

# LAWRENCE PARK TOWNSHIP RECREATION BOARD MEETING

January 8, 2012

7:30 pm

4230 Iroquois Avenue

Present Board Members: Corey Bartlett, Jim VanDyne, Tom Roberts, Al Gesler,  
Steve Cabaday, Commissioner Tom Renshaw

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Corey Bartlett at 7:32 pm January 8.

It was noted that Chairman Bartlett was not officially re-appointed and therefore not technically on the board but Commissioner Renshaw assured members that this will be done at the very next meeting on January 10. Mr. Bartlett was re-elected unanimously to chairman in expectation of the official reappointment and Mr. VanDyne was chosen as secretary by unanimous vote on motions by Tom Roberts and seconded by Al Gesler. Members discussed that the School district needs to appoint a student to represent the student body, Mr. Cabaday assured this would be a topic for the next school board meeting. Also noted was the failure of member Tom Roberts to attend for some months. Decision as to his current status will be considered later.

Mr. Renshaw advised that three dances are tentatively planned for the summer of 2012 with the first July 3<sup>rd</sup> and the others to be determined later.

Mr. Renshaw stated that the barriers have not been set to block the boat ramp due to the mildness of the weather and the fact that it was still being used by duck hunters. However, he expects to be having the barriers set soon for the season.

Mr. Renshaw also advised that the fish ladders installed on Four-Mile Creek are working but that they are going to try to "tune" them up a bit so that they work even better. He also said that he is looking into break waters for the bluff areas along the Lawrence Park shoreline to prevent further erosion of Lawrence Park properties and said that some discussions with officials in Harrisburg indicate that there may be funding available for this.

Mr. Renshaw said that he plans to set up a Fourth of July Committee and will be looking for residents to volunteer to be on this committee.

Meeting adjourned on a motion from Tom Roberts, seconded by Al Gesler and unanimously accepted at 7:43 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 7:43 pm.

**LAWRENCE PARK TOWNSHIP  
RECREATION BOARD MEETING**

**February 5, 2012**

**7:30 pm**

**4230 Iroquois Avenue**

**MEETING  
CANCELLED**

# LAWRENCE PARK TOWNSHIP RECREATION BOARD MEETING

March 4, 2012

7:30 pm

4230 Iroquois Avenue

The meeting was called to order by President Corey Bartlett at 7:30pm. Present were Corey Bartlett, Al Gesler, Steven Cabaday, Tom Brown, Jim VanDyne, and Commissioner Jean Rodemaker.

Commissioner Rodemaker state that she was happy to work with the Recreation Planning Board and advised that she did not intend to be a "yes-man" and wants the children of the community to be involved in the Recreation Board Activities which will get them outdoors being active rather than being sedentary indoors.

A Recreation Board walk-through of the parks will be April 28 at 9:00 am beginning at the Lawrence Park Boat Ramp Park.

By unanimous consensus, the board planned to open the Township playground activities on June 11th and end them August 17<sup>th</sup>.

There was much discussion of the 2012 street dances. Consensus was reached that the attendance dropped off after several dances in 2011 when bicyclists and skateboarders were banned from the dance area. It was recalled by several board members that in prior years when the dances were better attended, no restrictions were made on the bicyclists. The board arrived at a general consensus that a more moderate approach to the bicyclists and skate boarders should be taken, at least until it can be determined that all can be safe with the situation.

A disc jockey will be sought who will play music popular among the junior and senior-high students. Several D.J.'s are being looked into by several members and a decision will be made a little later this Spring.

Commissioner Rodemaker advises that there are at least seven bands being considered for the Concerts at Beute Park this season. Tentative dates were set for June 20<sup>th</sup>, July 11<sup>th</sup>, August 1<sup>st</sup>, August 15<sup>th</sup>, and August 29<sup>th</sup>.

The Fourth of July Parade was discussed. Commissioner Rodemaker, who also sits on the Party on Main Street Committee, said that the businessmen's association wants the Parade to start in the Iroquois High School parking lot and progress down the traditional route (From the school parking lot, out Field Street, down Napier, up Main Street to Smithson and then disperse) with the General Electric parking lots on Water Street to be used for attendees parking and a trolley to be used as a shuttle-bus to and from the parking lots. Several board members advised her that the single biggest complaint from the people attending last year was that the trolley was too small and ran too slow too often. Ms. Rodemaker said the businessmen wanted to set up as soon as possible after the parade so as not to lose too much of the crowd once the parade ended.

It was pointed out by Mr. Gesler and others that with the old route, the business men would have to wait until the tail of the parade completed its circuit before they could begin setting up sidewalk vending, whereas with the route used two years ago (beginning at the GE parking lots, going up Main to Smithson to Field and then to Napier and back to the G.E. lots) the vending could be set up after the tail end of the parade cleared Main Street about a full 45 minutes sooner than the other way.

It was also pointed out that the parade has become so big that it could not fit into the high school parking lot and that the fire trucks would block part of Iroquois Avenue which would violate the orders of PennDot. A member also pointed out that the new route would allow the high school parking lot to be used for parking for the attendees from the beginning and that once the parade ended, the G.E. lots would then be available for over-flow parking.

