

Parks, Recreation, and Shade Tree Advisory Board

Minutes of Tuesday, March 28, 2017

A meeting of the Parks, Recreation, and Shade Tree Advisory Board was held on Tuesday, March 28, 2017, at the Plymouth Township Community Center. Present were Board members Kim Pennington, Barbara Thompson, Jason Sugalski, Jennifer Dow, Patti Trask, and Bryan Renneisen; Building and Grounds Director Rick Carbo; Recreation Services Specialist Shawn Mazei; and Board Secretary Rosemary Winterbottom. Board member Neil Clark was not in attendance.

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

PLYMOUTH WHITEMARSH SPARTANS

Mr. Eric Hegarty, President, was present for the Plymouth Whitemarsh Spartans Football and Cheerleading organization.

Mr. Hegarty reported that the organization had approximately 100 football players and 100+ cheerleaders last season.

Mr. Hegarty stated that the organization is getting ready for the upcoming season by checking helmets, uniforms, etc. Mr. Hegarty stated that helmets (costing \$125) are only good for ten (10) years, and require a yearly inspection. It was stated that all coaches are concussion certified. Players must be cleared by the medical personnel on the field prior to re-entering a game. Mr. Hegarty also stated the all coaches are required to have background checks.

Rick Carbo questioned the \$10,000 loss noted on the organization's financial report. Mr. Hegarty noted that spending needed to be curtailed, and a freeze on buying had been implemented in order to save some money.

In response to a question from the Board, Mr. Hegarty noted that the organization is storing their equipment in a hut on the field at East Plymouth Valley Park. Mr. Hegarty also stated that he is on the board of Plymouth Little League, and that the relationship between the football and baseball organizations is very good.

The Board thanked Mr. Hegarty for his presentation.

PLYMOUTH LITTLE LEAGUE

Mr. Mike Williams, President, was present for Plymouth Little League.

Mr. Williams stated that the organization is doing great, and that registration was up 10% (550 participants). Approximately 90-95% of the participants in the

organization are from Plymouth Township.

Mr. Williams stated that the organization provided \$20,000 towards the improvements made to Field 4 to provide full drainage for the field. Fencing is also to be installed on Field 4. A huge project has now been undertaken to make Field 2 a convertible field, which can then be utilized by 11-13 year old boys.

Mr. Williams also stated that the organization started a "6 and under" girls softball program last year, in which approximately 70 girls participated. A grant was received from Little League for this pilot program.

Mr. Williams noted that the organization would like to expand and replace the batting cages. Rick Carbo stated that the dugout roofs are scheduled for replacement this year.

Rick Carbo also noted that the Ansel unit in the Concession Stand will need to be replaced, sooner rather than later. Funds for this replacement are in the Capital budget.

Kim Pennington inquired as to the status of girls softball in the organization. Mr. Williams stated that there are 17 teams, and that girls softball is thriving.

The Board thanked Mr. Williams for his presentation.

## COLONIAL SOCCER CLUB

Mr. Adam Kaye, President; Mr. Tom Manley, Director of Fields; and Mr. John Dean, Vice President were present for Colonial Soccer Club.

Mr. Kaye explained that the organization had 1400 participants, with approximately 600 of those participants residents of Plymouth Township. The group has youth teams, adult teams (both men and women), as well as the TOPS soccer program for special needs individuals. This year was the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the organization.

The group is thankful to Plymouth, Whitemarsh, and the Colonial School District for the fields they each provide. However, most games are played at "away" locations due to lack of adequate field locations. The organization has even looked into renting some field space. The organization co-contributes with Whitemarsh in a maintenance plan for use of Miles Park. It was stated that no funds are received from Whitemarsh Township.

Rick Carbo reported that the group needs to get their goals off the fields every year, and inquired as to the process for removal of the goals. Mr. Kaye stated they need to do a better job in this removal and that a flat bed truck will probably be needed to remove the goals from JFK Park. Mr. Kaye noted that it would be easier if they could just dismantle the goals, and leave them chained up somewhere near the field.

Shawn Mazei inquired as to the organizations \$29,000 deficit. Mr. Kaye explained



that most of that figure is due to the purchase of new goals needed since U.S. Soccer changed the field sizes last year.

Mr. Dean asked if a job box could be placed at JFK field for the storage of some items. Rick Carbo noted that that should be possible, but that one could not be placed at Colwell Park. Mr. Kaye inquired if any improvements can be made to Colwell Park. Rick Carbo stated that Colwell Park does not have an irrigation system, which makes it hard to maintain. Not much more can be done without an irrigation system. This is the same situation with JFK Park. Rick would be willing to talk further with the organization.

Mr. Manley suggested that access to a field at the Community Center for one or two games each weekend would be helpful. Rick stated that the field usually is closed around April 15 in order to re-seed, but that date can possibly be adjusted.

Potential lighting on the field at the Community Center was discussed, and Rick Carbo noted this could possibly be a joint project between youth groups and the township.

The Board thanked Mr. Kaye, Mr. Manley, and Mr. Dean for their presentation.

1. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2017, AND TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2017

A motion to approve the minutes of both the January 24, 2017, meeting and the February 28, 2017, 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 additional guests or visitors in attendance.

3. DISCUSSION OF PACKET MATERIALS

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

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. General Department

1. DCNR – Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

Rick Carbo reported that a committee will be formed to participate in updating the parks open space plan. The concentration will be on trails and connectivity.

## 2. Dickinson Farmstead

Rick Carbo reported that a grant has been applied for, which will be used for repairs to the barn. It is hoped to be able to moved up settlement on the property to June-2017.

## B. Community Center/CC Park

### 1. Lighting – 2016 and 2017

Rick Carbo reported that LED lighting has been installed in the gym, women's locker room, and men's locker room.

### 2. Rooftop Unit Replacements

Rick reported that it is planned to have this project done in the October/November-2017 time frame. It is hoped to obtain a rebate from PECO for this work.

### 3. Windscreen Replacement/Padding

Rick reported that the windscreen on the baseball field (Villanova field) had been replaced with padding.

### 4. Generator

Rick stated that a new generator will be installed which will provide power to the entire building in the event of a power failure.

## C. Parks Maintenance/Parks Issues

### 1. Tree Funding

Rick Carbo noted that funds received from developers of approximately \$20,000 will be used to plant trees in Harriet Wetherill Park.

### 2. EPV Basketball Court Relocation

Rick Carbo explained that Harmonville Fire Company, which is adjacent to the entrance to East Plymouth Valley Park, presents a dangerous situation on Germantown Pike due to the fact that they need to back their fire trucks into the fire station. They would like to be able to drive into their property from Germantown Pike to access the rear of their property. This would require moving the basketball courts at East Plymouth Valley Park over about 40 feet to provide the access needed. It will need to be determined how this can be done.

### 3. 2017 Maintenance Review

Rick Carbo reported that maintenance projects for 2017 include replacing the dugout roofs at East Plymouth Valley Park, installing LED lighting in the Community Center parking lot, and installing LED lighting in the Fitness Center.

#### D. Wetherill Park

##### 1. DCNR Grant Closure

Rick reported that all contractors have been paid, and punch list items are being completed.

##### 2. DCED Grant Award -- Building

Rick reported that the grant that was received will be used for weather-proofing the nature center building. II.

#### E. Programming

##### 1. Spring Break Programming

Shawn Mazei briefly discussed spring break programming. It was noted that the summer mini-people camp issue has still not been resolved.

### 5. NEW BUSINESS

There were no items discussed.

### 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, April 25, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Winterbottom  
Rosemary Winterbottom, Secretary