

Parks, Recreation, and Shade Tree Advisory Board

Minutes of Tuesday, August 28, 2012

A meeting of the Parks, Recreation, and Shade Tree Advisory Board was held on Tuesday, August 28, 2012, at Harriet Wetherill Park. Present were Board members Bill English, Kim Pennington, Pat Ianelli, Bridget Sudall, Joe Stem, Lynda Lawrence, and Karen Lorence; Recreation Director Karen Franck; GPCC Staff Member Shawn Mazie; and Board Secretary Rosemary Winterbottom.

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

1. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR TUESDAY, JULY 24, 2012

A motion to approve the minutes of the July 24, 2012, meeting was made by Bridget Sudall. This motion was seconded by Pat Ianelli and unanimously approved.

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GUESTS AND VISITORS

There were no guests or visitors at the meeting.

3. DISCUSSION OF PACKET MATERIALS

The monthly report for July-2012 was reviewed. Karen Franck noted that pass sales were down, but the summer camps and special swims did well. Fitness Center and class attendance was down slightly due to the Fitness Center construction.

4. OLD BUSINESS

HARRIET WETHERILL PARK HOMESTEAD TOUR – Prior to meeting 6:00 PM

The Board members met at 6:00 PM to tour the Harriet Wetherill Park Homestead. The tour was provided by Karen Franck, who was assisted by Shawn Mazie. The main house and auxiliary buildings were visited.

A. General Department

No items were discussed as part of an abbreviated agenda intended to conclude the meeting prior to 8 PM due to darkness at the location.

B. Community Center/CC Park

1. Fitness Expansion – Completion Report

Karen Franck reported that the Fitness Center expansion is complete. The project came in approximately \$100,000 under budget. The Community Center is closed this week for yearly Shutdown Week. The locker room and hallways will be painted, the tile cleaned, the gym floor will be screened and recoated, and the pool will be cleaned as part of Shutdown Week.

C. Parks Maintenance/Parks Issues

No items were discussed as part of an abbreviated agenda intended to conclude the meeting prior to 8 PM due to darkness at the location.

D. Wetherill Park

1. Conservation and Management Study

Karen Franck reported that the committee will meet on September 11, 2012, at Harriet Wetherill Park. Board Members Bill English and Lynda Lawrence are members of the committee, as well as Council Member Maria Weidinger. The committee will discuss possible future plans for the various buildings on the property. The Conservation Easement attached to this property will need to be considered in all future plans. It is anticipated that this study will continue until May-2013.

2. HWP Programming

a. DEP Grant – Environmental Education Seminars

Karen Franck reported that the next educational seminar is scheduled for September 15, 2012, and is entitled "Forest to Farm to Table." The cost for this seminar is \$5.00 per person.

E. Programming

1. Plymouth Township Day – Report

The report on Plymouth Township Day had previously been sent to the Board members. Karen Franck noted that Plymouth Township Day went well, and was one of the better years for cost recovery. The concert was not well-attended and will not be budgeted for next year.

2. Fall Programming

The Fall-2012 Leisure Visions brochure is out. Kim Pennington suggested that the large room at the Community Center could be utilized for a Senior Citizen dance with big band music.

3. Health Fair and Promotions

The Health Fair is scheduled for Saturday, November 10, 2012. Einstein Hospital (the former Montgomery Hospital) will provide doctors and testing to participants. The "Grand Opening" of the Fitness Center is also being scheduled for this same day.

Several marketing promotions are being planned including:

- 1) a one-week trial access to the Fitness Center, gym, and aquatics center, as well as a basic land aerobic class, is being offered to anyone who comes into the Fitness Center between September 4-30;
- 2) during October, a current annual pass holder who refers a friend who purchases an annual pass will get an additional month added to their pass; and
- 3) on November 10, 2012, new annual passes or renewals will be 10% off.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Council Liaison Report – Maria Weidinger

Maria Weidinger reported that major topics discussed by Council included the following:

- 1) A Sign Ordinance has been passed by Council to specifically address billboards;
- 2) A proposed Bee Ordinance is still being worked;
- 3) A new builder has proposed building a hotel on Chemical Road, which would be adjacent to Ridge Park School; and
- 4) The proposed building of a pre-school on Plymouth Road.

6. MISCELLANEOUS

Karen Lorence questioned the rumor of a required police presence during football games at East Plymouth Valley Park. Maria Weidinger offered to investigate this matter and will e-mail the police chief.

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, September 25, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,
Rosemary Winterbottom
Rosemary Winterbottom, Secretary