

MECHANICSBURG RECREATION BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

August 10, 2018

CALL TO ORDER

The August 10, 2018 meeting of the Mechanicsburg Recreation Board was called to order at 7:03 pm by Chairwoman Ellen Wilson. Chairwoman Wilson opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairwoman Ellen Wilson, Vice Chairwoman Deeg Meck, Kathryn Johnston, Barb Lougee and Lorrie Weber.

MEMBERS ABSENT

John McDermott and Diane Wilkens.

OTHERS

Administrative Assistant Sara Martin, Councilman Mark Stoner, Manager Roger Ciecierski, Pool Manager Sue Canniff and Kevin Canniff.

PRESENT

JULY MINUTES

ACTION

A **MOTION** was made by Lorrie Weber and seconded by Deeg Meck to approve the July 10, 2018 meeting minutes as presented. **MOTION** approved.

DISCUSSION

No discussion.

REPORTS:

DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION

- Pool Manager Sue Canniff reported that on Community Day 658 new folks walked through the door and 103 passes were scanned for a total of 761 people which was 225 up from last year's 536 patrons. She reported that staff was well prepared; they gave swim tests to persons 13 & under and measured each patron before being allowed to go down the slide. She noted that overall things went much smoother than last year and nobody brought in any contraband (thanks in part to security Kevin Canniff at the door).
- Sue Canniff reported that SAC is over as of last Friday and they had a talent show on the last day. *The Board asked if they could attend the talent show next year.* Sue answered she would tell Josh, so he could notify the Board when it will take place.
- Sue Canniff reported that things are winding down at the pool, the official close date is August 21st. Staff is very low on guards, Lorrie Weber had to certify two new candidates just this last week and both will be needed to guard this week. Despite these difficulties the pool will have at least one pool if not both open during their adjusted hours until close.
- Sue Canniff added that they did research the costs to keep the pool open later, but it was not feasible as it was looking to be in the \$4,200 range. *Lorrie Weber added that the costs can get up there when you must maintain chemicals all through the week even when only opened on the weekends.*
- Sue Canniff asked Councilman Stoner for the date of the winter concert. *Councilman Stoner confirmed that it will be on January 27th and Pentagon will be performing again.* Sue Canniff informed the Board that a "Save the Date" announcement for the concert will be going in the Winter Recreation Brochure.
- Sue Canniff informed the Board that the Fall Recreation Brochure has the thank you to all the 2018 concert sponsors in it.

**LIASON
COUNCILMAN
STONER**

- Councilman Stoner asked for everyone's input on what to put in the letter to potential sponsors for the 2019 winter concert. *Ellen Wilson suggested making the concert for the parks in general rather than just pool amenities.* Discussion on things needed for the pool, handicap accessible park amenities, which parks need some TLC ensued and the Board decided to dedicate the 2019 Winter Concert to Recreation Amenities, so they can decide later what projects to allocate the funds to, be they inside the pool complex or out.
- Councilman Stoner noted he planned to keep the same sponsor deadline of December 10th and suggested selling tickets at local businesses, citing Ritter's Hardware as already agreeing to do so. *Barb Lougee suggested asking Capital Joes and Ellen Wilson proposed the DMP participating in selling tickets.*
- Councilman Stoner asked if the board is still up for summer concerts in 2019. *Lorrie Weber stated that Councilman Weber has a contact for an Air Force Military band.* Councilman Weber stated that he would get in touch with his contact and provide the Board with some dates. He advised that the Board would need to take care of advertising, chairs (for the band) and possibly electricity as well as an indoor location should it rain. *Lorrie Weber suggested using one of the schools in the Borough as an indoor option.*

**MANAGER'S
REPORT**

- Manager Ciecierski reported that the Aqua Zip'ns are in the garage in the park. They are not in yet because the slide inspector for the pool mentioned it being registered at the state, so when Manager Ciecierski verified with the Department of Agriculture he found out that there has never been a registered Aqua Zip'n in Pennsylvania. If they would be put in without registering them we will be fined. Manager Ciecierski noted that Kelly at the Dept. of Ag. said if they get the proper paperwork from the manufacturer they should be good so Manager Ciecierski has the manufacturer working to get everything in for the next Dept. of Ag. Meeting (8/21). Manager Ciecierski stated that the Aqua Zip'ns will be in for the opening of the pool next year.
- Manager Ciecierski reported that the Borough received the \$100,000 Recreation check from the Legacy Park development, so it will be showing up on the budget going into next year. He added that there are no recreation amenities in Legacy Park that the Borough will have to take over maintenance for so there will be room to make improvements to some of the parks previously discussed as in need of some TLC (Koser & Finkenbinder).
- Manager Ciecierski stated that copies of the budget for the pool were provided (see attached). Taking into consideration the amount of rain this year being at 83-85% revenue is great. Manager Ciecierski commended Pool Manager Sue Canniff for her efforts in streamlining costs especially in the salaries area.
- Manager Ciecierski stated that next month staff will be talking about the budget and will get started on print outs which will be distributed to the board. He added that if there are any projects the Board is looking to do this year in the parks then try to get it into the budget.
- Lorrie Weber noted that Community Day went very well.

