

## Parks, Recreation, and Shade Tree Advisory Board

### Minutes of Tuesday, March 24, 2015

A meeting of the Parks, Recreation, and Shade Tree Advisory Board was held on Tuesday, March 24, 2015, at the Plymouth Township Community Center. Present were Board members Pat Ianelli, Joe Stem, Barbara Thompson, Kim Pennington, and Patty Trask; Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Phil Brady; Building and Grounds Director Rick Carbo; Council Liaison Dean Eisenberger; and Board Secretary Rosemary Winterbottom. Board members Bill English and Neil Clark were not in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Vice-Chairman Pat Ianelli.

#### Colonial Soccer

Mr. Jeff Heaton, President, was present to represent the Colonial Soccer organization.

Mr. Heaton stated that registration for Colonial Soccer has increased over the past three years. A Spring Clinic was started last year, and there are over 100 registrants signed up for the Spring Clinic this year. The organization is hoping to start a Friday Night Lights program of activities in the Fall. They may also try to start a short Spring League.

The organization would like to do something to honor the late Bob O'Neill, a former coach with the organization (possibly name a memorial field). Mr. Heaton noted that the EPYSA (Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer Association) is naming a state adult trophy after Bob O'Neill. Dean Eisenberger offered to take the matter to a Plymouth Council workshop.

Rick Carbo questioned the cost to the organization of the portable lights, and Mr. Heaton stated the cost is \$10-12,000 per year. Rick also asked if the organization had received the letter advising the change in use of the storage area at the Plymouth Township Building; Mr. Heaton said he had received the letter and the organization is looking for an alternative storage area.

The Board thanked Mr. Heaton for his presentation. Mr. Heaton expressed his thanks for the field space and other assistance provided by Plymouth Township. Mr. Heaton volunteered that his organization would be available to assist with park cleanup.

#### Plymouth Little League

Mr. Mike Williams, President, and Mr. Shelly Simpson, Treasurer, were present to represent Plymouth Little League.

Mr. Williams stated that the organization has a registration of 470 youths this year, which is an increase over the 435 registered last year. Age groups include the 4-6 year olds (T-ball), 7-8 year olds (boys and girls), 9-10 year olds (boys and girls), 11-12 year olds, 13-14 year olds, and 15-18 year olds (senior division). Participation in tournaments costs \$5-6,000 per year.

The organization has been selected as host for the 11-Year-Old Hardball State Championship, which will be held during the last week in July. Mr. Williams stated that hosting this event is a big honor for the organization.

Mr. Simpson stated that the organization has spent approximately \$15,000 during the past two years on field maintenance. He also noted that they will probably spend \$12-15,000 to get ready for the Hardball State Championship.

Phil Brady asked if the organization had received the letter regarding the East Plymouth Valley Park scheduling for Plymouth Township Day on May 30, 2015. Mr. Williams stated that the letter had been received and the schedule is good.

Rick Carbo noted that the Plymouth Little League organization has offered to paint all the structures at East Plymouth Valley Park. This request will be brought before Plymouth Council for review.

The Board thanked Mr. Williams and Mr. Simpson for their presentation. Mr. Williams expressed his appreciation for the assistance provided by Plymouth Township. Mr. Simpson noted that the organization was requesting an additional \$5,000 this year for expenses associated with the Hardball State Championship.

#### PW Spartans Football

Mr. Bryan Torretta, Vice-President, was present to represent PW Spartans Football.

Mr. Torretta, who has been involved with the organization for six years, stated that the program had approximately 180 participants last year. Mr. Torretta noted that he felt a key factor in decreased registration in youth football programs seems to be sensationalism in the media over concussions. Mr. Torretta stated that all coaches and sideline personnel in the organization take a certification course on concussions. The helmets used are also sent out to be re-certified each year (with certification good for two years). To provide an incentive for early registration, the organization offers a 20% discount and the player is able to select their jersey number.

