

# Centre Documenters

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Meeting: Parks & Recreation Committee

Township: College

Documenter name: Mo Almo

Date: April 8, 2024

Start Time: 7:01 p.m.

End Time: 8:27 p.m.

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## Notes

### **In Attendance:**

David Schulte (Chair, Parks: Dalevue, Fogleman Fields, Fogleman Overlook, Penn Hills) - present

Earl Moore (Vice-chair, Parks: Thompson Woods Parklet and Preserve, Shamrock, Slab Cabin, Oak Grove) - present

Janet Sulzer (Parks: Fieldstone, Harris Acres, Panorama Parklet) - present via Zoom

Jude Simpson (Parks: Bike Paths, Slab Cabin Overlook, Spring Creek Park) - present

Stephen Spoonamore (Parks: Mt. Nittany Terrace, Stoney Batter Nature Area, Nittany Orchard) - present

Judi Sittler (Parks: Cairns Crossing, Gordon D. Kissinger Meadow, Spring Creek Estates) - present

Sue Smith (Parks: Limerock Parklet, Glenn Park; Mountainside) - absent

Kathleen Matason (Parks: CRPR, Millbrook Marsh) - present

Amy Kerner (Public Works Director) - present

Sharon Meyers (Support Specialist - Engineering/Planning) - present

### **Call to Order**

### **Zoom Meeting Protocol**

### **Open Discussion** – none

### **New Business**

Stephen Spoonamore said he has been informed that he can serve on the board for Nittany Mountain Conservancy. Their first meeting is in two weeks.

### **Old Business** - none

### **Special Report 1:** Ball Field Improvement Suggestions (State College Little League)

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- Mike Belinc, who has been on the league board for the past 10 years and is the current general field manager for the State College Little League fields, was there to report.
- He mentioned that the fields have been in rough shape over the last few years. Two years ago, they laser leveled the fields, which cost \$4,500 per field, and bought the infield mix, which cost around \$800-900 per truckload. The fields that have grass infields would need one load while all dirt infields would need two loads, such as Spring Creek.
- Belinc said he's interested in the field at Spring Creek Elementary, which looks like it has potential, and he asked if the township manages it.
  - Spoonamore answered that they don't manage that field. It's owned by the school district.
    - Belinc said he doesn't think the school district maintains it because it's in rough shape.
- Belinc said Nittany Orchard Park and Harris Acres are both small and only useful for T-ball. Dalevue is being used for little league, but its problem is its dirt, which settles and creates holes where water just sits. Lips form on the baselines and create almost a dam for the water. Belinc said this can be fixed by stripping out the lips. Spring Creek has the same lip problem as Dalevue, but it has a larger issue with flooding because runoff from the neighborhood goes straight into the field. Two years ago, they tried to use it, but it was too wet.
  - Spoonamore said it would be possible to put in a rain garden. Having used the field last year, he said he knows that once it rains, it becomes unusable.
  - David Schulte asked Amy Kerner if she can investigate the detention basins.
    - Kerner said the engineering staff does inspect, and there are design standards that they must comply with.
  - Schulte asked if the detention basin is under the township.
    - Kerner said the Homeowners Association is responsible for its maintenance.
  - Schulte asked what their options are to mitigate the runoff issue to make the field more playable.
    - Kerner said they would need to be careful to not make the problem worse. It's possible that it was done intentionally that the excess water would go to the field. To determine this, they must conduct a study. A rain garden might be an option.
  - Schulte inquired about the existence of an underground system under the field and whether it had failed.
  - Spoonamore said he doesn't think that the detention basin is what drains into the fields.
  - Schulte asked whether the infield mix was commercially available and how they get it on the field.
    - Belinc said yes and explained the process of placing the mix. They dumped the mix into the parking lot and used skid steer because the trucks were too heavy for any field. Following this was the laser leveling process. They placed a GPS on the pitcher's mound and measured the dimension of the field. Then by tractor tows, they pushed all of the dirt around until it reached a 1/8 of an inch slope.
  - Schulte asked if this process was subcontracted.

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- Belinc responded yes, and when they did it two years ago, it cost \$4,500 per field on average. The price can be higher or lower depending on the field size.
- Judi Sittler asked who manages these decisions.
  - Belinc said the Little League Board of Directors gets together and votes. They receive money from the parents of the kids who play, which is utilized for equipment and maintenance. The standard fee of joining the league was steady in past years, but it was raised this year to incentivize selling raffle tickets. This year, parents paid extra, but they can keep the money they receive from selling raffle tickets.
- Schulte asked Belinc if he can explain the lip.
  - Belinc said the lip happens with time, as raking and dragging the dirt and infield mix causes the dirt to get pushed underneath the grass. The grass then gets raised over time.
    - Schulte asked how they could fix that.
      - Belinc said they cut anywhere from 1-3 feet from the edge and take the dirt from underneath, then put sod back in or get new sod.
- Sittler asked if they use fields in College Township.
  - Mike said they use Dalevue, Spring Creek and Penn Hills, which is an all-grass field, so it's mostly used for T-ball.
    - Earl Moore mentioned that this field can be fixed easily.
      - Schulte said the problem with the field is its unevenness.
        - Belinc said there's a sand mix they can buy and place in the offseason, which hopefully can level the ground. This process would be cheaper than tearing grass and then placing infield mix.
- Schulte wanted to clarify that they do not own any fields; they just maintain them. The he asked Belinc if he's interested in his fields becoming one of the township's service projects.
  - Belinc said he can bring it up to his board. They can help manage the project with their experience.
- Kerner asked Belinc about the process of scheduling in a township park.
  - Belinc said they rent the fields from CRPR.
    - Kerner questioned Penn Hills since it's not under CRPR.
      - Spoonamore explained and showed a live document for scheduling fields for coaches. Penn Hills is listed as a resource field, not as a scheduling one. He said he doesn't know if there has been any conflict with local children.
        - Belinc said he has only seen one conflict. Scheduling is difficult because there aren't current rules for these

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things, but they are working with the Homeowners Association to resolve this issue. The offseason is not an issue.

