

## Tredyffrin Township Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes

DRAFT

**Date:** May 9, 2007

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

**Place:** Tredyffrin Township Building

**Park Board Attendees:** Tami Schofield, Jim Pettia, Jack Edson, Bruce Jones, Sean Moir, Jack Trimmer, Joe Barks

**Township Attendees:** Hilliary Mallory, Charlie Puleo, Tom Tartaglio, Steve Norcini

**Guests:** Sandi Gorman, Dave Tollefson, John Koenig, Ted Straub, Cheryl Bittner

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Schofield.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of April 11, 2007 were reviewed and approved unanimously.

### I. Financial Report

The new report format was reviewed as well as the March 31 actual to budget report.

### II. Old Business

**Bridges at Crabby Creek:** Mr. Norcini gave background on the demolition of the unsafe bridges. His department looked at state of bridges. They were judged too deteriorated to simply repair. Safety and liability for injuries have been primary concerns. Further, there are currently no funds to adequately repair the existing bridges, or to build new ones. He will be requesting funds to rebuild bridges of a type and in a manner of installation that has not been finalized. Mr. Straub, a Township resident living adjacent the park, said the bridges did not seem unsafe; that the warning signs were excessive and actually deterred foot traffic. Mr. Norcini explained that the "path ends" signs are intended to deter traffic and warn of hazard. Mr. Straub asked the Board to define the vision for the park, because after the demolition of the bridges, now also the paths are badly rutted from the heavy equipment; and he noted that people still walk into the park via the paths, in spite of the sign. Mrs. Schofield stated that the vision is for Crabby Creek to be open space, with bridges and paths repaired. Mr. Trimmer concluded to by noting that 2 bridges were taken down, and 3 were left within the park.

**Dog Park:** Mrs. Bittner, a Township resident who uses the parks for exercising her small dog, volunteered to help further the plans for a dog park. She asked about the status of planning. Mr. Norcini replied that money had been submitted for the 2007 budget but was not approved; that given near final plans and public hearings with positive results, money would be submitted for 2008. Discussion continued among the Board on the

status of planning. The immediate needs are for a site and hearings. The space between Teegarden Park and Old Cassatt Road, owned by PECO and leased to Berwyn Racket and Fitness, was still the most promising space. Mr. Jones stated that the next steps are to: (i) finish the plan for this area; (ii) define the requirements to build and estimate the costs; (iii) prepare for public hearings after review with this Board and the Supervisors. It should be expected that the plans will come together at the end of summer and require substantial investment.

**Field Permit Issue:** Mr. Barks requested a review of the recently reported issue where a softball game pre-empted a baseball game. His concern was that softball use of the baseball fields deteriorated the fields and posed safety hazards. Mrs. Mallory reviewed the incident, clarifying that there was no forced displacement of the baseball game; that the softball game had no feasible alternative field; and that scheduling the fields will cause these types of trade-offs from time to time. Mr. Norcini made a suggestion to mitigate any safety or deterioration issues. No decision was reached.

**Field Rates for Profit Organizations:** Mrs. Mallory requested that the Board establish a public fixed rate schedule. For many years, the rates have been different for non-profit and profit organizations, for amount of use under the permit, and for Township residence. This flexibility was seen as advantage in past. Discussion ensued. A motion was made, seconded and approve to: (i) have rate schedule that is public and fixed; (ii) have that schedule of rates reviewed annually by the Board at a time to be determined by the P & R Department; and (iii) have Mrs. Mallory recommend to the Board at the next meeting a 2007 rate schedule that incorporates solutions for the many variables considered in the past in setting rates. Further the Board agreed that these rates would be blind to the profit status of the organization either seeking the permit or using the fields under a permit.

**Teegarden Basketball League:** No report was given.

**Deer Management:** As no representative of the SDMA attended as was expected, no report was available.

**Police Report:** Mr. Tartaglio reviewed the reported police incidents for April 2007. Discussion ensued regarding use of Wilson Park by foot traffic after hours. The lighting along paths, which is turned off after hours, has encouraged more use at the end of the day and as a result some individuals are staying in the Park after hours. Mr. Tartaglio confirmed that, after hours and certainly after 11 p.m., the Police will act on reports or finding of individuals in the park, possibly with a citation.

**Public Works Report:** Mr. Puelo reported on various activities: (i) grass cutting; (ii) Wilson line painting; and (iii) slowed traffic in Wilson with the new stop signs. Mr. Norcini asked the Board to re-state for his Department the regulation on “cut-through” traffic; and Mrs. Schofield, after consensus of the Board, agreed to provide the statement.

**Parks & Recreation Report:** Mrs. Mallory reported on various activities: (i) discussion of the proposed Wilson Park roller hockey court, with a note that the funding grant

expires in 2008; and (ii) consideration is being given to a multi-year use plan for Wilson Park.

### **III. New Business**

**Frisbee Golf:** Guests, representing Township interest in this sport, gave the background on the sport; an indication of how it is played; what installation and equipment is required; as well as the level of interest known to them. A petition with 119 Conestoga student signatures was provided. Discussion ensued on locations and the proposed design of a course. Mill Park was discussed as an alternative to Wilson Park. The merit of locations and course type and sizes was discussed. A local company, Flygt, has expressed interest in sponsoring a demonstration of the sport at Community Day 2007. Mrs. Schofield indicated a majority of the Board was favorable to the concept, yet needed to work through details of implementation. The guests were asked to work with Mrs. Mallory to follow up.

**Primary Playground:** Mr. Norcini reported: (i) The Department now has a preliminary design; and (ii) They have talked to a mother of a special needs child about suitability of the planned equipment. The equipment is expensive, but further negotiations with the supplier may address Mr. Norcini's concerns. Mrs. Wright expressed a concern of the Environmental Board concerning an enlarged impervious surface; but Mr. Norcini said this plan will be a net reduction to the prior plan, and thus acceptable in his opinion. The Board expressed the desire that the changes can be installed before T300.

#### **Committee Discussions:**

**Fund Raising:** Mr. Barks reported that one highly qualified candidate for the proposed foundation's board has been identified. Mr. Jones noted that goals and recommendations contained in the Open Space Plan adopted in 2005 argue favorably for a foundation.

**Facilities:** Mr. Edson reported on L.A.D. and Teegarden parks.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for June 13, 2007 at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Jones