

Hamiltonban Township Recreation & Parks Commission
23 Carrolls Tract Road, Fairfield, PA 17320
Regular Meeting Minutes
July 11, 2007

Members Present: Chairman Pamela Wiehagen, Cathy Jo Lehmer, Peggy Abraham (left at 8:57), Doreen Premo (Acting Secretary).

Others Present: Supervisor Coleen Reamer, Rob Thaeler (ACPD) (arrived at 7:50 PM), Phyllis Gilbert (Fairfield Borough Rep.), Rick Fulton (Gettysburg Times).

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM by Chairman Wiehagen. Coleen Reamer welcomed Phyllis Gilbert, a Fairfield Borough Representative.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from June 13, 2007 were reviewed and corrections were made. Cathy Jo Lehmer made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Peggy Abraham. They were unanimously accepted and placed in township secretary's inbox for further processing.

Commission Business

Coleen Reamer briefly described the role the Commission wishes Fairfield Borough to play in the formation of plans for an area-wide, coordinated recreation plan to avoid overlapping services to the public. Phyllis Gilbert was asked if she would become a voting member of the Commission. She replied that it would most likely fall to Carroll Smith of the Borough Council or some other designee.

Coleen Reamer announced that Christa Wills had resigned her appointment to the Commission, and that Theresa Brook had been appointed in her place by the Board of Supervisors.

Old Business

Peggy Abraham reported on the results of her inventory of all public facilities in the surrounding area. She contacted Drake D'Angelo, athletic director of the Fairfield School District, and discovered there are no written policies in place (other than a "Dawn to Dusk" provision) governing usage of school facilities by the public. Organized groups do have a written form to fill out when reserving ballfields. These fields are available for use at will provided there is no scheduled group activity, however, there is no insurance provision covering users. There are four (4) usable fields in the area – three (3) in Hamiltonban Township and Fairfield Borough combined, and one (1) in Carroll Valley. The public may use the school parking lot responsibly to teach their children to drive. There may be a policy for public usage in the future, though, as there has been some vandalism by skateboarders stacking up picnic tables. Mr. D'Angelo indicated he is open to meeting with the Commission.

Peggy further contacted Jim Larmer, and Chuck Whitlow, business manager, of the Fairfield Recreation Association who also indicated a "Dawn to Dusk" provision for

their facilities, and that all fields are open to the public provided there are no scheduled league games. Insurance is provided to the leagues only.

Cathy Jo Lehmer added that the school has a baseball field, a softball field, and a track. However, the school does not line the fields out of season. One of the fields is used for field hockey. New land was just purchased from Mr. McDannell that might become additional ballfields.

Additional facilities mentioned by others on the Commission were a field available for midget football (if lined) behind the Fairfield Fire Station, Murray Park (a private field, not used lately), three (3) ballfields behind Franklin Elementary School, Knouse Fishing Pond, Lions' Park, Franklin County Fish and Game Club (members only), Strawberry Hill, the Petting Zoo (fee involved), Camp Eder has a swimming pool, a ballfield and a rope repelling wall (private), a few golf courses, several fishing areas, Ski Liberty has skiing and other snow sports plus a climbing wall usually used by groups to build up trust of fellow co-workers, Granite Hill has some recreation facilities, Liberty Township has a runway, there is a Sportsmans' Club in Hamiltonban, and there are equestrian facilities in various locations nearby. Coleen would like to preserve the Tapeworm Railroad as a walking and biking trail.

New Business

Rob Thaeler suggested the inventory process be continued and that data be gathered to use in determining the recreation needs to find the cost of providing the service to the community. We also need to discuss "fee in lieu of" as a means of funding community recreation. He suggested we talk to the Borough about joint planning and adding language to each community's subdivision ordinances (SALDOs) to be able to collect fees from developers to develop recreational facilities.

Coleen stated that this would be a joint effort only in that the ordinance would be written together for conformity and would then be put into the individual SALDOs. We may want a joint commission in the future, but just not now. We might want a comprehensive plan that goes beyond the local area into a regional plan eventually.

Rob will check planning code to see if township and borough do assess developers recreation fees, whether that money may then be spent anywhere within the region as needed as opposed to just where the fees were collected. He said there is nothing in the Municipal Planning Code (MPC) that precludes sharing of money, just that it must be accessible to joint usage if joint money is used.

Coleen asked if we could collect interim flat fees as the intent to do so is there and we will miss out on a lot of potential funds from developers about to break ground before we can write the ordinance. Klein Development is coming in with 37 homes in the near future (along Carrolls Tract and Knox Road), and if we were unable to charge and collect possibly a \$1,000 fee per home, we would stand to lose a lot of potential recreation funds.

Rob replied that for now the fees can only be charged for zoning changes, not for subdivisions. Coleen said that Conservation by Design would have covered this, but it had been set back for a month due to county comments, although that resulted in a better ordinance.

Rob presented a DCED report on Hamiltonban, Fairfield Borough, Adams County and Pennsylvania covering various population, age, and household type census statistics for the years 1970-2000 as well as a list of existing recreation areas and projected total acres needed for future population (9 acres per 1000 people). The county reference work on this issue is Adams County Vision for Parks, Recreation, and Open Spaces. He considers that most area growth will be around town center of Fairfield, and will shift to a larger group of retirees who will want passive recreation as well as a larger group of children who will require more active facilities. Due to closeness to Ft. Ritchie and Ft. Detrick, young professionals may also join the mix with their own set of needs for recreation.

Other

Next RPC meeting is Aug. 8, 2007 at 7:30 PM at 23 Carrolls Tract Road, Fairfield, PA 17320.

Rob will refine inventory list and combine new information with data for next meeting.

Cathy Jo Lehmer made a motion to adjourn. Pam Wiehagen seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Doreen Premo (Acting Secretary)