

**COLLIER TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION BOARD
MINUTES OF APRIL 18, 2022 MEETING**

- I. The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m. A quorum was present.

Roll call

Present: Mary Popeck, Sue Harford, Anna Ewing, Dr. Jeff Witman, Matt Shipton, Kyle Robinson, Alicia Guarnaccio; Josh Werner, Director/Parks & Recreation; Deb Zymroz, Commissioner

Absent: Lori Ferguson

- II. Minutes of the March 21, 2022 meeting were previously approved via email to/from the Board members.

- III. Public Comments/Acknowledgement of Guest(s):

There were no public comments.

- IV. Committee reports:

Earth Day/April 23, 2022, beginning at 9:00 a.m. – This event will be handled by Public Works; however, the Parks and Recreation Department will provide donuts/coffee in the morning and a pizza lunch following the cleanup. Approximately 30-40 people are expected to participate. Volunteers from the Board are not necessary.

- V. Friends Report by Anna Ewing:

Friends received the resignations of two of its trustees, Sarah Brown and Kyle Linner, due to time constraints on their schedules.

The cost of the playground/splash pad is significant (approximately \$600,000) and will require a matching amount to be paid by Collier Township. Hopefully, funding via a grant will be forthcoming in the future.

Food Truck Vendors – Kyle Linner advised of the issues he has encountered with regard to the scheduling of food truck vendors for the soccer games, concerts in the park, etc. He further advised of his resignation at the conclusion of today's meeting. Responsibility for the food truck vendors will once again be handled by the Parks and Recreation Department.

Monument Path Stones – Both Mary Ann Cupples-Wisniowski and Deb Zymroz advised of the problems they have encountered with the two large memorial stones which have been ordered and the one to be ordered in memory of Dan Styche. Absent a response from Collier Stone, Mary Ann will contact the persons who ordered the stones to see if they want a refund or if they want Friends to continue their attempts to fill the orders.

Mary Ann Cupples-Wisniowski suggested the possibility of selling soap and candles as a future fundraiser in lieu of a fall mum sale. She will provide additional information at the May meeting. Deb Zymroz suggested a Christmas fundraiser with Applelicious, which is located in Carnegie.

Mary Ann Cupples-Wisniowski advised that the township received a \$100,000 grant from the county, which will be used for construction of a restroom on the Panhandle Trail near the dog park, to extend the road from the stockyard to the trail, and to run a water supply line from the trail to the stockyard (which currently has no source of water).

Dave Brown notified Mary Ann Cupples-Wisniowski of his intent to donate three trees in memory of Anthony Zymroz, Officer Brown, and Dan Styche. Public Works will plant the trees.

VI. Parks & Recreation Department Report by Josh Werner:

A. Sport Associations – Josh has entered into discussions with the soccer/baseball/softball associations with regard to fundraising possibilities to help defray the cost of the improvements requested by these organizations. A discussion ensued regarding the \$7,000 which has been given to the baseball association in past years with no accountability for spending. That \$7,000 will now be used to help defray the cost of field improvements. The Char-Valley High School softball team has agreed to contribute \$2,500 for their use of the field at Webb Park (small Webb field). There was also a discussion with regard to turning large Webb field into two smaller fields. It was also brought to the attention of Friends that the lights at Webb Park remain on throughout the night. Going forward, the coach/manager of the last game played will be responsible for turning off the lights. Also discussed was the use of the fields by associations located in Scott Township, Bridgeville and Heidelberg since the cost of maintaining the fields is absorbed 100% by Collier Township with no contribution from any of the neighboring communities. Josh proposed that the Parks and Recreation Department assume responsibility for registration fees, field usage fees, etc. for these sports instead of the associations, which would then allow the Parks and Recreation Department to use the fees to improve the fields/parks.

B. Summer Camp will be held from 9:00 a.m. to Noon (extended camp from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.). The program design will include different themes. Angie (front desk employee) will organize the activities. A pickleball summer camp will also be offered from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Josh and Alicia Guarnaccio will organize this camp.

