

Parks, Recreation, and Shade Tree Advisory Board

Minutes of Tuesday, March 25, 2014

A meeting of the Parks, Recreation, and Shade Tree Advisory Board was held on Tuesday, March 25, 2014, at the Plymouth Township Community Center. Present were members Bill English, Kim Pennington, Pat Ianelli, Barbara Thompson, Lynda Lawrence, and Joe Stem; Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Phil Brady; Building and Grounds Director Rick Carbo; Council Liaison Dean Eisenberger; and Board Secretary Rosemary Winterbottom. Board member Bridget Sudall was not in attendance.

Chairman Bill English called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Colonial Soccer Club

Mr. Doug Cohen, Ms. Rene Ebersole, and Mr. Bill Rubenthal were present to represent the Colonial Soccer Club.

Kim Pennington noted that the questionnaire completed by the organization indicated that the organization did not have a Code of Conduct. It was stated that the organization does indeed have a Code of Conduct in place and the questionnaire was corrected. Ms. Ebersole also stated that the organization has had all coaches complete concussion training. Additionally, Mr. Cohen stated that background checks are completed on all coaches and volunteers.

In an effort to cut expenses, the organization is only buying uniforms every other year for the travel team. The organization is also now buying their uniforms from an East Coast vendor to avoid shipping costs.

In response to a question from Bill English, Mr. Cohen stated that the availability of field space is a major concern.

Rick Carbo noted that the flat net goals used by the organization pose a concern as there are metal spikes sticking out. Mr. Rubenthal suggested that weighted feet might solve this problem. Ms. Ebersole stated that the organization will look into a solution to this concern.

The Board thanked Mr. Cohen, Ms. Ebersole, and Mr. Rubenthal for their attendance and presentation.

P-W Spartans Football and Cheerleading

Mr. Bob McGee and Mr. Chip Toretta were present to represent the P-W Spartans Football and Cheerleading organization.

Mr. McGee stated that the organization had a good year, with no major issues and few complaints. The 75 and 90 lb. teams made the playoffs, and the 75 lb. team won the championship for their weight group. In response to a question from the Board, Mr. McGee stated that there were no fights involving parents from opposing teams this past season.

Mr. McGee noted that the concussion issue is an overall problem for all sports. Mr. McGee stated that a Program Coordinator from the organization attends an 8-hour program on concussions at the Nova Care Complex. This information is then passed along to other members of the organization.

In response to a question from Bill English, Mr. McGee noted that he would like to see the bathroom facilities at East Plymouth Valley Park upgraded. Mr. Toretta asked if some trees be cut near Field 4, as they are blocking the lights. Additionally, some floodlights near the bathrooms need to be replaced.

The Board thanked Mr. McGee and Mr. Toretta for their attendance and presentation.

Plymouth Little League

Mr. Shelly Simpson and Mr. Mike Williams were present to represent the Plymouth Little League organization.

Mr. Williams stated that the organization is doing well and has a registration of approximately 450 boys and girls. Mr. Williams discussed changes to Little League regulations that would permit participants to play for a team according to where the participant attends school, rather than by his home address location. Mr. Williams also noted that the organization had applied for a \$300,000 grant that would be used for lights, irrigation, and conversion of a field to a 50 x 70' diamond. The organization is waiting to hear on the awarding of the grant.

Mr. Williams stated that the organization is doing well financially. Mr. Simpson explained the post-season tournament fees. In response to a question from the Board as to whether there were any problems with girls' softball, it was stated that there were no problems.

In response to a question from Bill English, Mr. Williams asked if Field #4 could be sprayed for weeds. Additionally, Mr. Williams asked if there could be any improvements made to the restrooms at East Plymouth Valley Park.

The Board thanked Mr. Williams and Mr. Simpson for their attendance and their presentation.

1. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2014

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2014, meeting was made by Kim Pennington. This motion was seconded by Barbara Thompson and unanimously approved.

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GUESTS AND VISITORS

There were no additional guests or visitors present.

3. DISCUSSION OF PACKET MATERIALS

The monthly report for February-2014 was reviewed. Phil Brady noted that monthly passes still continue to be a very popular option for membership. Phil also noted that the pool had been used by various local high school swimming teams during the closure of schools because of inclement weather.

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. General Department

1. CSD Fee Meeting

Phil Brady reported that he had attended a meeting on February 12 which included representatives of the Greater Norristown Wrestling Club, Plymouth Jr. ABA Basketball, and the Colonial School District to discuss the hourly fee charged by the District for use of their facilities by these youth groups. Phil noted that the fee had nearly doubled from the previous year. As a result of this meeting, the District will review the fees to be charged. A revised fee has not been communicated yet.

B. Community Center/CC Park

1. Locker Replacements – Shutdown Week

Rick Carbo explained that the men's and women's lockers are scheduled

to be replaced during shutdown week in late August-2014. The new lockers will be made of plastic, and there will be more long (tall) lockers.

2. Promotional Plans

- a. GPCC 14 – 10% Off Day
- b. Additional Promotions

Phil Brady reported that the 10% Off Day held on March 22, 2014, set a new record. Sales of passes were \$116,330, which was a \$52,166 increase from last year. This amount included the sale of 112 first-time new passes.

Phil reported that additional promotions planned include a free trial week in May, free aerobic classes in June, and a member fitness challenge in July.

C. Parks Maintenance/Parks Issues

Rick Carbo noted that work on the Harriet Wetherill Park buildings and the installation of lights on Field 1 at East Plymouth Valley Park are among the current projects in the parks. A pre-demolition sale will be held on April 26 and 27 for the buildings at Harriet Wetherill Park.

D. Wetherill Park

1. CFA Act 13 Project Underway
2. Conservation Easement Agreement, Drawing and Surveys

Rick Carbo reported that the surveying of Harriet Wetherill Park by Woodrow Associates is underway now.

3. DCNR Grant Application – Submittal Early April

Phil Brady reported that Karen Franck expects to submit the grant for improvements to Harriet Wetherill Park in April.

D. Programming

1. Summer Camps and Registrations

Phil Brady reported that registration for summer camps is going well. The teen camp is almost full. Registration for Camp GPCC is continuing.

2. Activity Days, Holidays

Phil reported that activity days are being planned, but hours may need to be adjusted due to an extended school year.

3. July 4th Parade

Volunteers are needed to help with the July 4th Parade. The previous coordinators for this event – the Hayfield Farms Civic Association – has been disbanded.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Council Liaison Report – Dean Eisenberger

Council Member Dean Eisenberger explained to the Board the benefits to be obtained from the natural gas tax through various DCNR grants.

Dean also discussed the expansion of Ridge Pike and the restructuring of the Conshohocken State Road/Fairfield Road intersection.

Dean reported that the widening of the Belvoir Road/Sandy Hill intersection work was interrupted due to the discovery of an 8" gas line in the area that was not shown on the plans. PECO will now have to make some changes before work can continue. Once work begins, 60 days are needed for the project to be completed.

6. MISCELLANEOUS

No items were discussed.

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 22, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,
Rosemary Winterbottom
Rosemary Winterbottom, Secretary