

York Township Parks and Recreation Committee
Regular Meeting August 1, 2007
7:30 pm
York Township Hall

Meeting called to order by Chair Frank Stukenborg at 7:30 pm

Attendees: John Bulmer, John Farmer, Paul Fairchild, Kathy Fischer, Norm Fischer, Fred Schettenhelm, Paul Staley, Frank Stukenborg, Paolo Vioni

Absent: Doug Day

Minutes: July 11, 2007 minutes were approved with no corrections.

Citizen comments: None present

Announcements:

- Bill Neill cut two swatches on each side of the stone path in Richardson Park to allow dogs and walkers to be off the path. Walkers have requested this as walking on the current stone path is difficult. F. Stukenborg will send Bill Neill a Thank You note.

Reports:

Board representative: Board has not met since last meeting per J. Bulmer

Latest Tree Cutting in Richardson Park: Hold for later discussion.

Final Inspection Completion – 2004 DNR Grant: F. Stukenborg reported that the handicap signs and pad markings have been completed in Richardson Park. Only remaining issue is the ramp off the parking lot for the final completion of the DNR Grant project.

Gate Keeper, Richardson Park: P. Fairchild did not have any new information to report.

Gate Keeper, McCann Park: N. Fischer did not have any new information to report. There is tree cutting on private property immediately south of the park. The Committee requested that F. Stukenborg have Tom Toth put up an orange fence to prevent any building supplies or debris from construction on the private property being placed on Park land.

Sheriff Work Crew: F. Stukenborg stated that the sheriff's work crew will begin work at 10 am on Saturday, August 4, 2007. Approximately 10 people will be working at Richardson Park. N. Fischer, P. Fairchild and F. Stukenborg will be onsite. J. Bulmer will lend his wheelbarrow.

Various Boy Scout Projects: F. Stukenborg reported on 3 projects

- Rob Zimmer, Troop #446 of Saline was approved by the York Township Board for \$500 to complete a raised gravel walkway. He has changed the wood needed to railroad ties, thus reducing the expenses to \$363.
- Mike Hakel will start this month to grade NE culvert crossing in McCann and cover with gravel, stack broken concrete on sides to prevent erosion, and construct a 60' split rail fence on South park boundary at runway.
- A third scout from Troop #400 will build the teaching station on the knoll at McCann Park. His father, a designer, will create the design for a 16' by 16' raised platform and benches. Once design is completed, F. Stukenborg will bring it back to the group. Money for this project will be from the CARES grant.

CARES Grant and EEPRA Progress: J. Farmer announced that we have received the CARES grant for \$3400 to cover the trail work around the perimeter of the open area, teaching center and capping of the west burm. In addition 111 trees have been tagged and inventoried. A. Kay will be pursuing permits for creating the pond. N. Fischer recommended adding split rail fences on both sides of the culvert. The Committee will consider based on any remaining monies from the grant.

Planning Commission: P. Visioni recommended that Committee members attend the Planning Commission meetings on the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month to strongly represent the interests of the parks. He recommended that the Committee come up with zoning ordinance specifically for the Parks. At a minimum, the ordinance should be the same for residential areas as it is for the Parks. J. Bulmer stated he will contact other resources including the Parks and Recreation Association for wording suggestions.

Message Center: N. Fischer started construction on the Message Centers and will work with P. Fairchild to finish them.

Review of First Draft of a Compensatory Park Maintenance Process: Hold

Public Hearing on Recreation Planning during the September 5, 2007 meeting: J. Bulmer will do the agenda and contact the newspapers for publicity. Recommended that Paver sales be included in the publicity.

Paver Sales: Committee stated that all bricks should be engraved in September and put in place in October. F. Stukenborg requested a 12 X 12 square for Joe West in Troop #400 to have similar wording as other plaques for the boy scouts in recognition of his work on the flagpole. The idea of emailing small businesses for paver sales and other fundraising ideas will be discussed at another meeting.

Old Business

Committee Position on Tree Cutting Event: J. Bulmer reviewed the timeline related to the tree cutting on the east side of Richardson Park. 101 trees have been cut, some of which are 40 feet from the fence. High value, large trees were cut including Cherry and

White Oaks. Based on the trees that were taken, the cutting was purposeful to take the most valued trees. J. Farmer looked up the value of the trees and based upon 1950 figures, the worth of the trees exceeds \$120,000. Using more current figures, the value far exceeds the 1950 figure. Besides the destruction of the trees, there has been a significant impact on the aesthetic nature of the Park and on habitat.

The Committee will ask to have a meeting with the York Township Supervisor. After the meeting the Committee will request of the Board to 1) Request Deputy Deacon tag the trees that remain on the developer property that were cut from the Park, 2) Pursue criminal and civil litigation against the developer, 3) Replace all trees or equivalent per the Park's determination, 4) Post No Trespassing signs along the fence area 5) No egress into Richardson Park is to be given the developer 6) Other penalties as determined by the Board and Park Committee members.

New Business

Teaching Platform at McCann Park: F. Stukenborg showed the initial design to the group. It was determined that the platform will primarily be used by families and in the future for teaching purposes. The Committee supported the plan.

Path at Richardson Park: F. Schettenhelm shared with the group limestone powder that can be spread across the current path to stabilize the stones. Committee recommended that we do one section, and if this resolves the stone problem, the cost will be determined and presented to the Board.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 pm

Next Meeting **September, 2007**, 7:30 pm, at the York Township Hall

Submitted by Kathy Fischer