



COLLEGE TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Monday, June 13, 2022
7:00 PM
Park Tour Meeting
Beginning at Mt. Nittany Terrace Park

ATTENDED BY –

P&R COMMITTEE:

Judi Sittler, Chair
David Schulte
Kathy Matason
Sue Smith
Earl Moore
Jude Simpson
Stephen Spoonamore
Derek Kalp

EXCUSED:

Janet Sulzer

STAFF:

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

CALL TO ORDER:

Ms. Sittler called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Ms. Meyers performed roll call and confirmed Ms. Sulzer was excused and Mr. Kalp was absent. Mr. Kalp was running late and joined the meeting at the next park, Penn Hills Park.

OPEN DISCUSSION:

Ms. Simpson questioned the application methods of herbicides along the bike paths by Township employees. Ms. Kerner stated that the Township has two licensed pesticide applicators on staff and application protocol will be reviewed with staff. There was also a discussion of the possibility of signage being posted prior to and/or during spraying. It was decided that this is a good idea and Ms. Kerner will look into ordering signs.

MINUTES:

Mr. Spoonamore motioned to approve the minutes of the May 9th meeting. Ms. Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

OB-1 Spring Creek Park Master Plan (Update)

Ms. Kerner gave a brief update on the Spring Creek Master Plan. Ms. Kerner stated the next step for the plan would be a final presentation to Council and approval from Council.

OB-2 Invasive Vegetation Removal Volunteer Program (Discussion)

Mr. Spoonamore stated the spotted lanternfly is an issue in the area, particularly in Stoney Batter Park where there are a number of Tree of Heaven. Ms. Kerner stated the state has investigated and determined there is evidence of spotted lanternfly presence in College Township. As a result of



the evidence the state had placed traps in the spring to better quantify the infestation in the area. Mr. Spoonamore offered to find funding/organize volunteers to remove Tree of Heaven (a host tree of spotted lantern fly) at Stoney Batter Park.

PARKS TOUR:

Mt. Nittany Terrace

Mr. Spoonamore stated the signs in the park should be moved to other locations as there are now houses in the previously vacant lots the public used to use to access the park. Mr. Spoonamore asked that no action be taken until after he is able to observe the public's habits during the Fourth of July. Mr. Spoonamore also pointed out death of shrubs in the park due to herbicide use on the weeds at the base of the shrubs. This observation has been noted. Ms. Kerner removed one sign from the property which was no longer serving a purpose as the post had rotted.

Penn Hills Park

Residents Garrett and Mandy White were present at this park visitation. Mr. Kalp introduced the Whites to the Parks and Recreation Committee and vice versa. He also explained what the Parks and Recreation Committee does around the community. The Whites, as well as other residents, have concerns of ticks when traveling to and from that upper and lower tiers of the park. As sustainable landscape is important, it was agreed there should be paths mowed into the hillside. Residents and the Committee agreed mowing an "X" shape would be reasonable, as well as mowing of the entire hillside at the end of the season for sled riding.

Limerock Terrace Parklet

Ms. Smith briefly described the boundaries on Limerock Terrace Parklet to the Committee. Ms. Smith stated that there was a dead tree that has since been replaced. Mr. Spoonamore questioned if the large rocks around the retention basin belong to the Township or the development, it was concluded they are property of the development. Multiple committee members recommended mulch be spread throughout the playground area. Ms. Kerner made a note of this recommendation and stated there are only a few places in the area that provide playground certified mulch. Mr. Spoonamore questioned the grill and picnic table area, specifically which belong to the park and which have been provided by the development. Upon further investigation of the Township grill and picnic table, it was concluded they are in disarray.

Dalevue Park

Ms. Sittler introduced the Park and Recreation Committee and Township staff to the community members that were present and explained the role of the P&R Committee. Ms. Sittler asked Ms. Kerner to introduce the topic at hand for Dalevue Park. Ms. Kerner stated there have been multiple reports of nefarious activities in the Park after dark. There has also been a request for a dusk to dawn light to be placed in the parking area off of Goldfinch Drive, in hopes of discouraging unwanted activities. Ms. Kerner explained to the community members that there will be no immediate action as the P&R Committee will need to prepare a recommendation for the College Township Council who will make the final decision. With that being said, the community members were asked for their feedback.

Mr. and Ms. Shields, who live adjacent to the parking area off of Goldfinch Drive described the happenings they have witnessed personally. They stated that these activities have been happening for over a year, and police have been called multiple times by multiple members of the community. Other members of the Dalevue community described their experiences and asked if all of the parks in College Township are open from dawn to dusk. Ms. Sittler verified all parks in the Township are open from dawn to dusk and close at dusk daily.

Members of the community asked if the installation of a dusk to dawn light would be feasible, as it is believed this would discourage the after dark activities that have been witnessed. Mr. Spoonamore stated that studies have shown lights being placed in and around public areas, while deterring unwanted activities, will increase overall traffic. Ms. Kerner read into record Mr. Shea's email to the Township with his concerns of a dusk to dawn light being installed. Ms. Shields



suggested maybe a motion sensor can be installed with a light so as to keep light pollution at a minimum. Many community members stressed their opinions on light pollution and discussed how Dalevue doesn't have street lights. Ms. Kerner stated, should a light be installed, the possibility of a motion sensor on said light may be a good idea and staff will need to research options and associated costs.

Ms. Kerner again stated prior to any action being taken the Committee needs to make a recommendation to Council, who will make the ultimate decision. Ms. Shields asked that Mr. Shulte be asked to abstain from voting. Ms. Kerner stated Roberts Rules of Order do not require Mr. Shulte to abstain and it will be his decision whether to abstain or not. Ms. Sittler stated she believes the Committee has gathered a considerable amount of information. However, the P&R Committee is not ready to make a recommendation to Council at this time and would like to consider the abundance of information prior to making a motion.

Mr. Shields stated signs for parking may help the cause. He also mentioned dog excrement bag dispensers would be nice to have installed around the park as well.

NEW BUSINESS:

NB-1 Dalevue Park Request for Dusk to Dawn Light

At the end of much discussion at Dalevue Park, the Park and Recreations Committee decided to table the discussion of the installation of a light in the parking area at Dalevue Park until the next meeting to be held on Monday, August 8, 2022.

PARKS REPORTS:

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Ms. Sittler announced the Committee will not be meeting in the month of July and the next meeting will be held at the College Township Meeting on Monday, August 8, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

OTHER MATTERS:

No other matters to be discussed.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Moore moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Smith seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

With no other matters to discuss, Ms. Sittler adjourned the June 13, 2022, Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting at 8:58 PM.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Sharon E. Meyers

Sharon E. Meyers
Recording Secretary