

**BIRCH RUN TOWNSHIP PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 17, 2011**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm. Present for the committee were Lisa Kiessling, Amy Cook, Dr. April Carroll, Joy Hancock, and Kheila Knight.

The group discussed ways to raise funds for the Birch Run Township Park, which is in desperate need of repairs and maintenance.

The areas listed below were some of the identified problems in the park. This list is not all inclusive and is not listed in any particular order of importance. A tour of the park, and review of park needs will be done when spring arrives and weather allows.

- Parking Lot (possible additional lots)
- Park path (resurfacing/fixing current problem spots)
- Tennis courts (resurfacing)
- Ball diamonds (possible repositioning of all the diamonds along with better upkeep)

Fundraising Ideas:

- Samaritan Club Card
- Kroger Key Chain
- Carnival/Fair in May or June
- New Year's Eve Party Ball
- Charging for use of the Ball Diamonds for leagues
- Register with Goodsearch.com

Lisa suggested that the Township Board take a look at "hiring" a Park/RV Host for the summer months. This person would park their RV at the park for free. The Township would provide water hookups for these individuals and in return the "hosts" could provide, among other things, the following for the Township:

- 24/7 presence in the Park
- Locking/Unlocking of gates daily
- Possible lawn mowing of park
- Cleaning of bathrooms
- Trash maintenance
- Other general cleanup, maintenance as needed

This program has worked in other areas and benefits both the Township and the individuals involved.

Amy will contact Chris Putnam at the High School next week to discuss participating in the community service program at the school. The program requires students to participate in public service projects for training and credit. Kheila suggested that we utilize this program for park maintenance and/or operations. It would provide a regular placement option for the school and students and would provide the township with labor. (2/24/11 We are already on the list/website. Mrs. Turnbull is the head of it for the Student Assistance Office 624-9193).

It was also brought up that the Township should take over scheduling all park activities, even those through the AYSO and PFY, due to the congestion that occurs when games are overlapping. At this time the scheduling is done by the organizations themselves, but with limited parking it might be best for us to take this over. Another option would be to allow the groups to schedule, within parameters defined by the Park Advisory Board, ie: we could require, among other things, that there be ½ hour or more between each game so the parking lots can empty safely.

Items Amy needs to cover with Township Board at the March 8, 2011 meeting:

1. Establish a Park Advisory Committee consisting of: Amy Cook, Lisa Kiessling, Kheila Knight, Dr. April Carroll, Gloria Licht, and Joy Hancock.
2. Seek Board approval that the Park Advisory Committee oversees the fundraising at its discretion.
3. Seek Board approval for the Park Advisory Committee to begin rewriting the Birch Run Township Recreation Plan
4. As part of the planning process, authorize the Park Advisory Committee to conduct a community survey regarding the park.
5. Discuss the possibility of a Park/RV Host for summer 2011
6. Authorize the Park Advisory Board to be in charge of all scheduling at the park.

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Amy Cook

Birch Run Township Clerk