

Parks, Recreation, and Shade Tree Advisory Board

Minutes of Tuesday, October 25, 2016

A meeting of the Parks, Recreation, and Shade Tree Advisory Board was held on Tuesday, October 25, 2016, at the Plymouth Township Community Center. Present were Board members Kim Pennington, Barbara Thompson, Pat Iannelli, Jason Sugalski, Patty Trask, and Neil Clark; Parks and Recreation Director Karen Franck; Council Liaison Chris Manero; and Board Secretary Rosemary Winterbottom. Board member Jennifer Dow was not in attendance.

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

1. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2016

A motion to approve the minutes of the September 27, 2016, meeting was made by Jason Sugalski. 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

The monthly report for September-2016 was reviewed. Karen noted that the After School Program has the highest enrollment ever (about 70 participants). The revamped birthday parties are also going very well; birthday parties are already booked through November.

Karen showed the Board members photos from HWP Weekend; pumpkin decorating; After School Program; arts and crafts; and the newly-cleared area along Germantown Pike where the new sidewalk will be installed. Kim Pennington spoke about her great experience working with the children during HWP events.

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. General Department

1. Community Garden – Survey and Thoughts

Karen reported that the survey gathering is completed. Forty (40) surveys

were received. The surveys will now be reviewed. A location for the garden has been selected near the front of Harriet Wetherill Park.

## 2. Sierra Road Property

Karen reported that Council is working on possible acquisition of the approximately six acre Historical Society property on Sierra Road.

## 3. Grant Spreadsheet

Karen Frank has created a color-coded spreadsheet listing all the grants and pertinent information for each grant. Karen will provide the Board members with the spreadsheet when it is completed.

## 4. Sidewalk Germantown Pike

Karen had previously shown the Board photos from the cleared-out area along Germantown Pike where the new sidewalk will be installed.

## 5. Pump Track

Chris Manero described the pump track as a dirt track for bikes. Karen Franck reported that the requested location is on the ground under the power lines at East Plymouth Valley Park. Karen also noted that the area would need to be staffed, and the dirt track needs to be maintained. Kim Pennington noted liability issues.

## 6. Swimming Teams

Karen Franck noted the recent addition of a new swimming organization, CCA (Colonial Community Aquatics). This new organization uses the Plymouth Whitmarsh High School pool, as does the long-standing PWAC (Plymouth Whitmarsh Aquatic Club).

## 7. Wrestling Mats

Jason Sugalski reported that two (2) mats stored by the Greater Norristown Wrestling Club at Colonial Middle School were missing when he went into the storage area for the beginning of the current season. Jason contacted Terry Yemm of the Colonial School District regarding the missing mats, and also notified two school board members of the missing mats. Terry Yemm reported back to Jason that the missing mats were thrown out. Jason is in negotiation with the school district to obtain new mats. Jason explained that the mats would be needed in time for the organization's tournament on December 18, 2016.

## B. Community Center/CC Park

### 1. Marketing Promotions – 10% off Results

Karen Franck reported that the 10% off yearly Community Center memberships on Saturday, October 22, 2016, went very well. Two-hundred ninety-nine (299) new or renewed passes were sold, making it the highest sales date since this promotion began.

### 2. Lighting and Capital

Karen reported that Rick Carbo is doing a good job on capital projects.

Lighting replacements continue next in the gym and parking lot. Electric bills are being tracked to calculate savings realized due to reduced usage from the lighting replacements.

## C. Parks Maintenance/Parks Issues

### 1. Playground Improvements -- List

Karen reported that minor improvements have been completed at Black Horse Park, and have been started at Colwell Park. Minor improvements to be made at Alan Wood Park and JFK Park have not started yet. The big project will be done at the Community Center Park, which will include work to correct a drainage problem.

### 2. Tree Funding

Karen Franck stated that a fair amount of funding has been received from development fees to be used for tree planting. Trees will be planted in Harriet Wetherill Park and near the new sidewalk along Germantown Pike. Kim Pennington noted that a dying tree needs to be replaced adjacent to a plaque in Harriet Wetherill Park.

## D. Wetherill Park

### 1. DCNR Grant Progress

Karen reported that electric service is now available to provide testing of new items in the planned nature center building. It is hoped that the entire project will be completed by the end of November-2016.



## 2. Act 13 Grant Resubmittal

Karen reported that a \$125,000 grant was received which will be used to "close" the nature center building (windows, doors, etc.). The township match for this grant is \$18,750.

## E. Programming

### 1. HWP Weekend

Karen had already shown photos from Harriet Wetherill Park Weekend. Kim Pennington reported she noticed damage to the electrical box and a malfunctioning solar light in the pavilion during HWP Weekend. Karen will forward this information to Rick Carbo.

### 2. Pool Special Events

Pool-O-Ween is scheduled for October 28, 2016. Pool events scheduled during November include Poolar Plunge, a Night of Fitness, and the Cardboard Boat Regatta.

## 5. NEW BUSINESS

Karen Franck stated that funds have been budgeted for a possible Winter event next year.

Karen also updated the Board on the Mini-People Program insurance issue. PRPS has delegated a representative to begin talks with DHS on the insurance issue. Karen feels we need to be pro-active in order to have a timely resolution to this matter. Karen hopes to host a meeting with pertinent parties to discuss issues, and hopes to include legislators in this meeting.

## 6. MISCELLANEOUS

Council Liaison Chris Manero reported on the following:

- A bid has been accepted to provide improvements to Field 4 at East Plymouth Valley Park;
- Ground breaking took place for LegoLand (expected to open Spring-2017);
- Budget meetings are continuing; and
- A new CVS will be opening in the Cold Point development.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion for adjournment was made by Pat Iannelli and seconded by Patty Trask. The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Tuesday, November 22, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

*Rosemary Winterbottom*

Rosemary Winterbottom, Secretary