COLLEGE TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Monday, March 11, 2024
1481 E. College Avenue State College PA 16801
Hybrid Meeting (In-Person or via Zoom)

| ATTENDED BY – P&R COMMITTEE: | Dave Schulte, Chair  
| | Earl Moore, Vice Chair  
| | Kathy Matason  
| | Judi Sittler  
| | Sue Smith  
| | Stephen Spoonamore  
| | Janet Sulzer |

| EXCUSED: | Jude Simpson |

| STAFF: | Amy Kerner, Public Works Director  
| | Sharon Meyers, Sr. Support Specialist – Engineering/Planning |

| GUESTS: | Matt Fenton, Vice-Chair College Township Planning Commission  
| | Jim Carpenter, Centre Region Parks and Recreation  
| | Isabella Monaco – Pennsylvania Resident, Penn State Student |

CALL TO ORDER:
Mr. Schulte called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

ZOOM MEETING PROTOCOL:
- Mr. Schulte determined there were people present via zoom, reviewed the zoom protocol and asked the participants on zoom to introduce themselves and where they live for the record. One woman, Isabella Monaco, introduced herself and added that she is a resident of Pennsylvania and is currently attending Penn State University. All other participants chose not to speak.

OPEN DISCUSSION:
- None presented.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:
SP-1 Ball Field Maintenance Best Practices
- Mr. Schulte introduced the topic listing five Township parks that have backstops which include, Dalevue, Nittany Orchard, Harris Acres, Penn Hills, and Spring Creek. He added that he has observed the State College Little League maintains their fields very well and occasionally use the College Township facilities for games or practice. Mr. Schulte stated he hopes, through this presentation, the committee will have a better understanding of what is reasonable to ask of our maintenance people. Mr. Schulte has asked the State College Little Leagues maintenance people to share their ball field maintenance general best practices.
- Mr. Matt Fenton introduced himself, Vice Chair of the College Township Planning Commission and added that there is a State College Little League field at the Mount Nittany Middle, which is in College Township.
• Mr. Fenton stated he is not an expert in ball field maintenance and gave a brief history of his experience with little league.
• Mr. Fenton discussed some problems State College Little League has and the similarities to the College Township facilities.
  o Field should be crowned for drainage
  o Aerating is important
  o Dirt composed of 70% sand, 15% clay, 15% silt; old dirt needs to be removed before new dirt placed; when it rains and dirt is broomed off eventually a lip around the field will develop into a safety hazard; the ideal solution is to have a system to pick up the water and remove
  o Pre-emergent weed killers used prior to season starting
• Mr. Spoonamore asked if there is a schedule for mowing the fields.
  o Mr. Fenton is unaware of a schedule, but there most likely is some sort of schedule
  o Mr. Carpenter was asked to weigh in, he stated Centre Region Parks and Recreation does not maintain the State College Little League fields. However, the Centre Region parks are mowed once a week and some sporting field areas are mowed twice a week. He added that fields are dragged at least once a week, and mowing and dragging is weather dependent.
• Mr. Spoonamore stated there are three facilities within the committee’s purview being utilized for State College Little League events
  o Spring Creek
  o Dalevue
  o Penn Hills (practice only)
• Mr. Schulte stated he did not ask Mr. Fenton to speak to any particular fields. He has noticed the fields maintained by the State College Little League are impressive and hopes to get some pointers on how to better maintain the College Township facilities. Mr. Schulte’s goal is for the committee to be able to recommend things that are doable and realizes that it is most likely unreasonable to expect the same quality maintenance as PNC Park.
• Mr. Schulte asked if there is interest of the committee, he is willing to ask other experts who were unable to attend the meeting, if they would be willing to walk the College Township facilities to give recommendations so the committee can make some more specific suggestions in maintaining the College Township ball fields.
• Mr. Schulte gave a brief summary and asked if there is any interest on behalf of the committee to ask the State College Little League maintenance folks to walk through the College Township facilities and give the committee suggestions for maintenance recommendations.

