

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
APRIL 24, 2019
MEETING MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Yon at 7:00 p.m.

II. ATTENDANCE

Present: Mark Yon, S. Joseph Jablonski, Mary Lasher, Mary Lee Mahon, Matthew DiGirolamo

Absent: Shamus Petrucelli, Michael Veltri

Staff: Julie A. Jakubec, CPA, CGMA, Township Manager

It was noted that Mr. Petrucelli was unable to attend due to a business commitment and Mr. Veltri is not feeling well. The Parks and Recreation Commission accepted the absences as excused.

Chairman Yon acknowledged a visitor in the audience and requested them to approach the microphone to state their name and address and the purpose of the visit.

Mr. Don Lightner, considered himself the caretaker of the Margaret T. Weil Nature Reserve after Mr. Andrew Weil passed away. Mr. Lightner stated he maintains the inflow and outflow of the pond so it does not clog, and while walking his dogs he maintains the trail. He recalled late last fall the Boy Scouts placed two picnic tables in the nature reserve. One of the picnic tables is near the pond. Mr. Lightner stated not many people visit the nature reserve, and though he hasn't had any problems recently, occasionally some kids will sit at the table drinking beer. The second picnic table was placed on the other side of the pond and appears to be in the backyard of 108 White Gate Road. He highly suggested the Township use the second picnic table somewhere else. The small nature reserve doesn't need any picnic tables. It has a bench by the pond and an overlook on the other side.

Chairman Yon acknowledged receipt of Mr. Lightner's letter and recalled visiting the nature reserve a few years ago. He explained the Township is in the midst of addressing problems as a result of the storms. Chairman Yon assured Mr. Lightner that the Parks and Recreation Commission would soon again visit the nature reserve and if necessary, make a recommendation to the Township Manager.

Mr. Lightner informed the Parks Commission that he would be addressing Planning Commission about stormwater management issues, which he believed to be caused by a land developer.

III. MINUTES

A. February 27, 2019

Chairman Yon deferred the minutes to the end of the meeting.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Proposed Amendment to the Township Parks Rules and Regulations

Manager Jakubec informed the Commission about a \$10,000 grant awarded for car charging stations in Squaw Valley Park. The grant is the result of a Volkswagen settlement. If the car charging stations in Squaw Valley Park are successful, additional car charging stations will be provided at the community center.

The Manager explained the rules and regulations do not address damage to water fountains, and there has been some trouble with kids putting dirt down drains, and one fountain is broken because a kid was using it as a water toy. She recommended amending the rules to address damage to water fountains.

Manager Jakubec also suggested amendments to regulate the parking and use of the car charging stations. The car charging stations will be located in the larger parking lot near the basketball court. She also noted all the lights have been changed to LED to reduce the amps used in order to accommodate the charging stations. The first hour charge will be free and the fee thereafter will be \$2.25 and processed through an app or fob. The Manager hoped to have the car charging stations in operation by July.

Motion by Ms. Lasher to recommend that Council approve the proposed amendments to the Park Rules and Regulations as discussed was seconded by Mr. Jablonski and carried unanimously.

B. Update on Crofton Park Nature Reserve

Manager Jakubec stated staff has been working with a private donor to do some upgrades to the Crofton Park Nature Reserve. She anticipated receiving the funds for the upgrades later this week. The upgrades include enhancements to the entrance, plants specific to wetlands, and a bird and butterfly sanctuary to be named after the donor's family. The private donation will include funding for specialized care in pruning and maintaining the shrubbery. The trail will be cleared and parking area reestablished. A memorial park bench for the donor's mother and sister will also be provided. The Manager informed some of the high school teachers about the upgrades to the nature reserve. She hoped to get the upgrades completed this spring; if not it would be done in the fall.

C. Update on Squaw Valley Park

Manager Jakubec noted the new metal roofs have been installed on the shelters at Squaw Valley Park. She is still waiting for new pieces of play equipment to be delivered for the park. A concrete backgammon table has been ordered. The two concrete chess tables will be relocated to a newly created "Gaming" area along with the backgammon table.

Chairman Yon recalled seeing a kid banging the foosball table. Manager Jakubec indicated the foosball table may need to be relocated, as the 'little men' continually break. Chairman Yon stated in today's society, people hesitate to say anything, and the parents were watching the kids and did nothing. He suggested volunteer Park Ambassadors to patrol the park.

Manager Jakubec noted summer employees would be spending time cleaning parks.

The Manager stated staff has been working with a donor that wants to place an open roof gazebo in Squaw Valley Park, near the stage area in memory of a daughter and sister. The gazebo will be placed on a concrete pad, electric will be run to the gazebo, and a memorial bench would be provided. Pricing was provided to the donor.

Manager Jakubec noted split rail fencing was installed near the planter by Delafield Road to keep people from driving back there.

Mr. Jablonski suggested placing a fake video camera near the foosball table. Manager Jakubec stated the whole park had video camera and could find out who broke the foosball table.

Manager Jakubec informed the Commission about a new grass cutting and landscape contract with Vigliotti Landscape and Construction.

Chairman Yon requested some trees be planted near the planter at Delafield Road.

The Manager noted chestnut and hickory nut trees have been ordered for the Edible Trail at Woodland Park. A Boy Scout will be planting a strawberry patch for his Eagle Scout Project. One pine tree needs to be replaced as well.

Manager Jakubec stated new pieces of play equipment would be sprinkled at Meadow Park and other parks.

Ms. Mahon noted the holes in the path around Meadow Park, which the Manager indicated would be filled.

Ms. Lasher inquired about the status of the baseball fields. Manager Jakubec stated the Squaw Valley Park baseball fields remain closed. The weather has not cooperated to clean up the pitching mound and laser level the field. Temperatures have to reach a certain level to fix the tennis court.

Manager Jakubec noted a few cracks on the flex court at Beulah Frey Park will be fixed. The Manager also noted a request to paint pickleball lines on the court. She recalled receiving requests to rent the pickleball courts. The pickleball courts are not for rent.

Manager Jakubec stated the community center will be doing more programming in the Township parks. Movies in the Park will be back for the summer.

Chairman Yon inquired about the Township's contribution to the community center, which Manager Jakubec stated to be \$120,000 a year.

III. MINUTES

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Motion by Mr. Veltri to approve the subject minutes as presented was seconded by Ms. Lasher and carried unanimously.

V. COMMISSION COMMENTS OR CONCERNS

No comments.

VI. STAFF CONCERNS

No comments.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

No comments.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Ms. Mahon to adjourn the meeting was seconded by Mr. Veltri and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Cathy Bubas, Recording Secretary

Attachment(s): Sign-In Sheet(s)