

South Fayette Township

Parks and Recreation Board Meeting

April 9, 2019

1. **CALL TO ORDER** at 6:02 PM by Carl Helbling
2. **ROLL CALL** - Carl Helbling -Deb Whitewood -Tim Mantick -Jason Mount -Mary Chambon
-Barb Senatore -Paula Willis -Ron Miller (by phone)

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion to approve March 2019 minutes by Barb, seconded by Tim. All in favor.

4. **PERSONS REQUESTING TIME & CORRESPONDENCE** – none

5. **OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A. Storage Unit at Fairview Park- Deb asked Township Manager, John Barrett, what was the status of the storage unit? John indicated that none of the internal locations within Fairview Park that were suggested were a real option. The plan is to have a third party dismantle it and rebuild it beside/behind the existing public works building.

Tim Mantick questioned what is the issue with the building staying where it is located? John indicated that it is the consensus of the Board of Commissioners that the unit should be moved.

Commissioner Lisa Malosh indicated that her personal thoughts were that there never was a plan for a large building to be at the entrance of Fairview Park and she does not want to use public recreation space for public works storage. Commissioner Gwen Rodi explained that the BOC has a process to approve such things, and it was not followed for this project. Lisa Malosh added that there was an interim manager and mistakes were made. There is a lot of inaccurate information and inconsistent communication that unfortunately surrounded this project.

Tim Mantick indicated that Public Works Director, Butch, had given a large estimate to move and rebuild this structure, upwards of \$40,000. The commissioners indicated they had not been given dollar amounts yet. Gwen Rodi explained that this structure took away recreational space, and it needed to be corrected. Tim Mantick asked who was using the space? Barb and Deb, who indicated that they frequent Fairview Park on a daily basis, both said that they had seen neighborhood children using the basketball courts on many occasions, especially after school.

Lisa Malosh indicated that she had received feedback from the people who use Fairview Park on a regular basis. They had used the space and can't any longer. They don't want to see a big Public Works building at the entrance of the park.

Gwen Rodi explained that this is a BOC operational issue and the BOC has all of the information necessary. This issue needs to be closed.

John Barrett agreed saying this is an operational issue. We need to move on from here. We need to learn from this so we don't find ourselves in this place again.

B. Parks Master Plan

Tim Mantick asked what is the status of the PMP and the company we hired, HRG?

John Barrett indicated that HRG will not be coming to the BOC meeting tomorrow. The BOC is looking to review the plan park by park before we bring HRG in with a final plan. The BOC members have all had an opportunity to

view the preliminary plan. They will get the paper copies of the preliminary plan tomorrow. John indicated that he will facilitate what has been done thus far and review things with the BOC.

Lisa Malosh asked what was the PR Board's role in the PMP?

Tim Mantick answered that we reviewed the different companies and we chose to recommend HRG to the BOC. We created the steering committee by submitting names, along with Paula. From there on out the steering committee did the work with HRG.

Lisa Malosh indicated that she personally feels that we spent a good bit of money to develop a plan that is beyond the capabilities of the community. She further indicated that Morgan Park is historically a center point of the community, and to see the plan allocate it to public works space does not sit well with her personally. The fields are not perfect, but with the preliminary plan, we lose a field, plus we ask families who live on one end of the township to go all the way to the other side of the township for a baseball game. Finally, she added, the BOC is the visionary for the community, but they were never asked for their opinions on the parks. If they had been approached the commissioners could have directed the vision of HRG and the steering committee.

Carl Helbling asked, as a resident, how does an individual get information about the vision of the township?

Lisa Malosh answered, come to a BOC meeting, ask the commissioners, send an email, make a phone call.

Mary Chambon added that we had no idea that this was heading towards a \$33 million project. It would have been beneficial to know the financial thoughts of the BOC.

Gwen Rodi asked, "So no PR Board Members were involved in the planning phase with the steering committee?"