In response to a question concerning behavior problems from fans of opposing teams, Mr. Torretta stated that any problems are handled away from the players. The organization tries to never punish a player for an adult's behavior. The organization also has a parent and player Code of Conduct, which must be acknowledged.

Rick Carbo asked if the organization had received the letter advising the change in use of the storage area at the Plymouth Township Building. Mr. Tornetta had not seen the letter, as it was sent to President Ken Kline. Rick Carbo noted he was hoping that the organization could find a suitable place for their items. Mr. Tornetta was hoping that the township would have a suitable place, as he did not feel that a \$25,000 inventory of football equipment would be secure in a football building at East Plymouth Valley Park.

The Board thanked Mr. Tornetta for his presentation.

1. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2015

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2015, meeting was made by Barbara Thompson. This motion was seconded by Kim Pennington 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-2015 was reviewed.

Phil Brady also showed the Board photos from New Year's Eve Boot Camp, Breakfast with the Bunny, spinning class, suspension training, and Presidents' Weekend Inflatables Night.

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. General Department

1. Plymouth Township Day

Phil Brady noted that Plymouth Township Day will be on Saturday, May 30, 2015. New events planned for this year include a pie-baking contest and portable zip-lining across the football field.

B. Community Center/CC Park

1. March 10% Off Promotion Results

Phil Brady reported that the 10% off promotion held on March 21, 2015, was

very successful, even though on-line registration was not working. Forty-nine (49) annual passes were sold, seventy-nine (79) EFT passes were sold, and there were 236 annual pass renewals on that date.

## 2. Small Group Training Classes

Phil Brady reported that small group training classes are going very well and attendance has increased. Spinning and suspension training are included in the small group training classes.

## C. Parks Maintenance/Parks Issues

### 1. Villanova Proposal Turf Field

Rick Carbo reported that Villanova University has proposed to turf the infield area of the basefield field (an approximately \$450,000 upgrade). Rick noted that this would help the township save approximately \$15,000 per year to get the field ready for play. If approved, this project would begin in August-2015. Villanova would want an extension of their current lease.

## D. Wetherill Park

Rick Carbo reported that the contractor began work and clearing of the area has been completed. Construction work is expected to begin shortly.

## E. Programming

### 1. Bob Bigelow – April 14, 2015

The presentation by Bob Bigelow has been re-scheduled to Tuesday, April 14, 2015, at 7 PM in the Plymouth Township Building auditorium. All youth organizations have been invited to attend this presentation.

### 2. Camp Registrations

Phil Brady reported that camp registrations are continuing. Some age groups and some specialty camps are already full.

## 5. NEW BUSINESS

Joe Stem stated that he was appalled at the happenings at JFK Park, which he stated was trash, smoking of illegal substances, and use by non-Plymouth Township

residents. Joe noted that township residents are unable to use the park, and are afraid to call the police. Rick Carbo noted that lights had been installed, netting was put up, and additional signage put in place at the park. It was noted that a similar situation had occurred at Colwell Park several years ago, and improvement was made after regular calls to the police. Phil Brady noted that Mt. Carmel and Plymouth Softball will soon be using the park on a regular basis and that should help to alleviate the situation.

## 6. MISCELLANEOUS

Council Liaison Dean Eisenberger updated the Board members on the following items:

- The Ridge Pike project has been continuing,
- A traffic light at Carland Road has been semi-approved,
- Utility work continues in the Black Horse section, and
- It will take approximately four months to complete the emergency Bridge replacement approved by PennDot on Plymouth Road in the area of a large sinkhole.

Pat Ianelli commented that she felt that the Plymouth Township road crews did a good job on snow removal this past winter.

## ADJOURNMENT:

A motion for adjournment was made by Kim Pennington and seconded by Joe Stem.

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Tuesday, April 28, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Rosemary Winterbottom*  
Rosemary Winterbottom, Secretary