

Manheim Township Parks & Recreation Board

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 8, 2018

- I. The meeting of the Manheim Township Parks and Recreation Board was held in the Blue Room of the Stauffer Mansion on Tuesday, May 8, 2018. Chairman Bohan called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. In addition to Chairman Bohan, board members present were Keene, Smith and Ziegler. Also present was Recreation & Park Planning Director Margie Earnest and Commissioners DiMeo and O'Brien. Guests included: Mr. Chris Brink, Christmas Spirit Light Show, Rev. Erin Cox-Holmes and Kent Holmes, 109 Village Drive, Lancaster, PA 17601, Sherry Rich, 319 E. Oregon Road, Lititz, PA 17543, and Kevin and Annette Bradley, 106 Baneberry Lane, Lancaster, PA 17601.
- II. **Review and Approval of Parks & Recreation Board Meeting April 3, 2018 Minutes** – Dr. Smith made the motion to accept the April 3, 2018 Minutes as written. Vice-Chairman Keene seconded the motion. The motion was then approved unanimously.
- III. **Treasurer's Report** – Director Earnest reported on the status of Capital projects. Director Earnest reported pressure washing equipment, 40% complete on the Jaycee Park renovations, Boettcher House interior upgrades for the Nature Preschool program is complete. The Nature Preschool Open House will begin Sunday, 5/13 and run through Thursday, 5/17 from 1-8 PM. The regrading and plants addition for the front of the Boettcher House will be postponed until after the Open House, Director Earnest reported. The Destination restroom is now open. Pool opening details are slightly behind. Skyline Pool is up and running and will be the first pool to open for the season. Commissioner DiMeo asked if the new pool cover was purchased. Director Earnest explained that the cover was being made as we speak. Chairman Bohan asked when Overlook Pool opened. Director Earnest reported that Overlook Pool opens June 9.
- IV. **Committee Reports:**
 - A. **Facilities Maintenance** – Report enclosed.
 - B. **Facilities Coordination** – Chairman Bohan reported that there was no report as Mr. Boufford is absent from the meeting. There is an Action Item regarding the MT Celebration that will be discussed later in the meeting.
 - C. **Program** – No report. The summer activities edition has been published and are available in the lobby.
 - D. **Youth Sports** – Director Earnest reported that the wall requested from MT Lacrosse is listed on the agenda under Old Business and Youth Sports Program Manager Stopa's communication to the group is included in the packet. Director Earnest reported that their original location was not approved. The second choice location was near the proposed playground location. The location that the Recreation and Park Department chose is the triangle out near the main road that was slated to be a t-ball field, however a t-ball field is not needed.
- V. **Director's Report** – The Director's Report was enclosed within the package. Director Earnest shared the drawings for the proposed large playground at MTAC (Manheim Township Athletic Complex). The playground will be set on a rubber surface and also a fence around it. Dr. Smith asked what Spike Ball is. Chairman Bohan shared video presentation of the game.
- VI. **Liaison Reports**
 - A. **Commissioner's Report** – No report.
 - B. **School Board Report** – Dr. Smith reported on the last meeting's agenda items. Wrap up of winter season sports, technology update on iPAD's and Kindergarten, budget update will be voted on in June, approved a data management system, approved a special education plan for 2018 through 2021, tennis court resurfacing approved for Reidenbaugh, approved a science curriculum and structure materials for grades K-8, and also approved a college and career readiness materials.
 - C. **Boettcher House Museum Board Report** – No report.
 - D. **Pathway Committee** – No report. Minutes included within packet.
 - E. **Manheim Township Historical Society** – No report.

