

Township of Lower
Recreation Advisory Board

Minutes

Thursday April 24, 2014

Lower Township Recreation Center, Conference Room

Call to Order by Deb Johns 7:01pm

In Attendance: Deb Johns, Bruce Fournier, Mitchell Plenn, Steve Morey, Eileen Kreis, Mark DiDonato, Lonnie Bedell Jr., Michael Laing, Luke Gegan

Not In Attendance: excused, David Pacevich

Approval of Minutes from March 20, 2014

Motion to Accept-Mark DiDonato Second- Michael Laing

All in agreement/Approved

New Business

- 1) Deb introduced Steve Delmonte from Delmosports for an update on Escape the Cape Triathlon. Race was voted Top 5 race in US and is sold out 1,500 participants. +500 from 2013. Improvements include: tug boat to secure ferry, kids race, fitness expo and minor adjustments to course.

Old Business

- 1) Recreation Master Plan: Work continues on Recreation Master Plan. Need to review facilities listings, add Millman Center & REC hours of operation. Mitch provided this information. Discuss possible location/cost for pool, List of priorities/REC recommendations & list improvements for existing facilities. (Sec I, II, II) need minor changes. Address this at next meeting. Potential land swap for purpose of expanding youth soccer fields still a possibility. State representatives would like to make a site visit. Mitch will keep communication open.

- 2) Beach Drive Access Plan: Deb explained this plan was submitted to council. Anyone from the public requesting detailed information should attend the 5/31/14 (tentative date) meeting.

*****note, many citizens showed up to learn more about this plan. The following is a summary of the Public Comment portion of the meeting. Q=question A=answer C=comment***

Public Comment:

Q- How much beach will be removed A-RAB cannot answer specifics/engineering questions as the board only recommends projects to council, at which point appropriate professionals are contracted (if projects are approved).

Q-What is involved with the "land swap" and does it include the Beach Access Plan A-Mitch provided details on this proposal. The land swap has nothing to do with the Beach Access Plan. There was misinformation/confusion among the public because the plan involves property behind Freeman Douglass Park (at Bennett Crossing). There is also a Douglass (David) park at the ferry that some mistakenly believed to be the property discussed for possible exchange with the state.

Q-Explain the history of RAB A-Mitch and Deb explained

Q-was engineering firm paid for their services A-yes

Q-There is confusion/discussion over the 6' or 60' set back A-explanation was given that the sidewalks were 6' The 60' area was only a buffer/work zone that this area would not be removed, in fact in some areas there will be sand added. The work area (60') would be left as it was at completion of project. This was further discussed later in the meeting. The limit of disturbance shows the extent of the enhancement of the dunes with relocated sand at the south end of the project and new sand where it will be added at the north end, as suggested by the NJDEP and the engineer.

Q-How can bikes and runners go on same path A- the sidewalk will be for pedestrians only. Bikes will use the roadway that is designed for bicycle compatibility.

Q-Are minutes kept for RAB A- Yes

Q-Are amusements going to be involved A-No

Q-When will master plan be completed A-The Recreation Master Plan will take a couple of months.

Q-Are they working on a master plan for the township A- The status of the Township Master Plan is a question for the Township Planning Board

Q-Did RAB come up with fishing pier concept A-It was an existing idea that was expanded upon

Q-Are there restaurants & amusements involved with the plan A-NO

Steve interjected here to help clear up confusion over “restaurants” and “amusements” being involved in the Beach Drive Improvements Plan. Restaurants and amusements are NOT part of the plan. This confusion stems from information on pg.33 of the Municipal Public Access Plan concerning maintenance and public access to **Existing Conditions**. This only relates to existing restaurants/boat rentals/marinas in operation. It seems as though wording in the “Municipal Public Access Plan” was being mixed up with details pertaining to the “Beach Drive Improvements Plan”

C-thank you for clearing that up

Q-Can the RAB use the reverse 911 system to notify residents of projects A-RAB cannot do that. RAB has open public meetings monthly, everyone is welcome to attend. To announce all RAB activities would compromise the reverse 911 system. Not the function of the system.

Q-what’s going to happen to the dunes at Townbank A-No dunes will be destroyed. The dunes will be enhanced by moving existing sand from the street side to the bay side of the dunes at the south end. On the northern sections sand will actually be added. All dunes will remain at same elevation. No flood maps will change.

Q- where is money coming from A- Mainly grants

C-Steve clarified a public comment regarding sidewalks. No sidewalks will be removed along residential properties. Sidewalks (in new plan) will be pedestrian only. No dunes will be removed. DEP would not allow this. RAB wants this to be a nice/safe improvement for the community. Beach drive will remain 2 way traffic.

C-sounds like it will be a nice improvement.

C-Deb/We understand why so many of you were upset. There were many rumors circulating. Hopefully tonight’s dialog helped

C-We have a better understanding of the project now

Q-Why are there not ADA bathrooms in Rec Center A- Mitch explained there is a project currently underway to bring Rec bathrooms into ADA compliance.

Q-Does plan allow for ADA beach access A-possibly in the future

C-citizen called Rec about meeting and person who answered phone seemed unsure when it was. Not on website A-Eileen, you have to click on advisory tab on LT website.

C- Mitch discussed how there seems to be a lot of rumors and misinformation being circulated. Clarified many concerns of those in attendance.

C-Thank you RAB there was a lot of misinformation out there.

Superintendent's Report

See attached

Tiger Girls program so successful they added a Tiger Boys program

Remarks for Good of the Order

Eileen- Received letter for Bike Path...looks good, Steve-Liked the way the meeting ended. Hope everyone listened to the facts not rumor and they tell their friends, Mark- Thank you everyone, especially Steve and congratulations to Luke, Luke-everyone did a nice job

Motion to Adjourn 9:24pm

Motion- Mike Laing

Second- Bruce Fournier

Next RAB Meeting Thursday May 22, 2014

Chairman's Signature: _____

Secretary's Signature: _____

Date Approved: _____

RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

April 24, 2014

SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT

PROGRAMS IN PROGRESS

1. YOUTH LACROSSE 125+ CHILDREN
2. YOUTH SPRING SOCCER 300+ CHILDREN
3. ADULT ZUMBA- WEEKLY (GOOD ATTENDANCE)
4. ADULT YOGA- WEEKLY (GOOD ATTENDANCE)
5. COMMUNITY DAY- SATURDAY MAY 31, 2014
6. TRIATHLON- JUNE 8, 2014
7. INDEPENDENCE DAY FESTIVAL- JULY 3, 2013
8. COOMBS DOUGLASS MEMORIAL BAYRUN- AUGUST 2, 2014
9. TIGER GIRLS PROGRAM
10. TIGER BOYS PROGRAM

IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

1. IMPROVEMENTS @ CLEM MULLIGAN PARK
2. PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENTS @ MINDY PARK
3. PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENTS @ RECREATION CENTER
4. ADA IMPROVEMENTS @ RECREATION CENTER
5. INFORMATIONAL SIGN @ FREEMAN DOUGLASS PARK
6. FIELD MAINTENANCE IMPROVEMENT @ FREEMAN DOUGLASS PARK
7. RESURFACE OF TOWNSHIP POOL
8. CONVERSION OF WATER SANITIZATION SYSTEM @ TOWNSHIP POOL
9. BASEBALL WARNING TRACK @ FREEMAN DOUGLASS PARK