

**COLLIER TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION BOARD
MINUTES OF MARCH 15, 2021 MEETING**

- I. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m., and a quorum was present.

Roll call: Mary Popeck, Eric Ives, Matt Shipton, Anna Ewing

Dan Styche (present as both Commissioner/Parks & Recreation Oversight and President/Friends of Collier Parks & Recreation)

Mary Beth Birks, Director/Parks & Recreation

- II. Minutes of the February 15, 2021 meeting were previously approved via email to/from the Board members.
- III. There were no public comments or guests.
- IV. Committee Reports

According to the Bylaws, there are three committees (Park Oversight, Special Events, and Public Relations). However, all committees have been suspended until a need arises. Any activity that would have been undertaken by one of the committees will be addressed at a regular Board meeting.

Friends Report by Anna Ewing: Friends anticipates the distribution of their first newsletter sometime this spring. There are two remaining raffle baskets (Penguins and Pittsburgh Pirates themed) with available tickets for purchase. More information is available on the Township website and on Facebook (Friends of Collier Parks & Recreation). Friends is looking into sponsoring a fall mum sale. Plans for the spaghetti dinner fundraiser are on hold due to the ongoing Covid restrictions. There was a discussion regarding expansion of the Panhandle Trail into Carnegie and a safety concern relative to a homeless situation and the use of drugs on parts of the proposed connection, in particular the use of heroine. Police are currently unable to access that portion of the road to address these problems. However, expansion of the Panhandle Trail into Carnegie would provide police access to that portion of the road. It was suggested that the installation of a wire fence might also make part of the proposed connection safer. Friends was advised of the resignations of Anthony Vitale and Diane Kuppelweiser, the Board positions which are now open, and the names of the new officers. The April cleanup will be held this year, most likely on April 24. The bridge on Nike Site Road will be closed to both lanes of travel at the beginning of April. That closure is expected to last 137 days. Collierfest is scheduled to take place the fourth weekend in September. The checks and order form for the memorial stone for Holly McIlree were given to Dan Styche. Friends also received three \$100 donations in Holly's memory from the Collier Historical Society, Sal Sirabella and Matt Swider.

There were no other committee reports.

V. Parks & Recreation Department Report

Mary Beth Birks introduced herself and provided some personal/professional background information. Having just started as Director, she is still in an organizational phase. She is working with the various sports organizations regarding their upcoming seasons. The “pink” basketball poles at Webb Park have been painted red. Mary Beth has toured the Township parks to familiarize herself with the park amenities. All of the concerts in the park have been booked. Movies in the park may possibly be held in June/July/August. Hockey was given the go-ahead to proceed with its schedule. Mary Beth is in the process of having a spring brochure designed which will be available on the Township website rather than being mailed. The brochure will advertise upcoming events and general information about what the Community Center has to offer. There was a discussion as to whether any relief will be afforded to the members for loss of use of the facilities due to Covid. There is also a possibility that a student membership may be offered. The total number of current members was unavailable, but new members have recently joined. An outdoor Easter Egg Hunt will be sponsored by a gun violence group, which will include a visit by the Easter Bunny.

VI. Old Business

Collier Township Comprehensive Plan – The report has not yet been finalized. It is believed that the Plan includes changing the upper soccer field into a multi-purpose field to accommodate T-ball games.

We await clarification as to whether or not the Board of Commissioners has approved the revised Bylaws.

There are still two permanent positions and two alternate positions available on the Board. Both Mary Popeck and Anna Ewing know of someone who may be interested. They will be contacted and encouraged to attend the April meeting. Dan Styche requested that he be notified of potential new members planning to attend the meeting.

VII. New Business

Township Website: Kyle Thauvette takes care of any website updates. There was a lengthy discussion regarding changes to the Parks & Recreation Board link. The names of the officers/members will be posted on the website, and a request will be submitted to Kyle Thauvette for a Township email address for the Board members. Rather than having to click multiple times to find the Township Boards/Commissions, it was suggested that the main page be revised to make this information more visible.

Report by Dan Styche: The dog park is open. The four benches which were donated at a cost of \$1,500 each have been installed, three of which have plaques. Pending approval of a grant, water will be supplied to the dog park and to a restroom facility near the dog

park. Approval of a second grant will provide additional parking for the dog park. A 50/50 grant has already been approved which will enable construction of an electrical sign at the entrance of Collier Park. The grant will cover \$20,000 of the \$40,000 cost, and the Township and Friends will each contribute \$10,000. Two of the three tennis courts at Webb Park will remain tennis courts. The third tennis court was converted to two pickleball courts. Construction of a separate entrance to the pickleball courts at Collier Park is scheduled to commence. Changes to Hilltop Park include installation of a “friendly” surface and new equipment. Possible long-term Township plans include the erection of another facility in Collier Park which will be more of a multi-purpose building.

VIII. Board Member Comments

Mary Popeck mentioned that she has not yet been re-appointed as a Board member as her term expired in December 2020. Dan Styche advised that members typically serve until they are replaced or re-appointed. He also advised that he will present Mary’s re-appointment along with new Board member appointments to the Commissioners when the new members are identified.

Matt Shipton suggested that a notice be sent via “constant contacts” to alert the public that the Community Center and Molly’s Dog Park are open. He also suggested changes to the Township website which would make it easier to locate information without having to click on multiple links.

The next meeting of the Board will take place at the Community Center on April 19, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.