NEW BUSINESS: None presented

OLD BUSINESS: None presented

PARKS REPORTS:
(Written reports received were emailed to all members by the Wednesday prior to the meeting date)
• Planning Commission – nothing further to report
• Public Works – Ms. Kerner gave a brief update on Public Works projects related to the parks
• Cairns Crossing – boardwalk will need to be replaced and a line item was added to the five year plan
• GDK Meadow – stormwater issue was discussed, Ms. Kerner to discuss with the Assistant Township Engineer
• Fieldstone – Ms. Sulzer has been in contact with a HOA member and would like to hold an on-site meeting similar to the process at Mountainside Park; mulching of the berm to take
place in 2024

· Fogleman Overlook – Ms. Smith questioned where Mr. Brokloff is as Mr. Schulte was discussing the park. Mr. Schulte verified that Mr. Brokloff has resigned from the committee

· Harris Acres – Ms. Sulzer added Ms. Kerner sent a letter to property owners abutting the park entrance to inform them of the future project. An email was received in response to the letter expressing concerns such as parking, noise, activity types and times, and property value

· Mountainside – Ms. Smith gave an update on an access issue brought to her attention for public entering the park with strollers, etc. Ms. Smith plans to have a neighborhood gathering once the mulch and general cleanup is complete

· Slab Cabin – there is a drainage issue at the top side in the playground area

CONSENT AGENDA:

CA-1  
February 12, 2024 Parks & Recreation Meeting Minutes

Ms. Matason moved to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2024 meeting as written. Mr. Spoonamore seconded the motion.

· Mr. Schulte stated he had some questions
  o Why the documenters were not listed as guests? Ms. Meyers stated the documenters gave first names only and are mentioned in the open business portion of the minutes. She stated that she only documents guests if they actively participate in meetings. Ms. Meyers offered those present are welcome to participate and state their names if they choose to be listed as a guest on the meeting minutes.
  o If the final draft of the five year plan was not able to be viewed until the current meeting how was it approved? Ms. Kerner stated the spreadsheet was projected on the screen. Mr. Spoonamore added that the committee made edits and approved the five year plan as discussed and amended on the screen. Mr. Schulte stated there were changes to Dalevue that he, as the park representative did not suggest.

Mr. Spoonamore withdrew his second to allow Mr. Schulte to request changes needed.

· Mr. Schulte repeated that the committee approved the plan and he’s unsure how that could happen. It was determined that Mr. Schulte’s suggestions were added, however, the year for the suggested projects had been changed during the meeting due to specific instruction from Council for a master plan to be developed and approved by Council for Dalevue Park prior to any further major capital improvement projects. This is why the pavilion restoration/relocation was shifted to a later year than suggested, but remains a line item on the five year plan.

Mr. Spoonamore moved to amend the 2024 Five Year Plan moving the $9,300 line item for Dalevue Park from 2026 to 2025 and with that change, move to approve the February 12, 2024 minutes as amended.

· Mr. Moore requested that Slab Cabin Park be the next regional park to receive a master plan as Mr. Schulte opined that Dalevue Park doesn’t need anything further than the grading of the ball field which is in the budget for 2025.

· After some discussion Ms. Sulzer asked for clarification of the motion on the table

· There was further questioning from Mr. Schulte of how the committee approved a budget plan without seeing it. Mr. Spoonamore and Ms. Sittler both opined that the committee did see the five year plan and approved it as amended during the discussions at the meeting.

Mr. Schulte asked for a motion to approve the February 12, 2024 Parks and Recreation meeting minutes as written. Mr. Spoonamore made the motion.

· After some discussion the most recent motion was withdrawn and the prior motion discussed

Mr. Spoonamore moved to approve the meeting minutes as amended. Ms. Matason seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
COMMUNICATIONS: None presented.

OTHER MATTERS: None presented.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:
- Monday, April 8, 2024
- Monday, May 13, 2024 (if needed)
- Monday, June 10, 2024 at 6:00pm
- Monday, August 12, 2024
- Monday, September 9, 2024
- Monday, October 14, 2024 (if needed)
- Monday, November 18, 2024

CHAIR INFORMATIVES:
- CI-1 Clearwater Conservancy Watershed Cleanup Day
  - Mr. Schulte suggested if volunteers will be in the Township parks the representative of those parks should show up to the event

- CI-2 Expenditures – Parks and Recreation Fund – 2023 Actual
  - Mr. Schulte included the expenditures as an FYI

- CI-3 Indoor Recreation Facilities in Industrial Zone
  - Mr. Schulte informed the committee of the attachment and why he pulled the item from the Council packet for their March 7th 2024 meeting. He added that the Township is considering this and he is unsure of what they are going to do.

STAFF INFORMATIVES:
- SI-1 EZP Update no further discussion

- SI-2 Approved Five Year Plan
  - Mr. Schulte stated that the committee has already discussed this and there was an amendment to move the $9,300 item for Dalevue Park from 2026 to 2025.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:
- Mr. Schulte announced the Statement of Financial Interests shall be completed and returned to Sharon Meyers as soon as possible, if anyone has not done so yet.

ADJOURNMENT:
Mr. Schulte adjourned the March 11, 2024 meeting at 8:26 pm.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Sharon E. Meyers

Sharon E. Meyers
Recording Secretary