

LANCASTER COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
Speedwell Forge County Park Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes of 9/19/2012
7:00 P.M., Penn Township Municipal Building
APPROVED

Board Members Present

Dawn Darlington
Helen Farrington
Jay George
Eileen Lieberman
David Wood

Board Members Not Present

Pete Parsil
Sally Vanderslice

Others Present

Lancaster County Department of Parks & Recreation:

Paul Weiss, Parks & Recreation Administrator & Officiator

Clyde McMillan-Gamber, Naturalist

Deborah Werner, CPS, Senior Secretary/Public Relations Specialist

The meeting began at 7:00 P.M.

Old Business:

- David Wood moved to approve the April 18, 2012 Advisory Council meeting minutes as submitted. Eileen Lieberman seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved; minutes will be posted online at www.lancastercountyparks.org.

New Business:

- Terms expire 12/31/2012 for present Speedwell Forge Advisory Council Members Sally Vanderslice and Peter Parsil. As Sally is stepping down from her role with the Lancaster County Conservancy, LCC President and CEO Ralph Goodno will recommend a replacement for her; Peter will be asked if he wishes to extend his term.
- Tony Good sub-division update:
 - Mr. Good is proposing to re-zone his property, as well the adjacent Zeiset property and the portion of Speedwell Forge Park in Penn Township, from T-2Agriculture to T-1 Natural.
 - Paul has reviewed the stipulations for both alternatives and any effects from re-zoning the Park property would be negligible.
 - Mr. Good did approach the County Commissioners to determine whether the County is interested in being a party to the proposed re-zoning as it does affect County land.
 - David Wood noted that the re-zoning would allow Mr. Good one (1) additional development right on his property.
 - Eileen Lieberman, who is also a member of the Elizabeth Township Planning Commission, raised concern about the need to maintain zoning consistency between the park land in Penn and Elizabeth Townships. Paul confirmed that the adjacent portion of Speedwell Forge Park in Elizabeth Township is zoned Conservation so the re-zoning would not create inconsistency.
- Effective for the 2012 tax year, 108 acres of farmland in Speedwell Forge Park were enrolled in the Clean and Green program resulting in \$8,700 in tax savings for the Parks Department. Overall, a total of 175 acres of farmland in the County Parks was enrolled in Clean and Green resulting in a total savings of \$17,500.

- Speedwell Forge Lake Update:
 - The State has allocated \$6.4 million to replace the Speedwell Forge Lake Dam. Once the money is appropriated (pending), it will take approximately 36-48 months to complete design and construction.
 - In the meantime, the State will be breaching the old dam to alleviate concerns about potential flooding.
- 2013 Park Budget Update
 - The 2013 proposed budget included an initial appropriation for the Parks Department that was flat relative to 2012. However, the Department had to absorb approximately \$30,000 in escalating costs (personnel, taxes, insurance, etc.). With the Clean and Green enrollment and other strategic cuts, we were able to meet the initial appropriation.
 - Subsequently, the Department has been asked to consider the impacts of an additional 10% budget reduction.
- Marcellus Shale Legacy Fund:
 - 40% of all proceeds derived by the State as a result of Marcellus Shale drilling fees will be placed in a legacy fund to be used throughout PA.
 - Of that 40%, 15% will be distributed to counties for the planning, acquisition, development, rehabilitation and repair of greenways, recreational trails, open space, natural areas, community conservation and beautification projects, community and heritage parks and water resource management.
 - Funds will be distributed to counties based upon population with Lancaster County anticipated to receive \$376K in 2011 proceeds and \$450K in 2012 proceeds.
 - While PA-DCNR will be overseeing the distribution of funds, the specific details and timeframe for implementation of the program are still pending.
 - Jay George asked if the funds were for county government specifically and/or for the municipalities in the county. Paul confirmed that the funds will be given to the counties themselves and appropriation decisions will be made at the county level.
- Keystone Fund Update:
 - Thanks to grass-roots support, the Keystone Fund was not eliminated as originally proposed in the 2013 State budget.
 - The Keystone Fund is the State's primary source for funding parks and recreation and open space initiatives. It is used to fund work in State Parks and Game Lands and is the primary resource for PA-DCNR grants that are issued throughout the State.
 - 15% of the proceeds from realty transfer taxes go into the Keystone Fund.
 - In 2011, the Keystone Fund contributed \$25M to projects across the State; that number is anticipated to increase in future years as real estate sales rebound.
- The Lancaster County Department of Parks and Recreation's Environmental Center hosts its 21st Annual Apple Festival on Sunday, October 28, from 1 to 4 p.m. All ages are invited to attend; no pre-registration is required. The event will be held at:
 - The Lancaster County Environmental Center
 - 1 Nature's Way
 - Lancaster, PA 17602

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

The next Speedwell Forge Advisory Council Meeting is scheduled for 7:00 P.M. on Wednesday, April 17, 2013, at the Penn Township Municipal Building.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah H. Werner, CPS