Meeting Minutes: Silver Spring Township
Comprehensive Recreation, Parks and Open Space Plan
Sports Forum

Date: September 24, 2015
Time: 7:00 pm
Location: New Kingston Fire Hall
By: Ann Yost
Project No.: 15SSP-01

Persons Attending:
Kristy Owens, Silver Spring Township Parks & Recreation Manager
Jill Kalbach, Silver Spring Township Parks & Recreation Program Coord.
John Durle, HMMS Soccer
Wendy Campbell, HMMS Soccer
Rick Orner, Cumberland Valley Teener Baseball Association
Bruce Befort, Cumberland Valley Softball Association
Mark & Dana Cekovich, Cumberland Valley Midget Football Association
Michael Whitehead, Silver Spring Youth Baseball Association
Sam Gruber, Silver Spring Township Recreation Plan Study Committee
Ann Toole, Toole Recreation Planning
Ann Yost, YSM

Purpose of Meeting:
To discuss youth sport provider issues, ideas, and opportunities associated with their use of parks and recreation facilities in Silver Spring Township.

Of Record:

1. Everyone present introduced themselves and the sports organization they were representing.
2. A. Yost reviewed the Comprehensive Recreation, Parks and Open Space Plan project and the purpose for the Sports Forum.
3. The following is a summary of the group discussion –
   - Discussions among youth sports organizations needs to happen more often. The majority of the organizations serve the four communities of the Cumberland Valley School District (except baseball which does not serve Hampden Township) so the program goals and facility options are similar and coordination is important. Regular meetings of the groups were suggested.
   - Participation in traditional sports (baseball, soccer, and basketball) is being affected by the popularity of lacrosse, rugby, and field hockey. Traditional sports participation, offsets the
effects of these emerging sports to remains steady due to adding of players from other municipalities. Continued growth of lacrosse, rugby, and field hockey is anticipated and there will be associated needs for additional athletic field.

- Field hockey is coming. CVSD started a recreation program and the national headquarters is in Lancaster. Girls from area travel to Lancaster (Spooky Nock) to play. Field hockey will be big within 10 years.

- Stony Ridge Park needs significant infrastructure improvements.
  - Water extended to fields to maintain turf.
  - Water for additional restrooms and concession stands.
  - Electric for field lights and concession stands.
  - Electric for parking area lights – needed now for programs that play until dark now and have difficulty getting to parking areas.
  - Storage for organization equipment.
  - Additional parking convenient for multi-purpose field #4.
  - Subsurface rock affects the cost of utility installation. Football had to blast rock to put in the goal posts.
  - Infrastructure needs relate to safety (clumpy turf on fields, no lights to get people to cars at dusk) and should be highest priority for improvement.

- Stony Ridge Park suggestions include –
  - Add a T-ball field with 60’ baseline, without full outfield. This would free up an existing 60’ baseline field.
  - Full skinned infield OK for baseball programs, but must have grass infields to host a state tournament. Grass infields a safety issue because the grass area is not well maintained, and can’t be well maintained without water to maintain the infields.
  - Baseball Field #6 could be made a dual field with base plugs for 60’ and 75’ baselines.
  - Baseball Field #8 is the best field.
  - Baseball field #5 is poorly drained, but currently being renovated to correct drainage issue.
  - Park is home of CV Midget Football and they need more fields and lights on fields.
  - Parking areas need to be paved. Aggregate parking does not meet ADA.
  - ADA improvement are needed throughout the park.
  - Need additional concession stands and restrooms. Football uses a golf cart to transport spectators to the restroom/concession stand.
  - Add batting cages. Baseball is adding a batting cage between fields #3 and #4. Include turf in batting cages.
  - Add score boards.
  - Provide more bleachers. Football would like bleachers higher than 3 rows so that spectators have better view of field play.
  - Provide storage.
  - A turf field is desired by soccer, football, and lacrosse.
  - Phase improvements to the park.
  - The organizations suggest that Improvements to Stony Ridge Park are the highest priority of all of the Silver Spring Township parks, to address youth organization needs.

- Good Hope Middle School – New CVSD Middle School –
  - CVSD will be abandoning use of Good Hope Middle School when the new Middle School at Bali Hai and Lamb’s Gap Roads is complete. Good Hope Middle School to be retained by CVSD but future use of athletic fields is unknown.
- Midget football plays at Good Hope Middle School.
- The master plan for the new middle school shows five athletic fields and it is the understood that one field will be a turf field. Community organization use of these fields has not been discussed.

- Field Lights will extend the use of existing athletic fields.
  - Midget Football rents lights for the Stony Ridge Park fields. The program was paying $10,000, now cost $2,700 without gas.
  - Stony Ridge Park is a good location for lights, with limited residential neighbors.
  - Lights are needed at Hidden Creek – no electric is available.
  - HMMS Soccer plays into December and needs field lights.

- Pottiger Park –
  - Baseball field is too close to the alley. Neighbor cars hit by balls
  - Neighbors complain about field.
  - New Kingston Fire Hall provide adjacent open space and pavilion.
  - Parking is an issue.

- Hidden Creek Park –
  - No electric is available.
  - Field lights are needed.
  - There are no parking problems
  - There is a small area out of the floodplain that could possibly be developed with restrooms.
  - HMMS Soccer uses the park extensively for smaller soccer fields. Can’t use for full size fields because balls go into the creek.
  - Hidden Creek Park satisfies HMMS small soccer field needs.
  - Nice central location.

- Recreation Facility Needs –
  - Football needs more fields.
  - Soccer needs more full size fields for their spring season.
  - Basketball need more outdoor locations for general recreation use.
  - A T-ball field is needed at Stony Ridge Park.
  - Parks need to be developed holistically, with fields, parking, infrastructure and support facilities.