Further planning will take place next month.

Ms. Rodemaker also state that she wants to see the "movies in the park" revived. Board members agreed. It was noted that DVD projectors have come down in price and that a license to show movies for free should be affordable.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

## LAWRENCE PARK TOWNSHIP RECREATION BOARD MEETING

April 1, 2012

7:30 pm

4230 Iroquois Avenue

Present: Chairman Corey Bartlett, Tom Roberts, Steve Cabaday, Jim Van Dyne, Al Gesler, Township Commissioner Jean Rodemaker and employee Carl Vitale.

Chairman Bartlett called the meeting to order at 7:30pm. Minutes of the March 4 meeting were accepted with a motion from Mr. Cabaday and seconded by Mr. Roberts.

Mr. Bartlett advised that Darlene Alfieri had previously agreed to help with the parade as she has in prior years but he does not have a phone number and has been unable to contact. Mr. Van Dyne volunteered to contact her by placing a note on her door as he knows where she and her husband lives.

Mr. Bartlett opened discussion on the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade. Ms. Rodemaker advised that she thinks the businessmen's group is on board with the plan to route the parade from the G.E. Parking lot in light that this would give them extra time to set up for the afternoon party but that the police chief has expressed trouble with this plan for security reasons and the fire companies complaint that the G.E. parking lots are too dusty when they have just washed their trucks for the parade. Ms. Rodemaker also revealed new plans to place a large band-stand diagonally at Smithson and Main Streets in order to project music the length of Main Street. Discussion on the routing of the parade ensued. Points noted by various members parking lot as the parade has grown so large and in the 2011 parade, this was tried with the result that over-flow fire trucks were backed-up down Iroquois awaiting the start of the parade and that the trucks are not allowed to block Iroquois because it is a state route. It was noted that the fire companies have taken the position of refusing to participate if required to start from the G.E. lot and join the parade at Main Street if the other elements start in the high school lot. One suggestion was that the fire trucks start at the old Tanner lot at the East end of Bell Street and join the parade as it exits the high school lot was shown to be impractical as the turns from Bell onto Smithson and then from Smithson onto Field would be very difficult for large trucks. Plans were made for the Recreation Board to meet with the planning committee for the Party on Main Street to work out the plan.

Ms. Rodemaker said that the playgrounds will open on June 7, hiring is progressing for summer staff. She said bands are being line up for Wednesday night concerts. She also revealed that there are talks with the Pastor about returning the street dances to the St. Mark's parking lot on Morse Street but an agreement is still being negotiated.

Ms. Rodemaker said that she is hoping to arrange free pony rides at the Priestley Avenue Park for one day this summer, sponsored by a business. In addition, she has also been talking to Zoo officials about the possibility of camel rides on another day.

Mr. Bartlett noted that the next meeting is the park walk-through planned for 9am on April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

Mr. Roberts moved for adjournment and Mr. Cabaday seconded with unanimous acclaim at 8:23 pm.

## LAWRENCE PARK TOWNSHIP RECREATION BOARD MEETING

May 6, 2012

7:30 pm

4230 Iroquois Avenue

Recreation Board President Corey Bartlett called the meeting to order at 7:30pm. In attendance were Mr. Bartlett, James Van Dyne, Al Gesler, Tom Roberts and Jean Rodemaker. Tom Brown, Eric Brown and Steve Cabaday were absent.

Minutes of the April meeting were unanimously accepted on a motion from Mr. Roberts.

Mr. Roberts expressed disappointment over the parade route chosen by the Township Commissioners proposed by the parade committee over the Recreation Board's recommendation. He remarked that their committee had made criticisms of the way the Recreation Board did many things concerning the parade and Mr. Roberts said he would enjoy watching their committee "correct all our mistakes from the past."

Mr. Van Dyne stated that the route beginning at the high school parking lot being chosen instead of that recommended by the Recreation Board would lead to the difficulties outlined in previous meetings by the Board. He said the board should work to implement the route decided upon and that by preceding in this way the anticipated troubles would be made so evident, sooner or later, that the Recreation Board's proposal will have to be followed.

Mr. Bartlett expressed frustration that this board is an advisory board but the commissioners do not seem to take the advice provided. "I don't recall when such an adamantly stated position has ever been disregarded", he said.

Mrs. Rodemaker stated that there were arguments on both sides of the issue and that she had made her decision after consulting with Darlene Alfieri who has planned the parade line-up for years. She stated that Mrs. Alfieri said that the chosen route will work out and that it always has and will continue to work out in the end.

Mr. Gesler said that our celebration will have competition this year from the City of Erie which is finally hosting a fireworks display again. He said he did not know if there would be a parade in Erie as well but that if there was one, could draw some of the parade entries making the planned route easier.

Mr. Van Dyne said that Lawrence Park's celebration may be getting too large, that there was a near riot last year at the South end of Priestley Avenue and that there were motorcycles running down the sidewalks of closed streets. He asked if it might be time to try limiting the number of parade participants.