C. Sports Camps will include basketball. Practices will be held outside, and the games will be played inside.

D. Other Programs/Events – Six children signed up for Collier Kids Club, an in-house pre-school program. Fifteen people signed up for the adult craft night. One hundred people signed up for the Bunny Breakfast the first day it was advertised. The first bus trip is completely sold out. The youth volleyball skills clinic had 42 people register, and flag football has 35.

VII. Old Business

Community Center Employment – Four front desk positions were filled (two retirees, one college student, one high school student); however, one of the retirees has already resigned.

New Hours – The Community Center will be open until 6:00 p.m. on Saturday and until 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. The weekday schedule may be extended to 9:00 p.m. at some point in the near future.

Collier Park – The cost of the playground/splash pad is significant (approximately \$600,000) and will require a matching amount to be paid by Collier Township. Hopefully, funding via a grant will be forthcoming in the future.

Hilltop Park – Josh will recommend that Public Works install a temporary fence along the hillside to avoid any potential accidents. The new grill has arrived but has yet to be installed.

Kelly Park – A new basketball hoop will be installed.

Collier Park Electronic Sign Area – Regrading the dirt and planting grass in this area has yet to be completed.

Webb Park – Josh received a quote of \$81,000 for the cost to repair (not replace) the surface of the tennis and pickleball courts. Additional bids are being sought. The new grill has been delivered but has yet to be installed.

Skvarka Park – It has come to the attention of the Department that people are using this park as late as 2:00 a.m. A sign will be posted that the park is open from dawn to dusk only.

Presto Park – Parking at this park is virtually nonexistent. Fortunately, this park is mainly used by nearby residents who are able to walk to the park.

TJ Court – The basketball court is in dire need of repairs; however, the \$30,000 cost for repairs is problematic.

Park Signs – The new “park” signs have been ordered and will be installed throughout the community.

Membership Discounts – Josh compiled a list of the groups that he would recommend receive a membership discount. The Board members agreed that the commissioners, part-time/full-time township employees, board members, police, fire departments (Rennerdale, Presto, Kirwan Heights), Collier EMS, and active military personnel should receive a 50% discount for each eligible individual and a 25% discount for their families. A discount would not be offered for the rentals of the banquet room, party room or pavilions. Josh will submit this recommendation to the commissioners for approval.

Projects/Repairs – Josh continues to maintain and update a spreadsheet of the work to be performed by Public Works. If any Board members become aware of any projects

which need attention, you are encouraged to contact Josh. One such project is re-attaching the gutter to the Community Center. Projects such as weeding and mulching at the Community Center are usually not a priority due to time constraints of the Public Works personnel. In the Board's opinion, this reflects poorly on the overall appearance of one of the main focal points of the community and should be given a higher priority.

VIII. New Business

Silver Sneakers Program – Beginning on April 18, 2022, the Community Center received approval to offer this program. Anyone with a Silver Sneakers card will be able to use the track and cardio equipment and will have access to the pickleball courts on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The Silver Sneakers program will pay the Parks and Recreation Department \$2.50 each time a member signs in, with a maximum payment of \$20 per member each month. Currently, there are approximately 1,800 Silver Sneakers members within a five-mile radius of the Community Center. The Community Center must maintain a log-in of 50+ members per month to continue eligibility for this program.

Rental Fees – Josh and the Board agreed that there should be an increase in the rental fees for the township pavilions, party room and banquet room. He will present his recommendation to the commissioners for approval. The rental fees have not been increased for many years.

New Meeting Date – Josh requested that the monthly meeting be moved to a different weekday, and the Board agreed to honor his request. The May 16, 2022 meeting will take place as scheduled. Thereafter, the monthly meeting will take place on the fourth Tuesday of the month, beginning on June 28, 2022.

IX. Board Member Comments

It was recommended that the gates to Collier Park be closed at dusk and opened at dawn. It was also recommended that either a temporary or permanent cover be installed over the patio outside the banquet room since this would allow for an increase in the number of people who could attend a function held in the banquet room.

X. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

XI. The next meeting of the Board will take place at the Community Center on May 16, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.