Deb, Mary and Barb answered no. Deb indicated that we would have a different product if the PR Board had been a part of the steering committee.

John indicated that he had assumed that the PR Board had been reviewing the HRG plan all along each month. That hasn't happened and it needs to. The PR Board needs to be comfortable with the plan before it is presented to the BOC.

Deb Whitewood asked as part of the review process, could an email be sent to the BOC seeking input.

Lisa Malosh said yes, but her suggestions would be make the plan financially realistic, it can have some bells and whistles for which we could seek grants, but make this separate. The plan should build on what we currently have and not create everything from scratch.

Ron Miller asked was there not a township representative on the steering committee. Deb answered that yes, Commissioner Becky Sray was on the steering committee.

John Barrett asked how are we going to advance this project? We use the systems that we have in place to communicate. We take the plan that you (the PR Board) have massaged and turn it into something functional for the community.

Deb indicated that the PR Board has not yet had a chance to massage the plan and make it more palatable. Barb Senatore said we need to know what the limitations are as we move forward.

Lisa Malosh asked if someone could explain the philosophy behind moving all of the ballfields out of Morgan Park? How many parents does it actually affect who have to split their presence at different fields at different parks?

Tim indicated that he does not know the number of families that it affects, but there are approximately 480 families in the SFBSA. Tim indicated that he would rather have all of the fields in one park so that parents can walk to different kids' games, not drive between parks.

Tom Sinton, SF Soccer President, stated that the soccer program needs more fields. Can we get the demographics of how they (the steering committee) made their decisions on the fields? He questioned whether the survey was representative of the entire community. John indicated that he could get a copy of the preliminary plan which had the demographics in it.

Gwen Rodi indicated that there was no increase of fields or area for football, soccer or cheerleading.

Lisa Malosh said that the plan had more single use fields than multipurpose fields.

Jason Miller, a member of the steering committee, asked where do you put extra fields? He indicated that the steering committee carefully looked at each park and tried to enhance it. The survey was the driving impetus for the planning. It was a natural progression to end up with sports specific parks. For example, tennis, there is a desire to work with the school district in developing areas that the school teams could use. As for Morgan Park, Jason indicated that the steering committee felt it was best to cut our losses as it is a poor representative of our community. He asked, "to what standard do we want to hold ourselves to?" And as to the cost discussion, Jason stated, "the SF community is very different than it was even five years ago and expectations are different. Look to our neighbors and see how our parks compare."

Gwen Rodi interjected that this was a perfect example of how if the BOC had been contacted, they could have shared that they were in discussion with the school district about the district building tennis courts at Preservation Park. Gwen asked "have all of the athletic groups been addressed as part of this process?" Yes, they were part of the key persons interviews conducted by HRG.

Mary Chambon indicated that it is evident that SF is experiencing growing pains. We need to find a way to prioritize. We also need to look at corporate sponsorships for park improvements.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Role of the Parks and Recreation Board

John Barrett indicated that he had planned on a discussion of the role of the PR Board in SF, however given the length of the meeting thus far, this could be postponed until next month. He distributed copies of an article from the DCNR which gives their overview of the big picture role of PR Boards in their communities. He can provide a link to the entire article via email.

John said we need to improve communications between the PR Board and entities such as the BOC because there is a need for balance with financial need/request and the township's ability to provide. John indicated that Paula would be providing him with a monthly progress report and future goals, and that he would be sharing that document with the BOC and the PR Board.

At our next meeting we will discuss how to use our time more efficiently, how to use the systems that are in place better, and what we all anticipate our role to be.

7. Director's Report

A. See attached monthly report

B. Community Cleanup Day is April 15th. Gather at the SF Firehall

C. May 8th will be the swing dedication at 4 PM at Morgan Park Playground

8. Open Discussion- none

9. Motion to Adjourn made by Tim and seconded by Jason, all agreed, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 7th at 6 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Whitewood

PR Board Secretary

April 10, 2019