Mr. Roberts replied that if we tried to limit the fire company entries, they would just show up anyway.

Mr. Bartlett said that the Township needs an official parade committee for future parades. He expressed concern over safety issues with the fire companies lining-up in the high school parking lot because they would have difficulties leaving the restricted geography of the parking lot should there be an emergency during the beginning of the parade.

The meeting adjourned at 8:34 without any vote or action.

## LAWRENCE PARK TOWNSHIP RECREATION BOARD MEETING

October 7, 2012

7:30 pm

4230 Iroquois Avenue

Recreation Board President Corey Bartlett called the meeting to order at 7:30pm. In attendance were Tom Brown, Tom Roberts, Steve Cabaday, Jean Rodemaker and Jim VanDyne.

Minutes from previous meeting, noted that there has not been a meeting since May.

July 4<sup>th</sup> parade and party was discussed generally. Ms. Rodemaker remarked that there was one vendor whose stand was pushing people into the street and that she hoped to address this with the businessmen's association. It was noted that there were times during the parade that it gapped to the degree that people thought that the parade was over but found it was being held up by a group handing items out to the crowd individually and discussion came to the conclusion that this group will not have a specified parade position but would walk alongside the parade handing out their give-away items.

Mr. Bartlett said the parade was very hectic in the beginning because it was unclear which unit was which and where they should go into the parade because it was not a cohesive operation. He said it all worked because it was a smaller parade.

Mr. Cabaday suggested October is a good time to do a survey of the business to see if it was a good parade and a good party. He remarked that it would be a better way to get their real views than standing them up in a room surrounded by their fellow business owners. He suggested they might feel freer to give their true opinion. Mr. Bartlett said he wants to make it clear that he does not want to take the party away from the business men. Ms. Rodemaker suggested that a survey be sent to the participants in the parade and the party as well. She said the businessmen say they brought in enough money to make the same effort next year assuming that the Township kicks in the same amount that the Commissioners Ok'd \$5,000 for the bands this year and she does not see that happening again in 2013.

Talking about the parade, Mr. Roberts said that it was a mistake to close Rankine and the cross streets west of there. He pointed out that there was no need to close these streets until the parade began and it isolated the area South of Main Street, causing a hardship to the residents that live there.

Mr. Bartlett opened a discussion of the street dances and concerts. Ms. Rodemaker said that the first dance worked well but that the others didn't work so well, although there were some things that did work such as the glow necklaces and bracelets. She said that a lot of kids told her that they would like the dances to be at the school again and she asked Mr. Cabaday if there was a place that the band could play. She also remarked that someone told her that in past years the dance moved indoors if it rained. Mr. Cabaday said that they could have done that this year and that they could put the disc-jockey in front of the front doors of the school and relocate in the gym if it rained. Ms. Rodemaker said that she would try the dances at the school next year. Mr. VanDyne remarked that a Township newsletter or newspaper was critically needed for this and many other issues.

Mr. Bartlett had copies of the proposed development plan for Curtis Park with a projected \$1.48 million over four years but that it would go to the Township Commissioners. The plan had been developed by Herbert, Rowland and Gable, Inc. (HRG) and that there will be a public hearing on the project in November.

Mr. Roberts asked if the ball field on Napier Park (Curtis Park) could be revived next spring as a practice field until the development plan over runs it.

Ms. Rodemaker asked Mr. Roberts if it would help if the Township were to provide power at a field for batting machines but Mr. Roberts said that it was not needed at this time, just small improvements at the existing field at Napier just to provide a place for practice. Ms. Rodemaker said that this will be planned for.

Meeting adjourned.

# LAWRENCE PARK TOWNSHIP RECREATION BOARD MEETING

November 4, 2012

7:30 pm

4230 Iroquois Avenue

Recreation Board President Corey Bartlett called the meeting to order at 7:30pm. In attendance were Tom Brown, Tom Roberts, Al Gesler, Jean Rodemaker and Jim VanDyne.

Tom Brown moved that we accept the minutes of the last meeting and Mr. Bartlett seconded the motion, vote was unanimous.

Equipment for the Lake Cliff playground was discussed. Equipment must be replaced and all parks are to have both male and female workers for the children's programs.

Ms. Rodemaker announced that at least three youth dances will be scheduled for the summer of 2013 and if a combination can be determined to bring more children to the dances, more may be added. Dances are to be in front of the elementary school in the parking lot.

Parks openings were discussed and there were some complaints that they opened late last year but Mr. Bartlett pointed out that this was due to school ending on a Friday in 2012 rather than the middle of the week as usual. The result was the opening being pushed back.

Concerts were discussed and Ms. Rodemaker is going to look into different possibilities for the music. There was general discussion about changing the day of the concerts so as to avoid conflicting with Harborcreek's concerts but no decision was made.

Ms. Rodemaker is going to check into the need for a license to show movies in Napier Park with the possibility of being able to do so under the license held by the school district.

Next Recreation board meeting is December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:51pm