

LANCASTER COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Speedwell Forge County Park Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes of 04/16/2014

7:00 P.M., Penn Township Municipal Building

APPROVED

Board Members Present

Dawn Darlington
Jay George
Eileen Lieberman
Richard Pohner
Tom Stahl
David Wood
Helen Farrington

Others Present

Lancaster County Department of Parks & Recreation:
Paul Weiss, Parks & Recreation Administrator & Officiator
Deborah Werner, CPS, Senior Secretary/ Public Relations Specialist

The meeting began at 7:00 P.M.

Old Business:

- Richard Pohner moved to approve the September 18, 2013 Advisory Council Meeting Minutes as submitted while Jay George seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved and will be posted online at www.lancastercountyparks.org.

New Business:

- Naturalist Clyde McMillan-Gamber has retired after many years with the Parks Department; at this point, it is unlikely that his position will be refilled. Part-time Environmental Education staff members will be picking up the slack.
- Senior Naturalist Ted Groff has also retired after 30 years with the Department; his position and the position of Recreation Coordinator have been combined into a new Program Manager position.
- In the future, Advisory Council members prefer to have a park ranger attend the September (fall) meeting, and a park naturalist attend the April (spring) meeting.
- Bradley Property Acquisition:
 - This is a 107-acre wooded parcel that abuts Speedwell Forge Road and Oak Lane.
 - A tributary of Hammer Creek flows from the property under Lakeview Drive and into the Creek just above Speedwell Forge Lake.
 - The property has virtually no underbrush, but rather has an uncut grass floor and is ready-made to support hiking trails.
 - If acquired, the existing trail network in Speedwell Forge Park will be extended onto the Bradley Property by an at-grade crossing of Speedwell Forge Road.
 - There would be no hunting on this parcel.
 - A PA-DCNR grant application was approved by the County Commissioners and was submitted to the State. The Speedwell Foundation has pledged the 50% grant match. If the grant is awarded, we have three years to complete the acquisition.
- Speedwell Forge Lake Dam Update:
 - Funding has been secured. Completion of the dam is anticipated in 2016 with the lake to re-open in 2017.
 - The dredging of sediment from the bottom of the old lake has commenced.
- Member Tom Stahl of the Lancaster County Conservancy reported on the winter storm clean-up of County Conservancy properties and asked about damage to County Park land. While Speedwell Forge Park experienced some damage, other County Parks were damaged severely and clean-up is expected to continue into the early summer.
- The County Parks Department realized and absorbed \$120,000 in budget cuts in 2014. For at least the next two years, tight fiscal constraints are expected to continue.

- Construction continues on the 14-mile NW River Trail Project which runs along the Susquehanna River from Columbia to Falmouth. Two miles of the Trail run through Chickies Rock County Park and will be accessible to hikers and bikers with the completion of the Chickies Creek Pedestrian Bridge in June.

Other Business:

- Jay George asked if the new gas pipeline proposed to come through Lancaster County would impact county parkland. Paul Weiss answered that the proposed route he has seen for the pipeline might clip the very northeastern edge of Chickies Rock County Park but would have no significant impact on the Park. Conservancy lands, particularly in the southwestern quadrant of the county, are at a much greater risk.

Dave Wood called for meeting adjournment at 8:11 P.M., while Jay George seconded.

The next Speedwell Forge Advisory Council Meeting is scheduled for 7:00 P.M. on Wednesday, September 17, 2014, at the Penn Township Municipal Building.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah H. Werner, CPS