

## **PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

July 28, 2009

The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board of the Township of Upper St. Clair was called to order at 7:35 PM on Tuesday, July 28, 2009 in the Library Multi-Purpose Room, Township Municipal Building, 1820 McLaughlin Run Road, Upper St. Clair, PA 15241.

**PRESENT:** Roger Hartung            Chairman  
              Jennifer Schuler        Vice-Chairman  
              Kelly B. Bakayza  
              William O. Barnard  
              Thomas Browand  
              Daniel Paoly

**ABSENT:** Paul Besterman        Director of Recreation and Leisure Services  
              Diane Morris

**PUBLIC:**        2

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 23, 2009**

Mr. Daniel Paoly made a motion, seconded by Mr. William Barnard, to approve the Minutes of the June 23, 2009 meeting. The Minutes were approved by a unanimous voice vote.

### **COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS ON ITEMS NOT INCLUDED ON THE AGENDA**

There were no comments.

### **AGENDA**

#### **GILFILLAN PARK**

Mr. Hartung began the meeting reviewing that the Parks and Recreation Board had recommended to the Board of Commissioners to move forward with a consultant for Gilfillan Farm, and that Mr. Besterman had suggested a meeting with the Parks and Recreation Board and the Board of Commissioners in September. Much discussion took place as to how the Parks and Recreation Board came to this decision. Mr. Browand commented that the Board has a unique opportunity to do something special with the park and that the possibilities are endless. The Board members commented that the consultant should be an unbiased facilitator and an expert who would bring a lot to the table. The Board also suggested that they would like to interview potential consultants for appropriate expertise. Mr. Hartung asked if the Township Trust can be used for the consultant.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

The Parks and Recreation Board asked how everything was coming at the Boyce Mayview Community Recreation Center, was it in or over budget, and how many members it now had. The Board asked for more information in knowing where the center stands financially so that they are able to better answer questions when asked. An estimate of approximately 4992 members was indicated, however the Board was wondering about the breakdown of adults, children and seniors.

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**NEW BUSINESS, contd.**

Ms. Bakayza shared that she had an event in one of the party rooms and that they loved it and would definitely do it again. She commented that she felt the center is not open long enough on the weekends for older children and during the school year. This could be a possible revenue generator with weekend parties or activities.

Mr. Paoly asked for a breakdown of where members are coming from and offered to do a map targeting this information. He also indicated that it is hard to get to the website for information on the Community Recreation Center. Could this be made more user friendly, include more information, and be made more visually impressive?

The Parks and Recreation Board narrowed the suggestions as to how best to spend the budgeted yearly allotment. The revised suggestion list included:

- Replacing the steps at Johnston Park.
- Providing a golf cage (similar to a batting cage) where residents can practice their drives.
- A Bocce court at Johnston Park.
- Conversion from the mud volleyball court to a sand volleyball area. What about a different type of surface?
- Adding a playground at Boyce Mayview Park. Status was requested as to progress on an ARAD application for this concept.
- Pool table at the Community Recreation Center.

Much discussion took place with regard to the Community Recreation Center. The Board noted that many suggestions had been addressed, yet felt some suggestions still needed consideration, as well as added a few more suggestions. The intent is not to be critical as this is a learning experience for all.

- Can Sunday hours be increased? 12 pm – 5 pm is not long enough.
- Can the outdoor pool stay open 10:00 pm?
- Can lifeguards or someone patrol locker rooms? It was noted by some that children are being left unattended and this can be a safety issue.
- Shelves in showers for toiletry items.
- Benches in indoor pool area or hooks around wall to hang towels.
- Shower in indoor pool area to rinse off before you go into hot tub area (outdoor type of shower).
- Change machine in the indoor area needed.
- ATM Machine in facility.
- Pinch point between outdoor and indoor pool. Suggestions included a hand stamp and color coded bands.
- It was noted both men/women showers have drainage problems with standing water.
- Lifeguards need to enforce no one under age in hot tub.
- Post signs for no cell phones in locker rooms.

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**NEW BUSINESS, contd.**

- Concessions stand in common area. Should this be leased? Mr. Browand suggested a survey be considered for member feedback.
- Computer recognition of cards for nanny/babysitter passes.
- Bathrooms behind baseball field be open during regular business hours of CRC.
- In pool party rooms, consideration of where to put refrigerator or freezer items.

Discussion took place about the ball fields in Boyce Mayview Park that the baseball and softball community would like to play ball at night. The Board suggested that lights be put in and asked if USCAA was considering this. Lighting would be a big expense, and money would need to be spent to do it right. The Parks and Recreation Board indicated that this would need to go through the Board of Commissioners.

Questions arose as to the buffering at the outer edge of the park area along Skyridge Drive. Is more going to be done to provide privacy to backyards? It was suggested that the buffering could be made more attractive.

Ms. Annette Shimer, 1609 Terrie Drive, questioned as to whether the Township had restricted the number of gardens in the Boyce Mayview gardens area. The Board indicated that the number was reduced due to the trail system put in the park. Ms. Shimer asked if more gardens could be added.

Mr. Bob Dudas, 177 Warwick Drive, asked about the underground wiring in Boyce Mayview Park fields. Conduit was put in the field area for the scoreboards.

Discussion took place about the maps for the trail system in Boyce Mayview Park. The Parks and Recreation Board asked if better maps could be developed. Mr. Paoly offered his assistance in this area and the Board recommended that he lend his expertise. They asked that Mr. Walter Jarosh, Superintendent of Parks, Buildings and Forester, be included in this project. Mr. Browand indicated that there are certain trails that are closed and that those involved be judicious in removing these closed trails from the map. The Board requested that current trail maps be sent to each member.

The Board discussed the suggestion of the name "Community and Recreation Center", with the emphasis being on "and" for the Community Recreation Center.

Ms. Schuler asked if more ARAD money could be applied for. It was recommended that more areas such as the shelters, bird blinds, and overlooks that are located in Boyce Mayview Park be considered in the future and suggested that Mr. Jarosh be brought on board.

The Parks and Recreation Board indicated that they would like to have their board meetings in the Community Recreation Center.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:45 PM.