VII. Action Items

- A. Recommendation no 10/6/18 Celebrate MT Event – Mr. Ziegler reported that pre-event research was done since the last meeting and has resulted in the following: MT Police – Event (parade) not possible in the time frame allotted due to WIOV Fall Fest 2018 takes place the next day (10/7/18) overtime resources maxed, also Wegman's opening the weekend of 5/29. The Police Chief was very enthusiastic to hold the event in the future (2019). Chairman Bohan suggested that a meeting be held with the School District (Dr. Felty) to discuss 2018 Celebrate MT festival event (sans parade). This will be scheduled in the near future.
- B. Recommendation on Christmas Spirit Light Show for 2018 – Director Earnest reported on the 2017 Christmas Spirit Light Show. Director Earnest stated that after review of last year's event, parks and recreation staff have no reason to not recommend that the show continue in 2018. Mr. Chris Brink, representative of Christmas Spirit Light Show, was introduced to answer questions that anyone has. Chairman Bohan asked if the show will be the same this year as last. Mr. Brink explained that the scope of the project will largely remain the same. Commissioner DiMeo asked how many cars went through in 2017. Mr. Brink stated that there were 4,300 cars that went through the show. Mr. Brink further explained that he would like to see the event grow within the next 2-3 years to 10,000 cars. Admission price was charged and a portion of the proceeds was donated to "Rescue The One" (\$1,600) which focuses on human trafficking and children at risk. 2018's charity will go to "Charity Water".

Guest, Kevin Bradley requested that the event be moved somewhere else (Long's Park), as they have lights "in their backyard" and he doesn't want it, further stating that it is not part of the mission of the parks. Rev. Erin Cox-Holmes, guest, addressed the board stating that the light show does not fit within the mission and vision statements of the Parks and Recreation, and provides a negative impact on the environmental, conservation of resources and the eco-system, a negative impact on the wear and tear on the park, a negative impact on residential use and enjoyment of Neffsville Community Park, a negative impact on light display on residents facing the park, and a negative impact on the show's creators saying that "this is just the beginning". Rev. Cox-Holmes addressed these concerns in a letter sent to Director Earnest dated 3/18/18.

Guest, Kent Holmes, shared his concerns regarding the event. He explained that there are 54 houses around the park, questioned whether other vendors were considered that were more eco-friendly, and also explained that the event had a negative impact on habitat (birds, bats, fox kits). Mr. Holmes also questioned why the event was a driving event vs. a walking event. He also questioned flashing lights vs. continuous lighting. In looking back over past meetings minutes, nothing regarding the approval of the event was mentioned, Mr. Holmes said. This event effects many people.

Chairman Bohan explained the process of approval for the future of this event. Chairman Bohan further explained that recommendations are suggested to the Commissioners and they make decisions from there. Vice-Chairman Keene suggested that this item be tabled until next month's meeting so that further discussion can be made. Mr. Brink commented that a lot of positive feedback was received regarding the light show. A recommendation will be made at the June meeting.

- C. Approval of revised Park Rules and Regulations – Vice-Chairman Keene presented the updated Park Rules and Regulations. The updated version was included within the packet with updates highlighted in yellow. New signs will need to be printed and erected in each of the parks. Chairman Bohan suggested that this item be tabled until next meeting so all can review and process. Chairman Bohan thanked Vice-Chairman Keene and Director Earnest for their work on the revision.

VIII. Discussion

A. Old Business

- 1.) Boys and Girls LAX request – Discussed earlier (IV. Committee Reports, D. Youth Sports).

B. New Business

- 1.) Use of Stauffer Tennis Courts by High School Team – Due to the High School renovation of the current courts, the High School team has asked to use Stauffer tennis courts for summer try-outs and practice.

(Continued)

Guest, Sherry Rich shared that seven (7) courts have been removed within the Township throughout the years. She requested that Pickleball lines not be put on the Reidenbaugh Courts. Director Earnest will defer this request to the School District as they are the owner of these courts. Director Earnest stated that a capital budget discussion will be held regarding the Overlook skate park which might be potentially moved and this could free up this area for tennis courts.

- IX. **Correspondence** – Received LAX wall communication, a tennis court message was received by Dr. Felty, and two (2) articles on the importance of Nature Preschool programming.
- X. **Public Comments** – None.
- XI. **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 PM with a motion made by all.

Next meeting Tuesday, June 5, 2018, 5:30 PM at the Stauffer Mansion.