

Parks, Recreation, and Shade Tree Advisory Board

Minutes of Tuesday, January 24, 2017

A meeting of the Parks, Recreation, and Shade Tree Advisory Board was held on Tuesday, January 24, 2017, at the Plymouth Township Community Center. Present were Board members Kim Pennington, Barbara Thompson, Jason Sugalski, Jennifer Dow, Patti Trask and new member Bryan Renneisen; Parks and Recreation Director Karen Franck; Council Liaison Chris Manero; and Board Secretary Rosemary Winterbottom. Board member Neil Clark was not in attendance.

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 Patti 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 2017.

Kim Pennington nominated Barbara Thompson for the position of Vice Chairman-Parks, Recreation, and Shade Tree Advisory Board. This nomination was seconded by Jason Sugalski. 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 2017.

1. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2016

A motion to approve the minutes of the November 22, 2016, meeting was made by Barbara Thompson. This motion was seconded by Patti 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 December-2016 was reviewed. Karen Franck reported that the new birthday party packages are still doing well. The Silver Sneakers and Silver & Fit programs are also doing well.

Karen showed the Board members photos from recent events, including

Super Hero Day, Silver Sneakers Luncheon, Martin Luther King Day of Service, Graham Cracker House Workshop, Kids Paint Night, Learn How to Draw Art Class, Father/Daughter Dance, Boat Regatta Construction, and Breakfast with Santa.

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. General Department

1. Community Garden – Survey Results

Karen Franck reported that the results of the survey for the Community Garden have been sent to Council. Interest has been shown in the project. Individuals who completed surveys will be contacted to determine their possible level of involvement in coordinating this project.

2. Dickinson Farmstead Update

a. PECO Grant Submission

Plymouth Council has signed an Agreement of Sale for this Historical Society property on Sierra Road (\$135,000). The Agreement of Sale is needed in order to proceed with applying for grants.

b. Toole Recreation Planning Study

Toole Recreational Planning (Ann Toole) will be providing a study on the property in order to determine what is there, and what we can do with the site. A meeting will be held with Historical Society Board members on 1/25/17 to obtain information to be used for securing grants.

Montgomery County has provided \$35,000 towards the purchase price of this property as part of their new grant programs.

1. Board Involvement (Dickinson Farmstead Board)

Park and Recreation Board members are needed to participate in a Dickinson Farmstead Board committee. This committee will follow DCNR guidelines in applying for grants. Kim Pennington and Patti Trask volunteered to participate in this committee, which is expected to run about one year.

c. 2017 Grant Applications

1. PHMC -- March

This grant to Pennsylvania Historical Museum Commission (PHMC) is due March 1. Awarding of this grant is expected by the end of the summer.

2. DCNR -- April

This grant applying for acquisition money to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) is due April 12. The grant would be used for a trail, trailhead, and possibly a playground. Awarding of this grant should be in the November/December time period.

3. DCED – May/June

These grants to the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) will be applied to buildings on the property and are due in May and June. Awarding of these grants is expected in the November/December time period.

3. Sidewalk Germantown Pike

Karen reported that the new sidewalk along Germantown Pike has been completed. As part of the grant requirements, the submittal for reimbursements now needs to be done.

4. Township Comprehensive Plan

Karen Franck noted that the Plymouth Township Comprehensive Plan was last done in 1999. Montgomery County has offered to work with Plymouth Township on a new plan. Kim Pennington has volunteered to work on the committee for this new plan; the committee will probably run two years in duration.

5. DCNR Grant Award

a. Board Involvement (DCNR Grant Board)

Park and Recreation Board members are needed to participate in a DCNR Grant Board committee for the DCNR grant that was received in December-2016. This committee will develop an open space plan to include a walkway and bikeway. Bryan Renneisen and Jason Sugalski volunteered for this committee, which will probably run two years duration.

6. Public Meeting on Dickinson Farmstead

A public meeting needs to be scheduled on the Dickinson Farmstead, and it is planned to have this meeting in combination with the regularly scheduled Parks and Recreation Board meeting on Tuesday, February 28, 2017. The consultants will be in attendance at this meeting.

B. Community Center/CC Park

1. Generator

Karen stated that the pads have been poured, and the connections

dug for this generator. This generator should keep the computers, pool, and mechanical systems running in the event of a power failure.

2. Playground

Karen reported that the playground at the Community Center Park has been completed.

3. Lighting

The LED lighting in the front of the building has been completed. Rick Carbo met with PECO to discuss some rebates that can be applied for. Work on the remainder of the parking lot lights and locker room lighting will continue during 2017.

C. Parks Maintenance/Parks Issues

1. Tree Funding

Karen reported that it is planned that additional trees will be planted at Harriet Wetherill Park in the spring. Additions and replacements of trees will also be done at other parks.

D. Wetherill Park

1. DCNR Grant Progress and Submissions

Karen reported that the grant is almost completed. She will be working on additional grant submissions.

2. DCED Act 13 Grant Award

Karen reported that this \$125,000 grant will be used for weather-proofing the nature center building. It is expected that this work will be done in the fall.

E. Programming

1. Holiday Event

Karen stated that funding for a holiday event has been put in the budget. A popular suggestion is to have a holiday tree with red, white, and blue ornaments placed near the Service and Devotion Monument. The Board members expressed their concurrence with this suggestion.

5. NEW BUSINESS

In an update to the status of the Mini-People Program, Karen Franck reported that it has been determined that Plymouth Township is not qualified to run the Mini-People Program. This is due to recent changes in the insurance needed to run this program. The Board members discussed the impact of the loss of this program.

6. MISCELLANEOUS

Council Liaison Chris Manero noted that Mission BBQ will be coming soon to the former Houlihan's location on Germantown Pike.

Bryan Renneisen reported that new tenants are being sought for the Macy's location that is set to close shortly in the Plymouth Meeting Mall. Legoland is scheduled for opening sometime in the spring.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion for adjournment was made by Jason Sugalski and seconded by Barbara Thompson. The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Tuesday, February 28, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Winterbottom
Rosemary Winterbottom, Secretary