

LANCASTER COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Speedwell Forge County Park Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes of 4/20/11

7PM, Penn Township Municipal Building

APPROVED

Board Members Present

Eileen Lieberman
Pete Parsil
Sally Vanderslice
David Wood
Dawn Darlington
Helen Farrington

Board Members Not Present

Jay George

Others Present

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

The meeting began at 7:00 PM.

Old Business:

- Sally Vanderslice moved to approve the September 15, 2010 Advisory Council meeting minutes as submitted. Dave Wood seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.
- The Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to extend the terms of Helen Farrington, Jay George and David Wood.

New Business:

- Both Speedwell Forge Park and Money Rocks Park have been enrolled in the “Cooperative Farm – Game” program with the PA Game Commission. In exchange for continuing to keep these parks open for hunting, the Game Commission will provide patrols of the parks as well as hunting related signage and seedlings if so desired.
- The recent sale of the Bradley tract across Speedwell Forge Road from the southwest corner of the Park was discussed. The majority of the property was sold at auction in March to a private individual for in excess of \$2.5 M. Future plans for the land are not known at this time.
- The Parks Department has submitted Act 319 “Clean and Green” applications to be considered for reduced assessment on the leased farmland throughout the Park system including at Speedwell Forge Park. In preparing the Clean and Green applications, it was determined the Ralph Myer and Sons was farming approximately 20 additional acres of land on the northern side of the Park. This additional acreage has been added to the lease.
- The Rangers will resume posting Park boundaries next winter or in the spring of 2012. Money Rocks Park is first on the list to be followed by Speedwell Forge.
- The purpose and structure of the Speedwell Forge Advisory Council was reviewed:
 - The Council serves in an advisory capacity regarding Speedwell Forge Park but does not hold decision-making authority. (Note: The recommendations of the Council are seriously considered and heavily weighted when major decisions regarding the Park are made.)

- The Council was formed in 1999 for three major purposes:
 - Establishment of trail network through the Park (done)
 - Completion of a master plan for Speedwell Forge Park (natural and historic resource inventories completed; master plan on hold)
 - Consideration of capital projects for the Park (on-going but limited until the master plan is completed)
- While the Council met on a bi-monthly basis during the natural and historic resource inventory process, it now meets semi-annually. When the master plan process is resumed, frequency of meetings is expected to increase again.
- Peter Parsil currently serves as the Chairperson for the Council; Sally Vanderslice is the Vice-Chairperson.
- The Park and Recreation Administrator provided updates on Park operation and serves as a facilitator for input from the Council. Council members are welcome to address any issues regarding the Park.
- Eileen Lieberman commented that Elizabeth Township has made use of the natural and historic resource inventory.
- Paul provided an update on the revised Park Rules and Regulations that were implemented effective January 1. Changes of note are as follows (a full copy of the new Rules and Regulations can be found at http://www.co.lancaster.pa.us/parks/lib/parks/Final_Ordinance_No._98.pdf):
 - According to the PA Uniform Firearms Act, the Department cannot regulate the carry of firearms in the Parks. However, we can and will regulate discharge.
 - Possession or use of illegal substances in the Parks has been added as a citable offense.
 - Regulations regarding littering have been made clearer and more prominent.
- Paul distributed the new Department policy regarding ADA accessibility of Park Trails as necessitated by the recent Department of Justice (DOJ) ruling. In short, the Department cannot and will not prohibit the use of wheelchairs, as defined by the DOJ, on any Park trails. The use of other power-driven mobility devices is permitted within certain limitations. A full version of the policy can be found at http://www.co.lancaster.pa.us/parks/lib/parks/ADA_Accessibility_Policy.pdf
- Design work has been initiated for the Chickies Creek Pedestrian Bridge which will be key component of the 14-mile Northwest River Trail along the Susquehanna River from Conoy to Columbia.
- Debbie distributed copies of the new All-Park brochure which includes both a map and commentary on the new Conestoga Greenway.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

The next Speedwell Forge Advisory Council Meeting is scheduled for 7 PM on Wednesday, September 21 at the Penn Township Building.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah H. Werner, CPS