## **Parks Reports**

Planning Commission - Sharon Meyers

- no additions

Public Works - Amy Kerner

- Kerner said they're looking at a puddle in Panorama Parklet and they will see if they can use soil to fill it up. They are starting spring cleaning by sweeping the paths. She met with the superintendent to talk about implementing a drainage system on the playground at Slab Cabin.

Bike Paths - Jude Simpson

- no additions

Cairns Crossing - Judi Sittler

- Sittler said they're going to need to redo the whole boardwalk because it does show its age.

CRPR - Kathleen Matason

- no additions

Dalevue - David Schulte

- Schulte said he's updating the master plan, but since it wasn't on the agenda, he didn't discuss it.

Fieldstone - Janet Sulzer

- Sulzer said they're meeting for the play equipment on May 8, but the backup date is May 22, depending on the weather. The meeting invitation for survey participants will be sent soon.

Fogleman Fields & Overlook - David Schulte

- Schulte said he inspects Fogleman Fields regularly, and they are trying to mitigate the damage that was done to them.
- He also said in Fogleman Overlook, there was a concern from a resident about a rebar sticking out that could damage kids' bicycles.
  - Kerner said they're getting ready to pull the rebar.
- Kerner added that CRPR was waiting for the sprinkler system to estimate the damage.

Glenn Park - Sue Smith

- no additions

Gordon D. Kissinger Meadow - Judi Sittler

- no additions

Harris Acres - Janet Sulzer

- no additions

Limerock Terrace - Sue Smith

- no additions

Millbrook Marsh - Kathleen Matason

- no additions

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Mountainside - Sue Smith

- no additions

Mt. Nittany Terrace - Stephen Spoonamore

- no additions

Nittany Orchard - Stephen Spoonamore

- no additions

Oak Grove - Earl Moore

- no additions

Panorama - Janet Sulzer

- Sulzer said Kerner already mentioned the spot that needs to be filled in.

Penn Hills - David Schulte

- Schulte already commented.

Shamrock - Earl Moore

- no additions

Slab Cabin - Earl Moore

- no additions

Slab Cabin Overlook - Jude Simpson

- no additions

Spring Creek Park - Jude Simpson

- no additions

Spring Creek Estates - Judi Sittler

- no additions

Stoney Better Natural Area - Stephen Spoonamore

- Spoonamore mentioned that there was significant off-road vehicle use, which has left it an unwalkable mess. He said he doesn't know how to fix it, but it's getting heavier usage now.

Thompson Woods Parklet - Earl Moore

- no additions

Thompson Woods Preserve - Earl Moore

- A government committee and the advisory committee are meeting at 2 p.m. on April 10. Two meetings ago, they had a problem with the bike trail between the building center. They believe they will need more than just gravel to fix it.

Judi suggested that they go back to the process of writing the reports instead of taking time in the meeting to report them.

- o Schulte said they still require reports by writing but that her suggestion is noted.

## **Consent Agenda**

The March 11, 2024, meeting minutes passed unopposed.

## **Communications – none**

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## Other Matters

- Sittler said she wants to add one of the agendas so that somebody can explain practices regarding streams and what's a healthy buffer.
  - Schulte appointed Sittler to find someone.
- Earl Moore jokingly wrote a letter during the meeting, mentioning the need for a better baseball field.

**Chair Informatives** – none

## Upcoming Meetings

Monday, May 13, 2024, at 7 p.m. (if needed)

- Kerner said she can't attend, and Spoonamore asked if they should cancel the meeting.
  - The chair said they should wait for the planning commission plans before they decide.

Monday, June 10, 2024, at 6 p.m. (Park Tour Meeting)

- They want to visit Panorama, Harris, Shamrock and Dalevue.
  - Spoonamore recommended visiting Sichler Field to see what a good baseball field looks like.

Monday, August 12, 2024, at 7 p.m.

Monday, September 9, 2024, 7 p.m.

Monday, October 14, 2024, at 7 p.m. (if needed)

Monday, November 18, 2024, at 7 p.m.

## Staff Informatives

SI-1 – PC Agendas (March 19 and April 2)

**Announcements** - none

## Adjournment

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## Summary/Takeaways from your Documenter

- Mike Belinc, the general field manager for the State College Little League, presented the requirements and costs for maintaining Little League fields. He concluded that there are many fields that need repairs and solutions to flooding issues.
- The Little League fields could become one of College Township's service projects, but no final decisions were made.

## Follow-Up Questions

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- Is the schedule for Little League coaches to use the fields accessible to the public so they know when they can use the fields?

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