

**RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES  
JULY 20, 2009**

A regularly scheduled meeting was held at the Township Administration Building. The meeting was brought to order at 7:30 P.M. Committee members in attendance Frank McCullough, Walt Aungst, Randy Moyer, Mark Wilson, Frank Adamcik and Randy Soriano, Township Manager.

May 2009 minutes were approved by M/S McCullough/Moyer

**UPDATES**

**Fence at Green Acres Park**

Mr. Adamcik asked the Committee members if they still felt strongly about the installation of a fence between the two basketball courts at Green Acres Park. They all answered in the affirmative. The fence will remain a priority item. He noted that there isn't much support from Public Works because an argument could be made that all of the basketball courts should be enclosed and the fence could create additional maintenance problems. Mr. Adamcik noted the situation at Green Acres Park is unique. One could argue that the pond at Laubach Park should be fenced in because there is a fence around part of the pond at Franko. Franko is unique because of the slippery sides and quick drop off in the depth of the water. The Committee is not asking that the entire court be fenced off; only separate the two courts. The reasons include the safety of players and eliminating damage to the lower basketball court that occurs when skateboarders and bikers jump the embankment between the two courts. This eventually will create a cash outlay for the Township because of unnecessary repairs. As for maintenance, a vinyl coated fence does not require maintenance and there is no grass cutting under or around it because it would not be located on a grassy surface. Funding will be requested for 2010 to install the fence.

**Geese at Laubach Park**

Mr. Soriano informed the Committee of actions taken to date in regard to the geese at Laubach Park. He said nest and egg treatments were conducted from late March through the end of May. Nine site visits were conducted. Two nests that contained eight eggs were treated. Spring harassment was initiated after the nests were removed. Thirty-eight geese were harassed periodically through the middle of June until some started the molting process. At that point, all harassment was stopped because it is non-effective when geese are molting. Fall harassment will commence as soon as all geese are capable of flight again. This generally occurs around the first of August.

**NEW BUSINESS**

After a lengthy discussion regarding a **walking trail in Lindberg Park** it was agreed that an application should be submitted early in 2010 for a Grant to request funding for developing a Master Parks Site Plan. Mr. Aungst and Mr. Wilson voted unanimous. The recommendation will be sent to the Commissioners to initiate this action. If this process is not successful the Committee will revisit this project.

A discussion began on the feasibility of a **dog park at Lindberg Park** and how it could be included in the Master Site Plan. The discussion was scaled back when Mr. Moyer stated most of the residents were only interested in walking their dogs on a leash at Lindberg Park. He suggested that we change what is needed at Lindberg Park to create a trial period for dogs on a leash. He proposed setting aside an area for this purpose. The residents could obtain permits before they use the designated area. No time limit was set for the trial period. It was noted that if a trail is established at Lindberg Park it might be used for dogs on a leash. Mr. Moyer and Mr. Wilson voted unanimously. Permits and signs will be discussed before the next meeting and also at the upcoming meeting. A recommendation for this trial period will be sent to the Commissioners after the next meeting.

Mr. Adamcik noted that the pavilion roof at Laubach Park had the corners cut back to attain more clearance. The roof corners on the north side were too low.

The replacement of the fencing on the backstop and extending the fence 30' on the first base side of Lindberg Park's main baseball field was discussed. This issue is not new. Funding was approved for this issue in the 2008 budget, but the installation did not occur. Three years have passed since this was originally requested. It was agreed to again request funding for this in the 2010 budget. Mr. McCullough will get an estimate for all of the fencing.

Genny Baillie stated she has sent a **Summer Playground report**, via email. The Program has been running smoothly. The Program has approximately 285 registered participants and will be having Playground Day on Monday, June 22, 2009 and the program will finish for the season on Friday, July 24, 2009. The staff has been doing a great job. The Program has 14 returning counselors and 2 new counselors.

The Summer Playground Program had a few problems with daycare centers trying to use Laubach and Lindberg Parks during the program hours. Also, SYA cheerleaders and SYA football camps were at Laubach Pavilion and Laubach Park during the program hours. The parties involved were informed of the reservation and permit policy and the situations were resolved.

The Summer Playground Program continued to have a problem with dogs in the parks (especially during program hours). The counselors do refer the owners to the posted signs and tell them to leave. It has been significantly problematic at Lindberg and Laubach Parks.

Mr. McCullough stated he has all the information on the current, hottest game "Pickleball". It is played with paddles on a shortened tennis court. It will be added to next year's Summer Playground Program. The cost is \$246. Mr. McCullough mentioned that the dumpster at Lindberg Park should be replaced because it is rotted.

Also cited was an excessive crowd at Green Acres Park last weekend that resulted in parking violations and a Police response. Mr. Soriano stated that perhaps the applications would need to be screened differently in the future.

The Meeting was adjourned 8:45 P.M. by M/S McCullough/Aungst

Committee members will conduct a Parks Tour for the east side of the Township on September 9, 2009 at 6:00 P.M. and on September 16, 2009 at 6:00 P.M. for the west side of the Township.

Next regular meeting is scheduled September 21, 2009 at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by,

Frank Adamcik