tables are extremely noisy areas, as well as, no shade available. Ms. Simpson suggested the picnic tables may be more useful in other areas. She suggested one table be moved closer to the tennis courts and the other is not in a good spot and is “too close to the bike path and not good for accessibility”. Ms. Simpson suggested the area across from Happy Valley Brewing would be a good area for table placement as it has much less noise and better views. Mr. Moore stated the picnic tables along the bike paths may be used as more of a “pit stop” and not for their intended use. Ms. Smith recommended one picnic table be moved to Limerock Terrace Park. Mr. Schulte stated the table by the tennis courts in Dalevue Park is not a good spot and Ms. Smith may acquire that particular table for Limerock Terrace Park. Ms. Simpson commented the tables are ADA compliant. Mr. Spoonamore agreed the area across from Happy Valley Brewing would be perfect placement and offered to move said table this weekend. Ms. Kerner stated once placement is decided for the tables, Township staff will move them. Ms. Sulzer suggested one of the tables be placed at Fogleman Overlook Park, perhaps in the turnaround area.

Mr. Moore moved to relocate one picnic table to the area across from the Brewery and the other to Fogleman Outlook. Mr. Schulte seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Kerner added, should there be another picnic table completed, it can be sent to Limerock Terrace.

PARKS REPORTS:

(Written reports received are emailed to all members the Wednesday prior to the meeting date) No additional reports discussed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

EZP Report

Ms. Kerner explained the Engineering, Zoning and Planning Report. Mr. Schulte asked that sketch plans be brought to the committee’s attention as soon as possible, as the committee’s possibility for input is at the very beginning of the process.

OTHER MATTERS:

Mr. Spoonamore suggested this matter may fall under parks reports. Mr. Spoonamore had visited the parking area at Mt. Nittany and stated there were multiple vehicles parked illegally at various times during his visits. He was unaware the gate needed to remain open and vehicles are allowed to be parked in that area. Mr. Spoonamore suggested the verbiage of the sign be changed and he would be able to make some suggestions on possible changes. Ms. Kerner stated this matter will be taken under advisement.

Mr. Moore acknowledged Ms. Sulzer had other matters to discuss. Ms. Sulzer stated she has



seen some bald eagles in the area. Ms. Simpson noted she has seen some bald eagles around her house. Ms. Smith commented there have been a few in the area around Hills Plaza as well.

Mr. Schulte asked Ms. Kerner to compare notes about the parks. Ms. Kerner stated she sends maintenance requests to the Centre Region Parks and Recreation. Mr. Schulte requested the list of open park maintenance requests be forwarded to the committee.

Mr. Spoonamore pointed out the CRPR website lists Stoney Batter Natural Area as being privately owned. Mr. Schulte explained the Township owns Stoney Batter Park and that The Mount Nittany Conservancy and the Lions Paw Association own the adjacent parcels.

June Parks and Recreation Committee meeting will be a "tour meeting". The Committee as a whole agreed the parks which will be visited during the meeting will be, Nittany Terrace, Penn Hills, and Limerock Terrace. Mr. Moore suggested Mountainside Park be added if we have time. Everyone agreed, the Committee will meet at Nittany Terrace at 7:00 p.m. for the June 13th meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Spoonamore move to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Matason seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

With no other matters to discuss, Mr. Moore adjourned the May 9, 2022, Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting at 8:22 PM.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Sharon E. Meyers

Sharon E. Meyers
Recording Secretary