

Parks, Recreation, and Shade Tree Advisory Board

Minutes of Tuesday, January 26, 2016

A meeting of the Parks, Recreation, and Shade Tree Advisory Board was held on Tuesday, January 26, 2016, at the Plymouth Township Community Center. Present were Board members Kim Pennington, Barbara Thompson, Neil Clark, Patty Trask, and newly-appointed members Jason Sugalski and Jennifer Dow; Parks and Recreation Director Karen Franck; 2015 Council Liaison Dean Eisenberger; 2016 Council Liaison Chris Manero; and Board Secretary Rosemary Winterbottom. Board Member Pat Iannelli was not in attendance.

Karen Franck introduced the newly-appointed members Jason Sugalski and Jennifer Dow to the Board. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Barbara Thompson nominated Kim Pennington for the position of Chairman-Parks, Recreation and Shade Tree Advisory Board. This nomination was seconded by Patty Trask. There were no further nominations for this position. The Board vote was unanimous in favor of this nomination and Kim Pennington accepted the position of Chairman-Parks, Recreation, and Shade Tree Advisory Board for 2016.

Kim Pennington nominated Barbara Thompson for the position of Vice Chairman-Parks, Recreation, and Shade Tree Advisory Board. This nomination was seconded by Patty Trask. There were no further nominations for this position. The Board vote was unanimous in favor of this nomination and Barbara Thompson accepted the position of Vice Chairman-Parks, Recreation, and Shade Tree Advisory Board for 2016.

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

A motion to approve the minutes of the November 24, 2015, meeting was made by Barbara Thompson. This motion was seconded by Patty Trask and unanimously approved.

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GUESTS AND VISITORS

There were no guests or visitors present.

3. DISCUSSION OF PACKET MATERIALS

The monthly reports for November-2015 and December-2015 were reviewed. Karen Franck reported that the November and December months generally went very well. Gym rentals were down, but other areas increased.

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. General Department

1. Goals and Accomplishments

Each Board member was provided with the 2015-2016 Goals and Accomplishments. Karen Franck asked that each Board member read the report and e-mail any questions to her. Karen felt that 2015 was another successful year.

2. PECO Grant – Possible Bikeway Spur

Karen Franck reported that a 15-month study is being done for a possible bikeway spur as part of the cross-county trail through Plymouth Township. Council member Dean Eisenberger further explained where the proposed bikeway spur would be located on a map that had been provided by Karen. Dean noted that the bridge to cross over Germantown Pike is currently out for bid.

3. Plymouth Township Day – New Events

Plymouth Township Day is scheduled for Saturday, June 4, 2016. It is planned to have more inflatables this year, as well as possibly a rock climbing wall. It is also planned to add some craft booths to the event.

B. Community Center/CC Park

1. Sidewalk Grant

Karen Franck reported that the contract has been received for this portion of sidewalk which will run along Germantown Pike from Jolly Road to Walton Road. Karen expects this project to be bid out in the Spring.

2. Gym and Atrium Lighting

Karen Franck reported that new LED lighting is planned for installation in the Gym and Atrium areas (the pool area was done last year). It is hoped that the installation of these LED lights will qualify for a rebate from PECO.

3. January and February Promotions

Karen reported that 30 of the January promotion of "purchase 4 weeks, get 5th week free" have been sold so far. The February promotion will focus on "Healthy Heart Month". Karen also noted that January is generally a busy month for registration in both the Silver Sneakers and Silver and Fit programs.

C. Parks Maintenance/Parks Issues

1. 2016 Capital Project List

Karen provided a listing of the 2016 Capital Budget projects and briefly explained details of some of the items on the list. Kim Pennington asked if Montco Tech School students could install the pavilion roof replacement. Karen will check with Rick Carbo on this.

D. Wetherill Park

1. 2013-2015 Act 13 Grant/Audit Act 13

Karen Franck reported that this project is basically completed (entrance way, parking areas, etc.). Karen would like to plant some new trees at Wetherill Park as part of a new project.

2. DCNR Grant Bid Update

Karen noted that permission is being requested to re-bid this 5-year, \$256,000 matching grant project. Karen hopes to be able to have this project go out to bid next week for a March award date. This project would be to build another pavilion, a playground, and outdoor restrooms.

2. Programs with Plymouth Elementary

Karen Franck explained that Joanna Sharapan has been working with students from Plymouth Elementary on a wildbird seed sale. Funds from the proceeds of this sale will be used to purchase bird feeders for Wetherill Park. Kim Pennington asked if some of the local boy scout groups make bird feeders. Karen Franck will look into this.

E. Programming

1. Aquatics – Splash and Dash, Grandparents Day

Karen noted that the 1st Annual Splash and Dash will be held this year (Saturday, 2/27/16). This event is for participants ages 9-13 years old. It is hoped to have an event for Grandparents Day this year also.

2. Programming – Youth and Adult Paint Nights, Aerospace Engineering Class

Youth and Adult Paint Nights are scheduled for February-2016. An Aerospace Engineering Class is also being held this year.

3. Fitness – Body Weight Burn

Karen noted that a new Body Weight Burn class for adults is also scheduled.

4. New Ala Carte Birthday Party Packages

Karen explained that new Ala Carte Birthday packages will be offered to provide more options. There will be a base price for the party, and then the party can be customized based on the customer's preferences.

5. Summer Camp Brochure and Registration

The Summer Camp Brochure has been delayed. Karen expects that it will be ready by the end of this week.

Karen Frank also showed the Board photos from recent events: Martin Luther King Day of Service (Girl Scouts made dog and cat toys for donation to local animal shelters); Mitten Tree; men's basketball league; Silver Sneakers Social; after-school program; and Senior Expo held at Colonial Middle School.

Kim Pennington noted that Operation Gratitude was also sponsored as part of the Martin Luther King Day of Service. This program donated supplies to troops abroad. Kim reported that donations of sample sizes of shampoo, soap, etc., were made by local hotels.

5. NEW BUSINESS

No items were discussed.

6. MISCELLANEOUS

Council Liaison Dean Eisenberger reported that new Council Member Chris Manero will be the 2016 Liaison for the Parks and Recreation Board.

Dean then explained to the Board the funding for the Community Center and how impact fees from new developments contribute largely to making the Community Center pretty much self-sufficient. Dean further explained how Council is very proactive in securing funding through grants from government agencies.

Dean reported that the township road crews were out over 48 hours straight during the recent snow storm, and that he received less than five calls concerning road conditions.

In answer to a question from Kim Pennington, Dean stated that the Driscoll land development project is being reviewed.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion for adjournment was made by Barbara Thompson and seconded by Patty Trask

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Tuesday, February 23, 2016

Respectfully submitted,
Rosemary Winterbottom
Rosemary Winterbottom, Secretary