

Parks, Recreation, and Shade Tree Advisory Board

Minutes of Tuesday, April 28, 2015

A meeting of the Parks, Recreation, and Shade Tree Advisory Board was held on Tuesday, April 28, 2015, at the Plymouth Township Community Center. Present were Board members Bill English, Pat Iannelli, Barbara Thompson, Neil Clark, and Kim Pennington; Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Phil Brady; Council Member Lenore Bruno; and Board Secretary Rosemary Winterbottom. Board members Joe Stem and Patty Trask were not in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Bill English.

PW Ice Hockey

Mr. Bob Moyer was present to represent PW Ice Hockey.

Mr. Moyer stated that the organization had a good season. The middle school team did well, and the varsity team made the Flyers Cup Tournament this year. Mr. Moyer hopes to be able to have an elementary school team soon, with a registration fee for this team less than the current registration fee.

Mr. Moyer stated that the major cost for the organization remains the cost of ice time. Mr. Moyer noted that the fee for ice time increased \$50 this year, and this will probably result in an increase to the current \$950 registration fee.

In response to questions from the Board, Mr. Moyer stated he was only aware of one other ice hockey organization who received financial support from their locality. Mr. Moyer stated he does not receive any funding from Whitmarsh Township. Mr. Moyer further stated that the organization recycles many pieces of equipment from players who have outgrown their equipment.

The Board thanked Mr. Moyer for his presentation.

Plymouth Junior ABA

Mr. Bob Himmelreich was present to represent Plymouth Junior ABA.

Mr. Himmelreich stated that 425 children, ages 5 to 15 year olds, participated in the program this year. The group had 44 intermural teams and 11 travel teams, with the

travel teams participating in tournaments. The organization draws membership from many surrounding communities in addition to Plymouth Township residents. The annual Plymouth Tournament was held in March, and consisted of 52 teams. This year was the 60th anniversary of the program, which began in 1955. A logo for the 60th year was developed for use on tee shirts which were offered for sale.

Mr. Himmelreich detailed many concerns he has for the program, including:

- There were 10 children on a waiting list last year, most of whom registered too late to be included on a team.
- Concern for the (3) background checks required for volunteers. Phil Brady stated that it is a state law that anyone who volunteers to work with children must complete an FBI, Criminal, and State Police background check. Phil will send Mr. Himmelreich information of this state law.
- Continued costs of school district gym time on weekends (for janitorial and security). Phil Brady stated that these costs were negotiated with the school district last year and a fair rate was established.
- The loss of the storage area in the Plymouth Township Building for the team's uniforms, balls, etc., will cost \$217-220 a month rental fee at a local storage facility. Phil Brady noted that all youth organizations will no longer be able to use the Plymouth Township building storage area, and that Dean Eisenberger was researching a possible introductory group rate at a new storage facility to be built.
- Additional gym space continues to be a problem, and may result in the limiting of number of registrants.
- The difficulty of recruiting volunteer certified officials, and his concern over safety if these volunteer officials can not control older children participating in the program. Mr. Himmelreich feels that the organization may need to pay for certified officials.

Kim Pennington inquired as to the fees for participants in the program; and the cost is \$85 for the first player in a family, \$30 for the second player, and \$20 for the third player. Mr. Himmelreich stated that players who make the travel teams do not pay any extra fee, but their parents must volunteer to work at the Plymouth Tournament.

The Board thanked Mr. Himmelreich for his presentation.

Greater Norristown Wrestling Club

Mr. Jason Sugalski was present to represent the Greater Norristown Wrestling Club.

Mr. Sugalski stated that the organization had a very good year. Approximately fifty (50) youths participated in the program. Many of the participants were younger children, and there were not as many middle-school aged children participating. This lack of older children presented a challenge in matching up wrestlers.

Mr. Sugalski explained that the organization is trying to intertwine their group with both the middle school and high school programs, so that the children will know what to expect as they move on. A coaches clinic was held this year with the Plymouth Whitemarsh High School coach.

Mr. Sugalski stated that the biggest concern for the organization is the loss of storage space for the group's clocks, trophies, snack bar items, computers, and printers in the basement of the Plymouth Township Building. Phil Brady explained that it is hoped to be able to negotiate an introductory group rate in a storage facility to be built.

The Board thanked Mr. Sugalski for his presentation.

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

A motion to approve the minutes of the March 24, 2015, meeting was made by Barbara Thompson. This motion was seconded by Pat Iannelli 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 March-2015 was reviewed.

Phil Brady also showed the Board photos from the Fishing Tournament, Men's Basketball League, Minnow the Mermaid at the pool, the Easter Bunny at the pool, and the Senior Social.

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. General Department

1. Plymouth Township Day

Plymouth Township Day will be held from 4-8 PM on Saturday, May 30, 2015. New events planned for this year are a zip-line and a pie-baking contest. Phil Brady circulated a sheet among the Board members for them to sign up to volunteer working the event.

B. Community Center/CC Park

1. Small Group Training Classes

Phil Brady reported that the small group training classes are expected to be expanded to accommodate drop-in participants.

C. Parks Maintenance/Parks Issues

1. Villanova Proposal Turf Field

Phil Brady reported that the proposal agreement is under legal review.

2. JFK Park

Phil reported that the Colonial Soccer Club is planning a cleanup day at JFK Park. Phil has visited the park several times to observe any groups loitering in the park. Phil noted that the increase of regularly scheduled activity at the park should deter the current loitering.

C. Wetherill Park

1. Act 13 Grant Application
2. Act 13 Grant Support Letter

Rick reported that this is a \$375,500 grant to continue work on the Nature Center at Wetherill Park. The grant would be an 85% grant, with Plymouth Township contributing 15%. Rick provided letter in support of this grant, which Bill English signed.

E. Programming

Phil Brady noted that the 2015 Performances in the Park (concerts and movies)

will begin in June.

5. NEW BUSINESS

No items were discussed.

6. MISCELLANEOUS

Filling in for Council Liaison Dean Eisenberger, Council Member Lenore Bruno updated the Board members on the following items:

- The emergency bridge replacement on Plymouth Road is beginning, and
- Work continues on the Lafayette Extension project.

Bill English requested that Lenore suggest to Dean Eisenberger that the optimum time to address the overpass on Germantown Pike needed as part of the Cross County Trail should be while the emergency bridge replacement on Plymouth Road is being done.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Tuesday, May 26, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,
Rosemary Winterbottom
Rosemary Winterbottom, Secretary