

MECHANICSBURG RECREATION BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

June 10, 2020

CALL TO ORDER The June 10, 2020 meeting of the Mechanicsburg Recreation Board was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairwoman Wilson.

MEMBERS PRESENT Chairwoman Ellen Wilson, Vice Chairwoman Meck, Diane Nace, Lorrie Weber, Kathryn Johnston and Kathleen Snyder.

MEMBERS ABSENT None.

OTHERS PRESENT Councilwoman Agerton, Borough Manager Ciecierski, Recreation Director Brown, Pool Manager Canniff and Administrative Assistant Sara Martin. Public as per attached list.

MARCH MINUTES DISCUSSION Lorrie Weber asked about an inaccuracy she had wanted changed. Staff clarified that it was already updated

ACTION A **MOTION** was made by Diane Nace and Lorrie Weber seconded to approve the March 10, 2020 meeting minutes. **MOTION** approved.

REPORTS

BOROUGH COUNCIL LIASON

- Councilwoman Agerton reported that she has been getting responses about the pool and summer camps being closed. *Pool Manager Sue Canniff confirmed the Summer Adventure Camp (SAC) and playground programs are cancelled. She noted that all other programs will attempt to run starting in July.* The Board discussed and lamented how it would be impossible to open the pool for the summer.
- Councilwoman Agerton suggested everyone visit the outdoor seating area for Borough restaurants on Railroad Avenue.

BOROUGH MANAGER

- Manager Ciecierski reported that he has been up taking measurements at the pool and will have the Borough Engineer come to see what can be done to update the pool this summer. He elaborated that there will need to be concrete work done around the complex. He is looking at filling in the diving well, so it is only five and a half to six feet deep. This would make it easier to open the pool every summer, it would make the regular cleaning of the pool easier and both activities safer. All pool employee's past and present agreed. Manager Ciecierski stated that he wants to investigate the South wall in the Olympic pool, as it is bowed. He also intends to install the artificial turf around the pavilion and is researching a coating for the paint, so it won't have to be repainted every year. Manager Ciecierski added that he wants to look at where the South Pool is losing water because some days it is losing up to 3,500 gallons a day.

- Manager Ciecierski reported that Dr. Leidy from the School District plans to start work on the Wildcat Fieldhouse. Manager Ciecierski noted that it will be good to be able to get these improvement projects done while there is no programming in the park.
- Manager Ciecierski added that he is looking at updating the old bathrooms along the railroad tracks.
- Manager Ciecierski reported that the path, the area for the outdoor classroom and the pressed concrete are all in at the Natural playground. He informed the Board that staff attempted to drill test pits, but it was all rock so he will be working with the Project Engineer, Matt Witters about finding a new way to create the pergola and put the benches in.
- Manager Ciecierski reported that Legacy Park is building and selling houses rapidly. He added that they plan to start on the apartments by the end of June and Wolf Brewing is still holding on to an open date in November. Manager Ciecierski stated that the basins look nice.
- Manager Ciecierski noted that so far there hasn't been a mosquito issue at Legacy Park or in any of the Borough Parks.
- Manager Ciecierski added that he is working on getting some rocks from Landmark to put at the base of the wooden barricades lining Park Road exiting Memorial Park as they are deteriorating rapidly due to wear and tear from the weed whackers. He noted that Legacy Park is happy to get rid of them there is just a standstill on how to get them to Memorial Park from Legacy Park.

PARKS
MEMORIAL

- President Wilson asked if the parks are open in the green phase or what is to be taking place in the parks as we are still in the yellow phase and she has been seeing a lot of volleyball games that appear to be organized based on the nets being set up. *Manager Ciecierski added that pickleball, basketball, baseball, volleyball is all being played regularly in the park. He added that in the green phase equipment will be use at your own risk. The signage posted in the parks regarding Covid-19 will be removed but nothing will be sanitized, and the bathrooms will not be opened.*
- President Wilson cited an odor coming from the bathrooms recently.
- President Wilson asked if there will be pavilion rentals in the green phase. *Manager Ciecierski answered that there will be no sanitizing of any facilities the Borough is not taking rentals pavilion use will be first come first serve and the bathrooms will not be open.*
- President Wilson asked if they would be getting new picnic tables made for the large pavilion. *Manager Ciecierski answered that he still needs to price them out.* Lorrie Weber asked if they opt for the new individual tables will it limit seating. *Manager Ciecierski confirmed it would as the poles the current tables are built around are structural.* Recreation Director Brown noted that it would be best to have this project done while SAC is out this summer. *Lorrie Weber suggested a spray or treatment for the new tables to make them more difficult to vandalize.* Manager Ciecierski suggested making them out of wood so if vandalized the top part can be removed and flipped over for double

