

Parks, Recreation, and Shade Tree Advisory Board

Minutes of Tuesday, September 27, 2016

A meeting of the Parks, Recreation, and Shade Tree Advisory Board was held on Tuesday, September 27, 2016, at the Plymouth Township Community Center. Present were Board members Kim Pennington, Barbara Thompson, Pat Iannelli, Jason Sugalski, Patty Trask, and Jennifer Dow; Parks and Recreation Director Karen Franck; Council Liaison Chris Manero; and Board Secretary Rosemary Winterbottom. Board member Neil Clark was not in attendance.

Board Chairman Kim Pennington called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

1. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR TUESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2016

A motion to approve the minutes of the August 23, 2016, 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 in attendance.

3. DISCUSSION OF PACKET MATERIALS

Karen Franck showed the Board photos from the Harriet Wetherill Park ribbon cutting ceremony, a Friday Night art class, youth soccer, and the new turf at the Villanova field.

The monthly report was not available for review.

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. General Department

1. Community Garden – Survey and Timing

Karen reported that about 30 surveys have been received so far. Additional surveys will be included in the next sewer bill mailing. The survey results from this next mailing will then be added to the current results. Kim Pennington inquired if the respondents to the surveys know they are responsible for tending their own garden, and Karen Frank stated they were.

## 2. PECO Grant; DCED Application

Karen Franck reported that the engineers have completed their study for the PECO Grant. The DCED application was submitted, and it is hoped that the awarding of this grant will take place in October/November.

## 3. Sidewalk – Germantown Pike

Karen reported that the contracts have been signed and have been forwarded to Karen Weiss for signing. It is hoped to have this project done this year.

## B. Community Center/CC Park

### 1. Marketing Promotions – 10% off

Karen noted that the 10% off yearly Community Center memberships will take place on October 22 only. Registration is in person or on-line.

### 2. Shutdown Week, Lighting and Capital

Karen reported that Shutdown Week went well. New flooring was installed in both the pre-school room and the babysitting room. The locker rooms were cleaned, and the pool deck was cleaned.

Future lighting projects include improved lighting in the parking lot as well as the Fitness Center. Improved lighting should qualify for some rebates.

## C. Parks Maintenance/Parks Issues

### 1. GPCC Fields -- Turf

The installation of the turf on the Villanova baseball field has been completed. The Board had been shown a photo of the completed project.

### 2. Playground Improvements

Improvements to the playground area at the Community Center will begin in the next three to four weeks. Drainage issues will be addressed. Minor playground improvements will also be done at other playgrounds.

### 3. Tree Funding

Karen Franck explained that funds from tree development fees will be used to plant trees around Harriet Wetherill Park in areas where needed. Trees will also be planted along Germantown Pike where the new sidewalk will be installed.

### D. Wetherill Park

#### 1. DCNR Grant Progress

Karen reported that the contractors should be completing their final work within the next three to four weeks.

#### 2. Act 13 Grant Resubmittal

There is still no word on the awarding of this grant.

#### 3. Ribbon Cutting and Next Thoughts

The ribbon cutting at Harriet Wetherill Park was held on the rain date of September 26, 2016. Members of the Wetherill family attended the event.

Karen explained that an area will be designated for bird feeders in the park. It is also anticipated that additional nature signage will be installed.

### E. Programming

#### 1. HWP Weekend

Harriet Wetherill Park Weekend will be held on October 14, 15 and 16, 2016. Events will include Mystery Madness, pumpkin pick, and hayrides. Karen Franck would like to have some new events for next year, and Kim Pennington suggested a dog Halloween costume parade.

#### 2. New Friday Night Art Classes

Karen noted that the new series of Friday Night art classes has been well-received. A photo from a recent event had been shown to the Board.

#### 3. New Birthday Party Packages

Karen stated that participation in the new birthday party packages has surpassed expectations.

## 5. NEW BUSINESS

Barbara Thompson inquired if there is any Veterans Day event at the Service and Devotion Monument, and Karen Franck responded that there is not.

Jennifer Dow reported that Macy's in the Plymouth Meeting Mall is not closing, as of now. Construction of Legoland is still proceeding.

## 6. MISCELLANEOUS

Chris Manero inquired if the township had ever done a holiday tree-lighting event, and Karen responded that there has not been one. A lengthy discussion on having a Winter Festival was discussed among the Board members, with many good ideas being suggested (tree lighting, toys for tots, etc.). Karen will discuss these suggestions with the staff.

Jason Sugalski also questioned the status of placing lighting on the concession stand at East Plymouth Valley Park that would provide light to the area near the bridge. Karen Franck will check on this.

Chris Manero noted that possible improvements to Field 4 at East Plymouth Valley Park are being worked, including possible fencing.

## ADJOURNMENT:

A motion for adjournment was made by Pat Iannelli and seconded by Jason Sugalski. The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Tuesday, October 25, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

*Rosemary Winterbottom*

Rosemary Winterbottom, Secretary