

**LOWER PAXTON TOWNSHIP  
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 2, 2021**

**Members in Attendance**

Neal Johnson  
Jim Seidler  
Stan Smith  
Angela McCloskey  
Kirby Lentz

**Members Absent**

Mayur Patel  
Bob MacIntyre

**Also in Attendance**

Rachelle Scott, Staff Liaison

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Neal Johnson called the meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board to order at 7:25 pm in Room 174 of the Lower Paxton Township Municipal Center, 425 Prince Street, Harrisburg, PA.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Brian Luetchford, former Parks & Recreation Department and Friendship Center Director, was in attendance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2021 and May 5, 2021 meetings. Mr. Seidler seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved as submitted.

**CDABA**

**(Central Dauphin Area Basketball Association)**

Ms. Scott shared a flyer with general information about the CDABA basketball league. It is a recreational program for Central Dauphin School District students only, who do not already play on a school team. It is non-profit, run by volunteers, and they are struggling with keeping enough volunteers to run it.

CDABA has reached out to LPT Parks and Recreation to see if we could take over running the league. Ms. Scott stated she is very interested in the opportunity. They had 492 participants in the most recent year. Children in kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup>

grade participate in skill builders. The league recently had to start using Advanced Hoops trainers to run the programs since parents would not volunteer to do it.

Grades 3 through 12 are coached by volunteer coaches, similar to how Brightbill Basketball is coached. One way they differ is how the teams are built; CDABA uses a draft, whereas Brightbill Basketball (BB) allows teams or free agents to join. Ms. Scott stated that one interesting fact is they are allowed to use school gyms for no charge because they only allow CD students to participate. They are currently showing a deficit in their budget of \$5000. Mr. Lentz asked who runs their program at this time, and Ms. Scott answered that it is run by a nonprofit board. The two members that reached out are Shawn Stubbe and Greg Cavolli. Mr. Cavolli will likely continue to operate the travel teams.

Another difference is the use of PIAA referees; CDABA uses them for all games, whereas BB only uses them for playoffs and uses seasonal staff for regular games.

Ms. Scott expects that there are other expenses that the Township would not have if it ran the league versus CDABA. She is cautious to take this on if the Township cannot do it without a deficit, but she will continue to explore the opportunity. One expense that would continue is the cost for school district custodial staff on the weekends since the games are played in the school gyms on the weekends.

Ms. Scott stated that it is increasingly difficult to recruit volunteers to coach the teams. It is also difficult to find affordable gym space. Mr. Smith asked if the use of the school gyms would transfer to the Township if it took over the league. Ms. Scott noted that CDABA will help facilitate the agreements. Mr. Lentz asked about the timeline for the proposed transition. Ms. Scott stated that if the Township would do it, it would need to be initiating contact with the schools in July for the gym space.

Ms. Scott explained that the two leagues would actually compliment each other perfectly as far as timing. When one ends the other starts its registration. Mr. Johnson stated that year-round basketball would be a great thing for the kids in the area and Ms. Scott agreed noting it would make staffing easier as well, as opposed to hiring seasonal staff for 10 weeks.

Mr. Seidler asked if the school board has been presented with this yet. Ms. Scott answered no since it is just a proposal at this time.

Board members agreed that it would be a great opportunity. Mr. Lentz would like Cavolli to attend the next PR Board meeting. Ms. Scott will request him to attend.

Mr. Seidler made a motion to officially support the transition of the CDABA league to the LPT Parks and Rec Department, with additional study and discussion. Mr.

Smith seconded the motion and noted he would like Ms. Scott to continue to work on the transition and gather information, so then in July the Board can speak with Cavolli and Stubbe with an educated approach. A unanimous vote followed.

Mr. Smith would like to hear the position of the School District on the matter.

## **PARK UPDATES**

Ms. Scott provided the following updates:

1. Heroes Grove:
  - a. Phase 2 has been completed with the installation of the roof and electricity/lighting.
  - b. Recently, a police award ceremony has been held there, as well as a rental by Faith Immanuel Church for a concert.
  - c. Ms. Scott would like to investigate the \$75 fee for the use of the facility. Mr. Smith stated that he believes the fee was set by the Board at the same time other fees were updated. Ms. Scott would like to add an optional fee for the cost of operating the lighting. The fee would need to cover the cost for a manager at an overtime rate as well as usage.
  - d. A sound system will not be added until Phase 3, but there is no timeline for that.
  - e. There was some vandalism to the flag poles over Memorial Day weekend.
2. Summer Camp will begin June 7 at Kohl, Koons, Lamplight, and Brightbill Parks. There are 71 children registered for the first week. The program is significantly different including more activities, free lunches, and transportation to the pool two days a week. The minimum enrollment is 56 in order to break even. Ages 4 & 5 can register for two days a week from 9-noon; ages 6 to 12 can attend 8am-1pm (till 3pm on pool days).
3. Brightbill Park: Brightbill Basketball is practicing now and will begin its season June 7<sup>th</sup>. There are 47 teams registered to play.
4. Koons Park: Volleyball league starts this week with 18 female teams. There were only 2 men's teams that registered so they had to be cancelled.
5. Centennial Acres Park: A resident wanted pickleball lines on the existing courts. Ms. Scott noted the courts are not in good shape and would cost \$200,000 to repair. The resident bought paint and a striper and the Township bought a stencil so the neighbors can use the courts for pickleball.
6. Autumn Oaks: there has been no progress at the Autumn Oaks Park. McNaughton says there is a delay. The trail is paved through, so the neighbors can at least use that.
7. Kohl/Lingle Park:

- a. Ms. Scott stated that June 12<sup>th</sup> the Greenway Committee will meet and do maintenance on the trail system there. Volunteers have also been invited to help out.
- b. There was a little bit of graffiti at Kohl Park.

### **ARTS COUNCIL UPDATES**

Mr. Smith provided the following update:

1. The Arts Council met in person this month for the first time in a year and a half.
2. The AC would like to increase its membership from 5 to 7 members.
3. There is a person interested in joining, whom Mr. Smith talked to at the parade.
4. The LPT Variety band is not available to play the 5K race for the second year in a row, so the AC is considering other bands or entertainment.
5. Irigo's continues to display local artwork and they would like to change the artist if another artist would like to have their art displayed.
6. The book discussions may soon begin again. The AC would like to hold an "Author Night" to kick off the return of the book discussions.

### **GREENWAY COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES REPORT**

Mr. Seidler provided the following report:

1. Mr. Seidler will continue to cut a single-track path on the northern portion of the Oak Park Nature Trail, so that neighbors can walk into the area and see what could be done there.
2. They are exploring the idea of stepping-stones across the streams in lieu of engineered bridges. This option would be cost efficient, less invasive, and would discourage mountain bikers.

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES**

Mr. Seidler provided the following update:

1. The CEC participated in the Memorial Day Parade and distributed the 5K flyers to participants. They will also attend the movie night and the June concert to promote the race.
2. Mr. Seidler asked the PR Board members to volunteer their time for the CEC Race on July 17<sup>th</sup> if they are available.
3. Ms. Scott asked Ms. McClosky if her scouts would be interested in a small "chalk the walk" project the night before the race. They could draw inspirational quotes or directional pictures or other fun things.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Summer Meeting Locations**

Members discussed meeting at the park pavilions during the warmer months. Ms. Scott will decide which parks to meet at and let the members know.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Hiner  
Recording Secretary