

LANCASTER COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Speedwell Forge County Park Advisory Council

Meeting of April 21, 2010

7PM, Penn Township Municipal Building

APPROVED

Board Members Present

Jay George
Eileen Lieberman
Pete Parsil
Sally Vanderslice
David Wood

Board Members Not Present

Helen Farrington

Others Present

Derek Daly, PA Game Commission

Lancaster County Department of Parks & Recreation:

Paul Weiss, Parks & Rec. Administrator and Officiator

Clyde McMillan-Gamber, Naturalist

Deb Werner CPS, Senior Secretary/Public Relations Specialist was absent from the meeting

The meeting began at 7:00 PM.

Old Business:

The meeting minutes from the September 16, 2009 Advisory Council meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

New Business:

- Derek Daly introduced himself as the PA Game Commission's new Wildlife Conservation Officer for the Game Commission region that includes the northern portion of Lancaster County.
- Paul Weiss announced that Rob Gabriel formally submitted his resignation from the Advisory Council.
- Pete Parsil recommended potential replacements for Mr. Gabriel. The Committee selected Dawn Darlington as their first choice. Mr. Parsil agreed to initiate contact with Ms. Darlington.
- Mr. Weiss updated the Committee on significant efficiency/cost-reducing measures in the Department as a result of the 2010 County Budget:
 - The Executive Director and Assistant Director positions were eliminated and a new Parks & Recreation Administrator Positions was created.
 - Part-time Naturalist hours were reduced.
 - Operating hours for the County Swimming Pool for 2010 were shortened.
 - The hardcopy of the quarterly Parks newsletter was eliminated. Program information previously contained in the newsletter is available on the Department website (www.lancastercountyparks.org), and articles from Naturalist Clyde McMillan-Gamber will be available periodically in the Lancaster Newspapers.
 - The Park Maintenance Division was absorbed into the newly created County Facilities Management Department.
- With all of the changes in the Parks Department, it was re-affirmed that Chad Shaneyfelt remains the park ranger primarily assigned to Speedwell Forge County Park.
- At 5 PM on Monday, June 7, the Parks Department and the PA Fish and Boat Commission are partnering together to hold a "Fishing is Fun" program at Speedwell Forge Lake.

- The Facilities Management Grounds Crew (i.e. Park Maintenance) will be repairing the wooden pedestrian bridge along the SW portion of the Loop Trail in Speedwell Forge Park.
- The Facilities Management Grounds Crew has also created a new shortcut trail across the Loop Trail that provides a shorter option and allows hikers to by-pass the larger loop which can be very wet, particularly during the spring. Prior approval for the shortcut was obtained from the Conservancy as this trail is on their property.
- As hunting is already permitted in Speedwell Forge Park, Mr. Weiss is investigating enrolling the Park in the PA Game Commission's Cooperative Forest-Game Program which would provide additional Game Commission resources (signs, periodic patrols, etc.) to assist in hunting enforcement and overall property management. Mr. Daily provided helpful resource information.
- Updates on other Park activities was provided:
 - The Department's annual Arbor Day planting will be held at 9 AM in Central Park on April 30. All are invited to attend.
 - The Lancaster County Conservancy has acquired 800+ acres of New Holland Water Authority property contiguous to Money Rocks County Park. The newly acquired land will be managed jointly with the Park and will provide more than 1100 acres of preserved and publicly accessible woodland.
 - Work has begun on the new 1.3-mile Conestoga Greenway Trail. The trail runs along the outer bank of the Conestoga River as it wraps around the Sunnyside Peninsula in southeast Lancaster City. The trail will provide an excellent connection between the City and Central Park.
 - The Department has received preliminary grant approval for the construction of a pedestrian bridge over the Chickies Creek in Chickies Rock County Park. This bridge will provide a vital connection for the 14-mile Northwest River trail to be built along the Susquehanna River between Columbia and Conoy.
- Other items of note were raised by Council Members:
 - Elizabeth Township will be dedicating its new municipal park on June 5.
 - The Furnace Hills Conservation plan was unveiled by the Appalachian Mountain Club and the Trust for Public Lands at a public meeting on April 20. While Speedwell Forge Park lies just outside of the plan, it would benefit greatly from the conservation of nearby open spaces.
 - Heidelberg Township in Lebanon County has requested lowering the rating of the Hammer Creek.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Clyde McMillan-Gamber