



Susquehanna Township
Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes –OCTOBER 10, 2018

Call to Order

Chair Tony Wright called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm. Roll call was read.

Roll Call

Committee Members	Ward	Attend.	Township Personnel Present	Attend.
Christine Broadfield	1	Absent	Commissioner Jody Rebarchak	Absent
James Wiley, Vice-Chair	2	Excused	Commissioner Mona Johnson	Absent
Arlene Prentice	3		Director Robert Reichard	Present
		Absent		
Daneisha Dunbar-Yancey	3	Excused		
Christopher Krawczuk	4	Present		
Gregory Peters	5	Excused		
Amy Sturges	6	Present		
Barry Buskey	7	Absent		
Tony Wright, Chair	8	Present		
Craig Johnson	9	Present		
William Thomas	At Large	Present		

Approval of Minutes

The August Minutes were presented for approval. A motion to approve the meeting minutes from August was made by **Craig Johnson** and seconded by **William Thomas**. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Special Interest – Public Comment – Guest Recognition

None

Commissioners Reports

No Report

Committee Reports

By-Laws, Nomination and Agreements/Proposal Committee –

The 2019 recreation fees were presented by Director Reichard. **William Thomas** inquired how the Recreation Department arrived at the five percent increase. Director Reichard explained that in comparing our program fees to other recreation department fees in the area and taking into account similar size municipalities, our fees charged on the low end of the spectrum. There is also a desire to increase recreation fees to improve revenues generated to be less of a burden on our taxpayers. Currently the department's revenue per capita is approximately three dollars. This ranks very low in comparison to other like size communities. In 2017 the ratio of revenues (\$73,273.03) to expenditures (\$411,759.10) was 18 percent of the department general funds spending. The department was supported by 82 percent general fund tax dollars.

Recreation Land/Parks Committee –

Amy Sturges stated that the committee met and discussed the next park project(s) to be considered. It was agreed that three park playgrounds - Stabler, McNaughton, and Edgemont - are a priority to fund and replace the equipment. The playground equipment in these parks was installed in 1998 - 1999. Life expectancy of the play structures made of steel and plastic is approximately 20 years.

Special Events Committee –

The committee is to decide on a date in May of 2019 to hold the Opening Ceremony for the Veterans Memorial Park Playgrounds. The members at the meeting thought it would be a good idea to pursue the ceremony in the spring. Also, ideas on what to do with the coupons collected for the cancelled event was discussed. **Chris Krawczuk** will contact coupon suppliers to determine if they want them returned. If the coupons are not returned to the vendors then it was suggested the police may want to distribute them.

Recreation Director's Report

Spring Summer Report

Director Reichard presented a draft of a sign being considered for the Veterans Park Trail. Director Reichard stated that he was working with the Capital Area Greenbelt Association to establish wording for the sign since this is a link trail to the Greenbelt Trail. **Craig Johnson** inquired if there was any thought given to marking the trail so users could gauge how far they walked. Director Reichard thought that was a good idea and will look into trail distance markers.

Old Business

Tree Planting at Christian McNaughton Memorial Park

Due to the efforts of **Community and Economic Development Director Betsy Logan** and the Shade Tree program, 33 trees are available to be planted in McNaughton Park. The planting will take place on Saturday, October 20, 2018 from 9am to 12pm. The rain date is the following Saturday, October 27, 2018 at the same time. Committee members are asked to participate if they can as “the more hands, the lighter the work”. The Public Works Department will be assisting with digging the holes.

The Board of Commissioners adopted at their September workshop meeting the Memorandum of Understanding with the Susquehanna Township Alumni Association regarding the Memorial Gardens located in Veterans Park. Director Reichard said he would like to establish additional MOUs with other organizations in the Township such as the Greenbelt Association and Township Athletic Associations.

New Business

Director Reichard inquired of the committee members if they had received their township newsletters. All members acknowledge receipt of their newsletter. The committee was encouraged to review the newsletter information and review the department program offerings.

Member Concerns/Announcements

Chairman Tony Wright announced to the Committee that he will be leaving the Township and will no longer be eligible to serve on the committee. Tony thanked the committee and Director Reichard for the support and said he enjoyed the time spent on recreation issues and the camaraderie of all members past and present.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by **Craig Johnson** and seconded by **Chris Krawczuk**. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 pm.

The next RAC Meeting is scheduled for November 14, 2018 at 6 pm.