the use from the same material and to make them easier to replace. He added that he will research prices for table frames.

- President Wilson asked if there would be new mulch put in around the play equipment. *Manager Ciecierski answered that once Borough staff is back on their regular schedule it will be.*
- President Wilson asked if more stones could be brought in for the section of the walking path between the courts and the railroad tracks. She added that the path is starting to sink as there is a large puddle there. *Manager Ciecierski answered yes.*
- President Wilson stated that the UAMBA started work on the field behind her home and left it unfinished with a huge mound of dirt that is attracting groundhogs and the field currently unusable. *Manager Ciecierski stated that the Association is supposed to finish their project.* Councilwoman Agerton suggested that they likely stopped due to Covid-19 and will get back soon.
- President Wilson reported that the bushes by the bocce courts need trimmed. *Manager Ciecierski stated that his part time parks employee is working on that.* President Wilson asked if landscaping could be done around the front of the pool. *Manager Ciecierski stated that is on the list for the parks people. He originally was saving that for the parks intern but she only showed up to work one day and has never come back so he doesn't think she will be working out.*
- Councilwoman Agerton asked if the Borough was allowing the school to use the parks as drop sites for food delivery over the summer. *Manager Ciecierski stated that nobody had asked to do so.* Recreation Director Brown stated that she is on the Board and there has been no discussion about that at all.
- Lorrie Weber asked Manager Ciecierski how things were working out on getting the stones at the entrance repaired. Manager Ciecierski reported that cleaning up the rock sand preparing them to be attached was to be part of the intern's work. Also, the parks employee who has the training to do that is only working part time right now.
- Lorrie Weber stated that the old bathrooms are being eaten up by termites at the base.
- Lorrie Weber stated that she thought the local garden club was maintaining the front of the pool. *Manager Ciecierski stated that agreement fell apart when they wanted to pull out everything currently in there and have the Borough buy all new plantings.*
- Lorrie Weber asked if staff was working on the roof on the green pavilion. *Manager Ciecierski answered yes.*
- Lorrie Weber noted that someone has been working on maintaining the baseball field and the softball field. *Manager Ciecierski speculated that it was Councilman Pellman.*

KOSER

- Diane Nace reported that the fence around the field is curling up.
- Kathryn Johnston asked about the pickleball court installation. *Manager Ciecierski answered that nothing has begun as staff has only just returned to full time.*

FINKENBINDER

- Deeg Meck reported that she has walked past but hasn't gone in as there were people gathered there.
- Manager Ciecierski stated that the picnic table is in terrible shape and he thinks Turning Point Church will resume their work in the park when it is "open" again.

ACTION ITEMS

None.

OTHER BUSINESS

DISCUSSION ON NEW BOARD MEMBER TO FILL VACANCY

- Lorrie Weber did not get in touch with the candidate she had in mind.
- President Wilson asked that staff re-post the vacancy on the Borough's website and to Facebook to drum up interest.

DISCUSSION ON SOCIAL- DISTANCE RECREATION ACTIVITIES.