PARKS

MEMORIAL

- Lorrie Weber reported that the weeds in front of the pool as well as at the stone gateways need sprayed.
- Lorrie Weber asked if Manager Ciecierski found the fertilization schedule that was discussed at last meeting. *Manager Ciecierski reported that the Highway Department Head was unaware of any fertilizer schedule/plan.* Councilman Weber noted that it was more a weed killer than fertilizer schedule as currently the areas discussed are all broad leaf weeds and no grass. *Lorrie Weber stated using weed killer would be an issue in areas where children play.* Manager Ciecierski agreed that what staff has currently would be too dangerous to put out while SAC was in the park.
- Lorrie Weber asked about the trees along railroad tracks and one next to the park garage that need removal. *Manager Ciecierski answered that the Shade Tree Commission (STC) must approve their removal.* Lorrie Weber requested that the STC make suggestions to replant where the trees are removed. *Manager Ciecierski stated that he will finish marking the trees that need removed (weather permitting) and encourage the STC to get out and approve the removals as well as make recommendations for replacements.*
- Ellen Wilson reported that there are weeds growing up through what is left of the tanbark as well as the steps and playground equipment. She asked if there is more tanbark to throw down for the rest of the season/fall? *Manager Ciecierski answered that he will try to get some more tan bark in at all the parks.*

KOSER

- Kathryn Johnston reported that there are people using the park every night!
- Kathryn Johnston reported that the grass and weeds is growing up through the playground equipment and the tanbark is lower than the safety line on the equipment.
- Kathryn Johnston reported that the cage around the light is open and full of trash.
- Kathryn Johnston reported that there is a puddle around the water fountain that doubles as a mosquito nursery. *Manager Ciecierski answered that the faucet was leaking and pooling there.*
- Kathryn Johnston reported that the grills have holes in bottom and are fire hazards. *Manager Ciecierski answered that two have been replaced in Memorial Park this year so if there is the equipment staff will take care of it.*
- Kathryn Johnston noted that the plywood board covering up a section of broken equipment would ideally be fixed and removed.
- Kathryn Johnston added that the softball field is covered in weeds, the worst she has ever seen it. *Manager Ciecierski answered that the fields in Memorial are the same and once the ball teams stop maintaining them the Borough does not either, but he will get staff on it.*
- Kathryn Johnston added that she understands the bathrooms are closed due to vandalism now but thinks if we build the park up to look nice then look at fixing the bathrooms things could work out. *Manager Ciecierski had flashbacks about bathroom terrors from over the weekend at Community Day where he was called up for issues with the ladies' room four different times.*

FINKENBINDER

- Kathryn Johnston stated that pickleball courts in Koser would be a dream. *Manager Ciecierski stated that they are realistic with a little pavement work, nets and fencing at the ends.*
- Deeg Meck noted that there are a few big locusts that are dying and need the STC to look at. She noted that the replacements must be substantial because the patrons of the park tend to be rough on small trees.
- Deeg Meck stated that Fink also needs tanbark replaced and at the least the thistles need removed.
- Deeg Meck reported that the mowing is good, but sometimes they mow trash which then shreds it into a million confetti pieces. She asked if there was a way for them to check first or staff to do a sweep before they come. *Manager Ciecierski answered that usually they have a set day but this summer the mowers have been all over the place and coming up when they can get here so it is difficult to prepare for them.*
- Deeg Meck reported that vandalism is down, but it looks like somebody stacked wood like a small fire starter pile with matches laying by in three different locations so keep an eye out for someone experimenting with fire. *Manager Ciecierski stated that with leaf season coming he will send that to the Police department.*
- Barb Lougee asked if the baseball building sold. *Manager Ciecierski stated that it has not.*

ACTION ITEMS

**OTHER
BUSINESS**

- None.
- Lorrie Weber noted that Sue Canniff has done a great job at the pool and thanked her for her hard work. She went on to note that it is hard to get guards, at this time (end of August) and suggested implicating a bonus for those who work last two weeks of the season. Guards would have to hit a certain number of hours to get that monetary incentive to finish the season, but it would be something to think about before hiring guards for next year.

**MISSION
STATEMENT**

- Deeg Meck made suggestions of what kind of items the Board would like to see in a mission statement.
- Manager Ciecierski suggested the Board follow the Planning Commission's template. He asked if the Board wishes to downsize the number of members. He also noted that the Board through Chairwoman Wilson, can cask Borough Council not to re-up a member.
- Councilman Weber suggested that, like the Wildcat Foundation and MAF the Board could provide members with a yearly expectations document which they would be required to sign and hand back in. This would ensure that all members know what is expected of them. *The Board was in favor of this idea.*

**PRELIMINARY
DISCUSSION OF
2019 BUDGET**

- Manager Ciecierski stated that budget season is coming so get your wish list together but added that it will be a rough year budget-wise. Ellen Wilson clarified that the Legacy Park money is only for Recreation. Manager Ciecierski assured the Board it is. The Board requested the money get moved to a Recreation Capital Fund, Manager Ciecierski stated after the budget is in that can be done. He added that recreation fees will also be received get per lot for Legacy Park and for the Manning development between Washington and Broad Streets.

ADJOURNMENT There being no further business, a **MOTION** to adjourn was made by Lorrie Weber and seconded by Kathryn Johnston. **MOTION** approved and meeting adjourned at 8:56 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Martin
Administrative Assistant