

Township of Lower  
Recreation Advisory Board  
Minutes

Thursday January 16, 2014

Lower Township Recreation Center, Conference Room

**Call to Order Deb Johns 7:05pm**

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

Not In Attendance: excused, Eileen Kreis

**Approval of Minutes from December 13, 2013**

Motion to Accept-Deb Johns                      Second- Mark DiDonato

All in agreement

**New Business**

Re-Organization 1) Deb Johns motion to maintain Bruce Fournier as recording secretary  
Second Mark DiDonato Unanimous 2) Deb Johns motion to maintain Mark DiDonato Deputy  
Chairman Second Lonnie Bedell Unanimous 3) Mark DiDonato motion to maintain Deb Johns as  
Chairman Second Lonnie Bedell Unanimous

Steve Morey coordinated a review of the master plan. Advised all board members to read, take notes and areas needing updates. Changes can be discussed at next meeting. Steve Morey will re-draft introduction and add footnotes to credit sources of information. Mitch will review inventory and '12, '13 participation numbers. Mitch will also add program descriptions.

Open discussion on RAB Goals & Objectives: Steve suggested we use more general terms for goals and list specific projects in the yearly Capital Improvements Recommendations. All agreed. Steve suggested updating/review of section V Recommendations for Future Parks and Recreation Facilities. Also, include 5 projects and get more detail of timeframe/scope of work. Get commitment in writing from appropriate department head and map. Pending approved projects:

- 1) DE Bay Public Access
- 2) Fishing Pier
- 3) Bike Path
- 4) Expansion of Douglass Park
- 5) Pool

Discussion as to where to put (what year) the Pool in M/P. Mitch suggested a detailed cost analysis be performed. Steve explained the RAB is responsible for advising when this project should be initiated and how it will be maintained. He also suggested putting the 5 projects (already pending) in the 5 year M/P. Possibly one each year.

David Pacevich suggested raising funds or seeking private donors to fund pool. Mitch explained this would be very difficult, extremely expensive and that since public funds would be used for the project, the public would be less likely to add more money from their pocket. Maybe we put "raise funds" in objectives section.

Steve and Deb suggested the RAB get more information on the 5 projects for next meeting to help figure what year would each should be added. Deb asked everyone to review section 4 and 5 of M/P. Also, look at 5 year Capital Projects and discuss in greater detail at next meeting.

## **Old Business**

- 1) Mitch provided an update on possible land swap between township and state. Dave Golden got promoted so the state is in a transition period, Mitch will need to reach out to the person taking his place. The township land is appealing to the state and the outlook is positive: 20 acres of LT property near public works for property behind Douglass Park and land ownership to township. Steve questioned who is pushing to get this deal completed. Mitch said that Golden wants to initiate action on his end and will follow up with Mitch.
- 2) Superintendent's Report: 400+ at Ferry Merry Christmas, great turn out. Elks Tom Beheler Greater Cape May Youth basketball tournament growing each year/successful. In next two years it is anticipated we will have over 50 teams. 12/31 New Year's Eve party, 300+ in youth basketball program. Travel basketball underway. Tiger teens in their 5<sup>th</sup> month...40+ girls in each meeting. Plans in the works to establish same club for Boy's with the help of Erik Simonsen. Sea Isle agreed to allow boys to (40-50) jr. high age to enjoy new skate park free of charge.

Adult basketball league ready to start (ages 25+), with very strict guidelines to monitor misconduct. Focus for 2014 ADULT RECREATION: Beach volleyball at JH park. Escape tri moving along...expecting 1,000-1,500 participants. Youth programs added to the Escape for Saturday 6/7/14. Steve asked what the status of Tennis and Basketball resurfacing project. Mitch explained it was repaired but it is only short term fix.

### **Remarks for Good of the Order**

Luke- asked if funding (budget) for new projects could be put on the agenda. He also suggested raising private funds for rec projects. Steve explained the difficulty of raising the millions of dollars it would cost for most of our projects. These are big ticket items. Deb-First wedding was held at Millman Center (about 40 people) and event scheduled for about 150 booked in Feb. Many groups have signed on to hold meetings at the newly remodeled center. Be sure to stop by and see it! David-He is running a volunteer recognition program at LCMR and is looking for names of people to honor.

### **Motion to Adjourn 8:35pm**

Motion- Michael Laing

Second- Lonnie Bedell jr

Next RAB Meeting    Thursday February 20, 2014