

Parks, Recreation, and Shade Tree Advisory Board

Minutes of Tuesday, April 25, 2017

A meeting of the Parks, Recreation, and Shade Tree Advisory Board was held on Tuesday, April 25, 2017, at the Plymouth Township Community Center. Present were Board members Kim Pennington, Barbara Thompson, Jennifer Dow, Jason Sugalski, Patti Trask, and Neil Clark; Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Phil Brady; and Board Secretary Rosemary Winterbottom. Board member Bryan Renneisen was out of town for business.

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

PW ICE HOCKEY

Mr. Ron Keller, Treasurer, was present for PW Ice Hockey.

Mr. Keller stated that he had previously served as President of the organization, and that his older son had participated. His younger son is now participating, so he became Treasurer. Mr. Keller explained the maneuvering among organization board members which ousted a coach, and then evolved into a lawsuit. Mr. Keller stated the controversy has been settled by all parties.

Kim Pennington asked if the organization has a Code of Conduct, and Mr. Keller noted the coaches must follow USA Hockey rules and Suburban High School Hockey rules. Kim requested that Mr. Keller check for a definite answer to her question. Phil Brady also requested that a copy of the USA Hockey document that players sign be provided.

Mr. Keller stated that the organization had 46 participants last year, which made up three teams – two high school varsity teams and one middle school team. The teams practice at the ice facility on Old York Road. Mr. Keller noted the tremendous amount of fixed fees associated with ice time.

Mr. Keller stated that the registration fee was \$850 last year, less \$100 for each participant residing in Plymouth Township. No monetary contribution is received from Whitmarsh Township.

The Board thanked Mr. Keller for his presentation.

PLYMOUTH JUNIOR ABA

Mr. Bob Himmelreich, President, was present for Plymouth Junior ABA.

Board member Kim Pennington began by addressing the organization's submitted

questionnaire which listed a critical item needing resolution – the use of the Plymouth

Elementary Gym by the PW Spartan cheerleaders. Mr. Himmelreich stated that the Plymouth Elementary Gym had been used for the 8-9 year old youngsters in the past. When that group was moved to a later time so that the cheerleaders could use the gym, Mr. Himmelreich stated he received calls from parents that their children were out too late.

Phil Brady stated that the cheerleaders were allotted 40 hours in the Plymouth Elementary gym and basketball was allotted over 200 hours, which gave the cheerleaders just 15% of the allocation. Board member Patti Trask suggested that basketball re-assign their times at any of the other gyms they are provided with to accommodate the 8-9 year old group, and even offered to help to work out this rescheduling. It was noted that the organization has six months to work on this issue.

Numerous suggestions were made by the Board members during this discussion. Jason Sugalski inquired as to why the organization could not pay for gym time elsewhere if needed. Mr. Himmelreich noted that they might be able to pay for gym time, but that would be expensive. It was also suggested that priority registration be given to Plymouth/Colonial residents so that Plymouth/Colonial residents are not placed on a waiting list. When Neil Clark asked how much money is spent on referees, Mr. Himmelreich stated that all the referees are all volunteers.

Mr. Himmelreich stated that the organization had 508 participants ages 5-16 years old last season. There were 51 intramural teams and 10 travel teams. It was the 62nd consecutive year that the organization has been in existence.

Mr. Himmelreich expressed his thanks for the use of the shed to house their equipment. Mr. Himmelreich stated that their organization has spent about \$3500 for racks, etc., that were placed in the shed to organize their equipment.

The Board thanked Himmelreich for his presentation.

GREATER NORRISTOWN WRESTLING CLUB

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

Mr. Sugalski stated that the wrestling club is doing well and had a great year. The organization registered 105 participants this past season. Seven of the organization's wrestlers went on to Pennsylvania Youth States. Five of the organization's wrestlers qualified for Eastern Nationals.

Mr. Sugalski noted that wrestling organizations in surrounding localities have been closing. It was noted that the Upper Merion organization will be closing soon.

In response to a question from the Board, Mr. Sugalski stated that the organization used Germantown Academy facilities for practice this past year.

Mr. Sugalski also noted that the issue of the missing mats has been fully resolved.

The Board thanked Mr. Sugalski for his presentation.

1. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2017

A motion to approve the minutes of the March 28, 2017, meeting was made by Patti Trask. This motion was seconded by Barbara Thompson and unanimously approved.

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GUESTS AND VISITORS

There were no additional guests or visitors in attendance.

3. DISCUSSION OF PACKET MATERIALS

The monthly report for March-2017 was reviewed. There were no comments on the report.

Phil Brady showed the Board photos from the recent Chestnut Hill nursing students health fair held at the Community Center, as well as team photos of men's volleyball, women's volleyball, CPA league basketball team, and the pickle ball group.

Phil also showed a short video of a portion of a pickle ball game.

Kim Pennington showed a photo from the Easter egg hunt.

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. General Department

1. DCNR – Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

Phil Brady reported that Karen Franck had noted that the DCNR Grant Board Committee will focus on the County Comprehensive Plan.

2. Dickinson Farmstead

A letter being sent to the PA Department of Community and Economic Development for the DCED Act 13 grant for the Dickinson Farmstead was signed by Chairman Kim Pennington. Phil Brady explained that this grant will be used for parking and the entryway to the property.

B. Community Center/CC Park

1. Windscreen Replacement/Padding

Phil Brady reported that the windscreen replacement/padding project funded by Villanova University (over \$100,000) has been completed.

2. Generator

Phil Brady also reported that the generator has been installed. Phil noted that the generator runs every Tuesday from 9-9:30 AM as a test.

C. Parks Maintenance/Parks Issues

1. EPV Basketball Court Relocation

Phil Brady reported that Karen Franck and Rick Carbo had met with the township engineer to determine how to move the basketball court closer to the pond. Any plan developed will need sign-off from the state of Pennsylvania.

D. Wetherill Park

1. DCED Grant Building Exterior

Phil Brady stated that this project will be going out to bid in a few weeks. This grant will be used for a new roof and windows to weather-proof the building from the elements.

E. Programming

1. Summer Camp

Phil reported that summer camps are about 90% full. Hiring for staff has begun, as well as the planning of trips and activities.

2. Mini People

Phil Brady noted that lobbying to change the current law is being done by various groups, including PRPS (Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society). Unfortunately, however, the Mini People camp cannot be held this summer.

3. Plymouth Township Day

Plymouth Township Day will be held on Saturday, June 3, 2017, from 11 AM to 3 PM. Phil noted that it is hoped to be able to sell mostly wristbands

this year rather than paper tickets. A sign-up sheet was provided for the Board members to select a time to volunteer.

4. Save the Date – Tree Lighting

Plymouth Township will hold its first Tree Lighting ceremony on Wednesday, November 29, 2017. A tree will be planted in the location of the Service and Devotion Monument for this event.

5. NEW BUSINESS

Kim Pennington noted that volunteers are needed on Saturday, April 29, 2017, from 12 noon to 2 PM to work on helping to maintain the Butterfly Garden at Harriet Wetherill Park. Kim will be planting some donated plants on that date.

6. MISCELLANEOUS

There were no items discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion for adjournment was made by Patti Trask and seconded by Jason Sugalski. The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Tuesday, May 23, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Winterbottom

Rosemary Winterbottom, Secretary