- President Wilson brought up the wrench hunt idea that the Board previously discussed as a quarantine-safe activity. *Councilwoman Agerton reported that Community Day is being replaced with a wrench hunt from August 3rd-8th run by the Community Day Committee, Downtown Mechanicsburg Partnership (DMP) and the Recreation Department. The Wrenches will be at local businesses to help encourage business there and participants can win a prize at the end. She reported that she is not sure what the wrenches will look like, but special wrenches can be sponsored, and she would love to see the Recreation Board sponsor a wrench. She noted that Tonya Brown sent Josh Greene of the Recreation Board to the DMP's virtual meeting last week where they worked on planning the event. The Board was shocked the DMP came up with the same idea. President Wilson stated that the Board had discussed participants designing their own wrench. Councilwoman Agerton clarified that the businesses will be able to do so, but the DMP is having Hot Frog provide a template wrench. Lorrie Weber stated that Recreation Director Brown offered a gift certificate for recreation programs as a prize. Councilwoman Agerton added that the DMP is looking for a charity of choice for the event. Recreation Director Brown suggested the Mechanicsburg Recreation Scholarship Fund and Manager Ciecierski suggested the Chamber of Commerce.*
- Lorrie Weber asked if food trucks can come through town. *Manager Ciecierski answered that he didn't know if the local churches would continue doing their monthly Friday Food Truck events. Councilwoman Agerton confirmed that if the County goes to the green phase on Friday, they will be holding one the third Friday in June with social distancing. Lorrie Weber suggested a couple Board members attend the food truck event and get contact information so the Board can arrange to have them at neighborhoods around the Borough.*

DATE FOR PARK TOUR

- The Board decided to set a time for 8:30 AM the morning of June 29th to meet at the circle at Memorial Park. *Manager Ciecierski stated that he will ensure Borough Council is invited to join on behalf of the Board.*

**DISCUSSION ON
PARKS
COMPREHENSIVE
PLAN**

- Manager Ciecierski stated that the Borough will be working on the Borough Comprehensive Plan and the Zoning Ordinance in the coming months so looking look into the Parks Comprehensive Plan and where the Board wants to be in the future would be helpful as doing both at the same time will go hand in hand.

**REPORT
RECREATION
DIRECTOR**

- Recreation Director Tonya Brown reported that Summer Adventure Camp had to close for the summer based on the CDC guidelines and the history of the department they just would not have been able to provide the usual programming for the campers. She added that now they are usually preparing for the fall programming, but everything is on hold.
- Tonya Brown stated that the recreation department is in the process of having the district Nurses and Athletic Trainer Sandy Zettlemoyer put the leaders of each of the 60-80 recreation programs through a mandatory safety program. Once they have completed the program the leaders will notify the recreation department if they will be able to hold their programs under the pandemic rules and regulations. She added that the administration will ultimately tell them what they can run after that. If programming is not approved or able to run their staff is working on ideas of socially distanced, safe recreational activities like parking lot bingo, a bonfire, family scavenger hunts, outdoor movies, etc.
- Tonya Brown reported that all the recreation department is on the food committee and her job is to get donations and make sure all the bags are filled. Tonya Brown elaborated that right now they have enough food but will need to ramp up donations shortly. She noted that the official end date is August 5th but believes it will be extended farther.
- Tonya Brown informed the Board they are starting #MRECROCKS. They will be decorating rocks with inspirational words for people to hide, post on Facebook, then hide again for others to find. She reported that they got permission from Manager Ciecierski and Upper Allen to hide the rocks in their parks, on trails, etc. She advised that Josh Greene of the recreation department is currently getting around 400 rocks cleaned and prepared so that next week they can get volunteers to socially distanced painting and decorating of rocks. She welcomed the Board to come help paint and distribute rocks.
- Tonya Brown informed the Board that if it would be safe when in the green phase the recreation department hopes to have a playday at the park for social distance games.
- Tonya Brown informed the Board that they will wait 2-3 weeks after the County enters the green phase then see if it will be possible to revitalize the playground program for the rest of the summer. She will want to discuss that at the Recreation Board's next meeting.
- Councilwoman Agerton asked if the recreation department is doing a virtual 5K. *Tonya Brown answered that they haven't done anything virtual because they didn't think people would participate.*
- Tonya Brown reported that the recreation department is looking at doing the tri4kids at the high school should things stay in the green. but it may need to be a biathlon due to logistics.

- Manager Ciecierski cited Tonya's idea about outdoor movies and suggested a series of social distanced movie screenings in Memorial Park. The price for rights to display the movies was discussed as well as the possibility of using the screen the recreation department uses for the Dive-in Movie.

There being no further business, motioned Johnston to adjourn seconded by Nace the meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sara Martin
Administrative Assistant