



# PARKS, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE AND FARMLAND PRESERVATION BOARD

*Budget Workshop Minutes, Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> 2010*

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**Called to Order at 7:00 with the Pledge of Allegiance.**

## **BOARD ATTENDEES**

Corey Bruno, Tom Deily, Kevin Drake, Liza Gantert, Julie McDonell, Marti Schwartz, Dennis Timmer

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Bill Thomas, 4787 Steeplechase Dr, (Secretary) and Joe Klocek, 2613 Fieldview Dr, (President) polled the Lower Macungie Township Senior Citizens Club about issues most sensitive to seniors, and distributed a list of concerns. (Attached) LMT Seniors currently has 267 members with an average age of roughly 75 years.

Mr. Klocek described some confusion about which parks are LMT parks, and wondered where LMT's parks are located. Given the travel concerns of seniors, he asked the board to consider a LANTA route or spur to provide service to a park. He also reviewed the other concerns from the survey. President Timmer provided answers and info where available regarding each of the concerns. The Board discussed the need for a brochure/map to make all parks visible and to show where trails/paths are. The Board also supported opportunities to link seniors with library, parks, and activities at LMT Community Center via transportation or weekend/gatherings. Regarding pathways, Mr. Thomas asked the Board to consider benches as part of trail requirement, with standardized distribution along paths, though recognized that distance between benches was primarily a fiscal decision. Concerns about park lighting were agreed to be moot given park hours (sunrise-sunset). The Board also detailed the situation with shade trees, and all discussed costs and benefits.

## **BUDGET WORKSHOP**

**Major items** (in the order which they were suggested):

- Handicap accessibility
- Trail plan & implementation, along with connectors between existing trails, consideration of trails in flood plain greenways
- Playgrounds (capital improvement/replacement)
- Park maintenance (Liza suggests this person is also playground safety inspector, board discusses creating township positions)
- LMYA ballfields (plan to expand fields, reserve useful space, link with EPSD, consider enhanced Quarry stadium)
- Signage (parks & township)
- Dog park (consider using detention ponds w/ fence)
- Paving Creamery Park path
- Park expansion & acquisition (esp Quarry, Wild Cherry)
- Penn Meadows detention pond (Questions arose regarding the funding source for this project. Several Board members thought that the Lehigh County Conservation District may be funding the core construction.)
- Community Center building expansion plan
- Camp Olympic (township-level, mostly following the flow of grant money)
- Park improvements (benches, picnic tables, pavilions, trees)
- Endowment program/emphasize memorial program/funding
- Volunteer service fund
- LMYA operating needs (programs, facilities, partnerships, funding)
- Park & Rec comprehensive plan

## **Short Term Needs**

- Flood plain planning
- Tree vitalization
- LMT facilities list
- LMT map/brochure (Lee L may have pursued this)



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## **Next Steps**

Consider feasibility details for the high level ideas above. Board members will identify individual top five priorities ahead of the regular February or March meeting (depending on Agenda length). If necessary, the Board will hold another workshop in April.

President Timmer and Julie McDonell will meet with Bruce & Sara to discuss short-term needs.

Goal is to have a 5-year plan that is very clear for BoC presentation in October.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Julie McDonell moved to adjourn, Liza Gantert second, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:05.