

RICHLAND TOWNSHIP

**COMPREHENSIVE RECREATION & OPEN SPACE PLAN
STUDY COMMITTEE**

PUBLIC MEETING

NOVEMBER, 16, 2009

MEETING OBSERVATIONS

LOCATION: RICHLAND TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING

I. Attendees

Committee Members: Dean Allen, Dave Battista, John Baxter, Mike Beachley, Laura Hillock, Dan Hughes, Anton Krysa, Cathy Marks, Dave McSwigan, John Pasquinelli, Annette Robinson, Donna Snyder and Jean Vaccarello

Consultant: Carolyn Yagle, EPD

Staff: Melissa Williams and Dean Bastianini

Public Officials: Board of Supervisors; Skip Allen, Raymond Kendrick, Brian O'Malley, and Supervisor Elect Bart Miller

Planning Commission Members; Tim Gaichas, Robert Goetz, James McChesney, Joseph Pillart and Diane Pontoriero

Persons in Attendance: Approximately 27

II. Following introduction of the committee members, consultants, staff and public officials in attendance, Ms. Yagle used a power point presentation, which included photographs, to: 1) describe the Township's existing recreation facilities and programs, 2) identify Township owned property which may be suitable for recreation purposes, and 3) explained what a Comprehensive Open Space Plan and a Master Site Plan are. She concluded by asking the audience to write answers to the following two questions on index cards, "What do you and your family do for recreation?" and "What other recreation services should the Township provide?".

III. The following is a summary of the comments made by persons in the audience.

Sandy Wolf – 515 Kyle Court

Ms. Wolf is President of the Pine Richland Soccer Club. Her family participates in soccer. They use facilities in Richland and Pine Townships, including various school fields, St. Richards Church, Richland Park and Pine Park. The Pine Richland Soccer Club serves 700 youth all of whom reside in two Townships. The Club is challenged each season to find field space. Ms. Wolf said she hopes the upper space in Richland Park will be developed for soccer fields.

Theresa Weaver – 5316 Richland Road

Ms. Weaver has four children, and said she feels like she lives at the park. She uses Pine Park quite a bit as well. She is looking for a safe place to ride bikes and walk. One of her children plays ultimate Frisbee which is a quasi school sport. Since there are no available fields in our area the Frisbee team plays in the backyard of a home in Treesdale. She is also interested in a place for her children to play inline hockey.

Jim McChesney – 3894 Grove Road

Mr. McChesney stated his concern over safe ways for kids to travel from one place to another - whether it is by walking, roller blade or bicycle. He said sidewalks or trails would be beneficial.

Ron Nichols – 1019 Van Velsor Drive

Mr. Nichols would like to see the traffic to and from Richland Park addressed. He also would like to see more areas to accommodate runners and bikers. In particular he is interested in recreation for adults such as disc golf and health related fitness.

Joe Pillart – 3717 Overbrook Road

Mr. Pillart said his children like to play on swing sets and monkey bars. They also enjoy riding bikes, and end up going to North Park. He would like to see some type of lake installed in the Township similar to the one recently constructed in Pine Township Park.

Barbara Beachley – 6048 Heckert Road

Ms. Beachley voiced concerns regarding traffic at Richland Park. She enjoys taking her grandchildren to the park which is wonderful for them, but she would like to see more adult recreation such as tennis courts.

Lance Welliver – 5254 Turner Road

Mr. Welliver recently moved to the area. His wife is from Hampton. Although they have enjoyed some of the activities and programs offered by Richland, they mainly utilize the tennis courts and walking areas at Hampton Park. He too would like to see more adult programs, classes and activities.

Greg Bergman – 5616 Community Center Drive

Mr. Bergman said he would like to see the woods and trails currently on the top portion of Richland Park stay. He feels the one thing dwindling in our community is the green space. He feels the trees and nature need to remain in the park, instead of building more fields and losing the green areas we have.

Greg Horgan – 1008 Arborwood Drive

Mr. Horgan uses Richland Park and Hartwood Acres to walk his dogs. Mr. Horgan agrees that it would be nice to keep the green space at Richland Park but noted that there are serious drainage problems along some of the trails.

Bob Goetz – 154 Wedgewood Drive

Mr. Goetz said his family mostly has an interest in recreation at “Rails to Trails” facilities. He realizes it is probably stretching it a little too far to expect similar trails in Richland, but said even a short trail system would be nice.

Mr. Andrew Knox - 4220 Glasgow Road

Mr. Knox said his family enjoys swimming. They currently go to Hampton pool and he would like to see planning for a pool similar to Hampton’s where they conduct swim lessons for different levels.

Mr. Bastianini read two letters he had received which contained suggestions for recreation facilities.

Joe and Jessica Phillips, 542 Madison Drive

Mr. and Mrs. Phillips recommended that the play equipment at the new family recreation area be designed with separate areas for toddlers and older children. They also provided information on a “splash park” in Middlefield, Ohio.

Margaret Engwer, 128 Applewood Drive

Mrs. Engwer enjoys bicycle riding and would like the Township to install a bike trail; level if possible. Mrs. Engwer stated that: 1) the roads in Orchard Park are too hilly and traffic is too fast for safe bicycling; 2) the school tracks are off limits to bikers and 3) the traffic and crowded parking conditions at Richland Park prevent her from riding there.

Ms. Yagle distributed blank notecards for the attendants to provide additional responses to questions proposed during the presentation. EPD will be summarizing the comments for the December Study Committee meeting and for entry into the project’s overall public participation summary.

Ms. Yagle also listed the dates and times for upcoming meetings and welcomed everyone present to attend or to leave any comments or suggestions they might have on a space which has been created for this purpose on the Township website.

The meeting concluded at 7:15 p.m.

The next Study Committee workshop meeting will be on Tuesday, December 8, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 4019 Dickey Road, Gibsonia, PA 15044.