

Parks, Recreation, and Shade Tree Advisory Board

Minutes of Tuesday, March 27, 2012

A meeting of the Parks, Recreation, and Shade Tree Advisory Board was held on Tuesday, March 27, 2012, at the Plymouth Township Community Center. Present were Board members Bill English, Kim Pennington, Joe Stem, Bridget Sudall, Karen Lorence, and Pat Ianelli; Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Phil Brady; and Board Secretary Rosemary Winterbottom. Board members Lynda Lawrence and Council Liaison Maria Weidinger were not in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

PW Ice Hockey

Mr. Brian Isely and Mr. Bob Moyer were present to represent the PW Ice Hockey organization. Mr. Isely stated that the organization had a great year; the varsity team had a winning season and both the elementary and middle school teams had many first-year players. Each team plays an average of 16 games.

Ice hockey is a very expensive sport; the organization tries not to overspend on ice time or league fees and tries to stay on budget as much as possible. The organization depends on fundraisers and donations, and will often reach out to alumni for financial support. USA Hockey sets guidelines for coaches, helmets, injuries, etc. Mr. Moyer stated that PW Ice Hockey offered free baseline testing for concussions this year.

The organization does background checks on all coaches, many of whom are PW alumni. The organization does not receive any funding from Conshohocken or Whitemarsh. It was noted that several neighboring hockey teams have folded recently for financial reasons. Mr. Isely noted that he would like to increase their membership as much as possible.

The Board thanked Mr. Isely and Mr. Moyer for their presentation.

Plymouth Junior ABA

Mr. Bob Himmelreich was present to represent Plymouth Junior ABA. Mr. Himmelreich noted that the Plymouth tournament will be finished on Saturday. This tournament had 61 teams, with participants aged 8-13 years old.

Mr. Himmelreich stated that enrollment in the organization was down about 7% from the previous year. A program for 5-6 year olds was began last year; this year that program was restructured to be more instructional and it worked out much better. A program for 13 year olds was began this year and the response was good. It is planned to begin a program for 14 year olds next year, and thereby broaden the organization.

Mr. Himmelreich stated that the organization's budget projections appear to be on target. There is a good level of volunteerism for officials. The only paid officials are PIAA certified officials for tournaments. Mr. Himmelreich noted that the availability of gyms has been good this year.

In response to questioning from the Board, Mr. Himmelreich stated that the organization does not receive any monies from Whitemarsh Township. Background checks are conducted on all coaches, the Executive Council, and the Board of Directors for the organization.

The Board thanked Mr. Himmelreich for his presentation.

### Greater Norristown Wrestling

Mr. Terry Fennell and Mr. Jason Sugalski were present to represent the Greater Norristown Wrestling organization.

Mr. Fennell stated that the organization had a good year. There were not as many participants this year as the previous year. Upon questioning from the Board as to the name of the organization, Mr. Fennell explained the history of the organization which began as the Colonial Mat Club and later merged with the Greater Norristown Wrestling Club.

It was noted that District matches were being held this weekend at Upper Merion.

In response to a question from the Board, it was stated that the organization does not receive any funding from either Conshohocken or Whitemarsh Township. The yearly tournament is a major fundraiser, and \$2500 was raised this year.

The Board thanked Mr. Fennell and Mr. Sugalski for their presentation.

#### 1. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2012

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2012, meeting was made by Joe Stem. This motion was seconded by Pat Ianelli and unanimously approved.

#### 2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GUESTS AND VISITORS

Guests at the meeting included representatives of the youth groups.

### 3. DISCUSSION OF PACKET MATERIALS

The monthly report for February-2012 had been provided to the Board members. Phil Brady showed the Board photos from Brunch with the Easter Bunny, the Egg Scramble, Eco Fest at Plymouth Whitemarsh High School, and the Free Swim on 3/24/12.

### 4. OLD BUSINESS

#### A. General Department

##### 1. CSD -- Soccer

Phil Brady reported that Plymouth Soccer had recently changed their name to Colonial Soccer. Phil also noted that scheduling for Victory Fields by Colonial Soccer and other organizations (Chestnut Hill and Lacrosse) appears to be an issue. It was suggested that a Colonial School Board member should be invited to a Board meeting so that this situation can be discussed.

#### B. Community Center/CC Park

##### 1. Fitness Expansion – Estimated Timeline

Phil Brady reported that the contract had been approved and is now with the Solicitor for review. The expected completion date for the project is June 22, 2012.

##### 2. Student Rate Promotion

The summer promotion rate for students begins on May 1, 2012. Phil Brady distributed flyers advertising this promotion at the recent Montco Health Fair.

#### C. Parks Maintenance/Parks Issues

##### 1. PECO Green Region Grant – EPV

Phil reported that signs for this park are to be ordered shortly. Rick Carbo needs to have electric installed for the ultrasonic unit for the pond.

##### 2. EPV – Paving and Practice Field Improvements

Phil noted that paving of the main parking lot at East Plymouth Valley Park will be done during the Summer (between the baseball and football seasons). The practice field under the power lines is being hydra-seeded.

#### D. Wetherill Park

##### 1. Conservation and Management Study

- a. Contract Approval – DCNR Approval to Proceed
- b. Timeline, Process, and Study Committee

Phil Brady reported that the contract is being reviewed by the Solicitor and the insurance company. Karen Franck is working on obtaining members for the Study Committee.

##### 2. HWP Programming

- a. Summer Camps

Phil noted that The Schuylkill Environmental Center will conduct some environmental classes at Harriet Wetherill Park.

#### E. Programming

##### 1. Partnership Programs: Prince of Peace and Kencrest/Greater Bridgeport Elks

Phil Brady reported that the first speaker for the partnership program with Prince of Peace and Kencrest concerning autistic children that was scheduled for March 28, 2012, will be re-scheduled to a date to be determined in April.

The Bridgeport Elks partnership will involve the Elks providing prizes, volunteers, and refreshments for the Fishing Derby to be held on April 14.

##### 2. GPCC 12 – 3/24/12

Phil reported that GPCC 12 was a huge success, with over 780 people attending. Fifty-six (56) new passes were sold, and 180 passes were renewed.

#### 5. NEW BUSINESS

##### A. Council Liaison Report – Maria Weidinger

No report was presented as Maria was not at the meeting due to illness.

#### 6. MISCELLANEOUS

The Board discussed the registration fees and expenses incurred by the various youth groups and decided that a discussion on re-allocation of funds to youth groups should be discussed at the April meeting of the Board.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion for adjournment was made by Kim Pennington and seconded by Pat Ianelli.

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Tuesday, April 24, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

*Rosemary Winterbottom*

Rosemary Winterbottom, Secretary