

EAST HANOVER PARKS AND RECREATION

MEETING MINUTES for January 8th 2018

Board Members Present:

Steve Espenshade, Karen Zemitis, Laurie Reichert, Yvonne Sharrow

Board Members Absent:

Rick Smith, Dave Hamaty, Karen Henry

Park and Rec Director:

Anthea Stebbins

Meeting Guest:

Thank you Paul Cornell for attending our P&R meeting tonight. Paul shared with us his insight and knowledge on the General Fund and the inclusion of the Park & Recreation Funds (P & R). Comments and explanations noted below.

Meeting called to order at 7:02 PM

- Previous month's minutes for December 2017 were approved. Motion for approval by Laurie Reichert, 2nd by Karen Zemitis. Motion approved by all present, 4-0.
- P&R Funds Report for December 2017 was reviewed.
- Karen Zemitis asked of Paul Cornell to explain why the P & R Funds were moved into the General Fund? P & R Funds are unrestricted funds, which means they are not designated and/or restricted to specific projects or budgets. The Township must apply for additional funding to complete the 2nd half of the DEP mandated project. By having all of its funds consolidated into the General Fund, it provides leverage and makes for a cleaner presentation to financial sources approached by the Township for additional funding.
- East Hanover Township gets monies from Gaming. The concern is that this might not be consistent over time and could diminish. We should not rely on these funds to operate. Budget for East Hanover P & R Fund is line-itemed in the 2018 General Budget. Fees that are duplicated will be combined (i.e. bank fees). In the future, the Township should consider a "Recreation" tax that residents would pay for additional public open space and recreation services in the Township. These funds would be "restricted" and used only for Parks and Recreation programming.
- Challenge: How do we convince residents of the Township that P & R is a necessity justifying a Recreation Tax? How do we draw people to Township recreational activities and further enhance the need for recreation within the Township? It would provide a stronger economic base. Commercial business contributes more to the Township tax base than residential, with few exceptions. How do we increase the tax base, which helps the General Fund (more leverage for borrowing) while establishing and promoting a source of restricted monies (i.e. recreation tax) for the Parks & Recreation projects moving forward?

- Brief discussion on the renovation of the bottom floor. If the bottom floor is renovated, must the whole building be renovated/updated? Would a new building built on the property be a more prudent investment than renovating the existing structure? More to come on this subject. \$14,700 (estimate) for design, and full codes inspection of the existing building.

P/R Directors Report

- Volunteer Service hours for December, 2017: 171 hours.
- Authorization from the BOS to further discuss the Summer Concert Series.
- Upcoming Business Opportunity Interest Letter to promote sponsorships from area businesses for P & R events.
- Residents' requests for activities (list was provided).
- Further investigate a "Day in the Life of a Farmer" on John Geesaman's farm for October, 2018.
- Volunteer sign-in sheet at each event tracks volunteers and hours.
- Tomlinson Bomberger proposal for ball fields: \$3000.
- Playground repairs – audit to be done by certified inspector for both playgrounds. Then consider improvements, repairs, and costs.
- Program request for inaugural Turkey Trot 5K Run/Walk on Thanksgiving Day. More discussion to come and planning committee to be formed.
- Summer Concert Series – Solicitor developing a proposal for event -specific VFW property rental terms.
- January 24th at 7P Trails & Greenways Committee meeting.

Old Business:

- Santa Breakfast went well.
- Horseshoe Trail directional posts - (2) were purchased.

New Business

- Valentine Family Party – 2/9/18
- Indoor Yard Sale – 2/3/18
- Day in the Life of a Farmer – Proposed for October, 2018. What are the expectations? Planning and commitment involved with organizing it. Laurie can check with John Geesaman.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:16 PM

- Laurie Reichert made motion, 2nd by Karen Zemitis. Motion approved by all present. 4-0

Next Park and Rec Board Meeting

- February 5th – 7pm

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