

Parks, Recreation, and Shade Tree Advisory Board

C: COUNCIL
4-040

Minutes of Tuesday, April 24, 2012

A meeting of the Parks, Recreation, and Shade Tree Advisory Board was held on Tuesday, April 24, 2012, at the Plymouth Township Community Center. Present were Board members Bill English, Kim Pennington, Joe Stem, Bridget Sudall, Karen Lorence, Pat Ianelli and Lynda Lawrence; Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Phil Brady; Building and Grounds Director Rick Carbo; Council Liaison Maria Weidinger, and Board Secretary Rosemary Winterbottom.

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

Colonial Soccer

Mr. Jeff Heaton (President), Mr. Marc Weinstein (Secretary), and Ms. Renee Ebersole (Vice President) were present to represent the Colonial Soccer organization (formerly Plymouth Soccer).

Mr. Heaton stated that the organization is made up of over 1200 members, with approximately 40% of those members being Plymouth Township residents. Mr. Heaton stated that the organization is asking their members to participate in community service activities, and noted the group's participation in a food drive which collected over 1200 lbs. of food as well as participation in a Walk-A-Thon. Mr. Heaton further asked the Board how their organization could assist the community, and Phil Brady suggested the park clean-ups scheduled for April 28 and May 19.

Further initiatives of the organization are to promote health education awareness and to provide baseline assessments for their members (for concussions). The organization would also like to increase participation in their TOPS Program which provides training for athletes with disabilities.

Bill English questioned if the organization uses any soccer fields in Whitemarsh, and Mr. Weinstein stated that the group only uses the field at Miles Park. It was also stated that field requests for the organization are handled by Mr. Joe Hunter, and that more field requests are made for the Fall season.

The Board thanked Mr. Heaton, Mr. Weinstein, and Ms. Ebersole for their presentation.

PS Spartans

Mr. Bob McGee (President) and Mr. Joe DeLaurentis (Vice President) were present to represent the PW Spartans Football and Cheerleading organization.

Mr. McGee stated that the organization is doing well. Membership is down, however, due to losing some players to soccer and lacross. The biggest goal of the organization is to try to increase overall membership. The group is advertising their sign-up dates in local newspapers and on CITV, with the hope of increasing the number of members. In addition, the organization hopes to place more emphasis on "sideline" cheerleading in the upcoming season.

It was noted that the football field the group uses at East Plymouth Valley Park had been re-crowned in the off-season. It is hoped that new grass will grow in soon. The organization now uses the field under the PECO power lines for practice. Fill dirt placed at this location was donated to help make this a usable field.

Mr. McGee asked the Board if it would be possible to place a banner along Germantown Pike to advertise for sign-ups. Maria Weidinger suggested using the electronic sign at the Plymouth Meeting Mall. Requesting use of the flashing sign utilized by the police was also suggested, with the suggestion that the flashing sign be placed by the Metroplex.

The Board thanked Mr. McGee and Mr. DeLaurentis for their presentation.

Plymouth Little League

Mr. Dana Young (President) was present to represent Plymouth Little League.

Mr. Young stated that the organization is doing well, with registration at approximately 530 participants. This is an increase in registration, which is up from 470 participants last season. The organization now has a program for 5 year olds.

In response to a question from the Board, Mr. Young stated that there have been no friction with the PW Spartans over use of the fields at East Plymouth Valley Park. Mr. Young noted the improvements made by their organization to the two practice fields, which included excavation and the filling-in of dirt. Mr. Young stated these improvements cost the organization over \$17,000.

The Board thanked Mr. Young for his presentation.

1. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 27, 2012

A motion to approve the minutes of the March 27, 2012, meeting was made by Karen Lorence. 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 March-2012 had been provided to the Board members. Phil Brady showed the Board photos from the recent Fishing Derby, the Princess Party, and the Women's Basketball League game.

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. General Department

There were no items on the agenda.

B. Community Center/CC Park

1. Fitness Expansion

Rick Carbo reported that the Fitness Center expansion is scheduled to begin on May 7. The estimated completion date is now June 29, 2012. The installation of the flooring is the last item to be completed for this project, and the flooring is expected to be delivered during the week of June 18.

C. Parks Maintenance/Parks Issues

1. PECO Green Region Grant – EPV

Phil Brady showed the Board pictures of the signs to be placed along the pond at East Plymouth Valley Park.

2. EPV – Paving and Practice Field Improvements

Rick Carbo noted that the practice field under the power lines has been seeded. The main parking lot and entrance drive at East Plymouth Valley Park will also be paved.

D. Wetherill Park

1. Conservation and Management Study

a. Timeline, Process, and Study Committee

Phil Brady reported that a meeting with the architect is scheduled for next week. A schedule timeline is expected to be setup after this meeting.

2. HWP Programming

a. Summer Camps

Phil reported that a grant had been received and will be used for some Summer programs at Harriet Wetherill Park. The Schuylkill Environmental Center will be assisting with these programs.

E. Programming

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

Phil Brady reported that the speaker for the partnership program with Prince of Peace and Kencrest concerning autistic children is again being rescheduled, with a date to be determined in May.

The Bridgeport Elks provided prizes, volunteers, and refreshments for the Fishing Derby held on April 14. The event was very successful.

2. Plymouth Township Day – June 2, 2012

A sign-up sheet was circulated among the Board members for them to sign up to volunteer at Plymouth Township Day.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Council Liaison Report – Maria Weidinger

Council Liaison Maria Weidinger reported on items that were discussed at the recent Plymouth Council meeting which included: proposed renovations planned for an extra turning lane at the intersection of Belvoir and Sandy Hill Roads, resident concerns on bee hives on private properties, a proposed townhouse development at the intersection of Flourtown Road and Butler Pike, the recent court decision concerning a five-story apartment complex proposed by the Brandywine group, and the upcoming July 4th parade.

4. MISCELLANEOUS

The Board discussed at length the various amounts of money and services provided by Plymouth Township to the different youth sports organizations. After much discussion, the Board decided to continue this discussion at the next Board meeting. Phil Brady offered to provide a spreadsheet on the budgeted amounts from last year and what was provided to each group for the discussion at the next Board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion for adjournment was made by Karen Lorence and seconded by Lynda Lawrence. The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Tuesday, May 22, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,
Rosemary Winterbottom
Rosemary Winterbottom, Secretary