

Parks, Recreation, and Shade Tree Advisory Board

Minutes of Tuesday, April 24, 2018

A meeting of the Parks, Recreation, and Shade Tree Advisory Board was held on Tuesday, April 24, 2018, at the Plymouth Township Community Center. Present were Board members Kim Pennington, Jason Suglski, Bryan Renneisen, Neal Clark, and Barbara Thompson; Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Phil Brady; Council Liaison Chris Manero; and Board Secretary Rosemary Winterbottom. Board members Patti Trask and Jennifer Dow were not in attendance.

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

PLYMOUTH WHITEMARSH ICE HOCKEY

Mr. Ron Keller, Treasurer of the organization, was present to represent PW Ice Hockey.

Mr. Keller stated that the organization had three teams this season: a high school varsity team, a high school junior varsity team, and a middle school team. All the players are residents of Colonial School District, whether public or private school students. The high school varsity team players, however, must all attend Plymouth Whitemarsh High School.

Mr. Keller noted that the registration fee to play with the organization is below \$1,000, while many other ice hockey clubs have registration fees of over \$1,000. Additionally, PW Ice Hockey offers a family discount and a discount for Plymouth Township residents. A fundraiser held by the organization raised over \$3,200 to support Teen Cancer America.

In response to a question from Kim Pennington, Mr. Keller stated that the organization does require background checks. Mr. Keller further noted that there are additional requirements set by USA Hockey for all coaches.

The Board thanked Mr. Keller for his presentation.

PLYMOUTH JUNIOR ABA BASKETBALL

Mr. Bob Himmelreich and Mr. Bill Samarin were present to represent the Plymouth Junior ABA Basketball organization.

Mr. Himmelreich noted that the organization had 513 participants in the program, and that 227 of those participants were from Plymouth Township. Kim Pennington expressed her concerns over the players from many neighboring municipalities being registered into the Plymouth Junior ABA Basketball organization. Kim explained that Plymouth Township residents feel they are getting pushed out of the program, and many go to play with

Whitemarsh Township basketball because they feel they will get better playing time. Mr. Samarin stated that registration for the organization begins on September 1 and runs through October 31, offering a 60-day open enrollment period. Mr. Samarin stated the organization does not solicit for players from neighboring municipalities. Mr. Himmelreich provided Kim Pennington with a listing of the names of players in the basketball program.

Bryan Renneisen asked if the organization would have enough players if only Plymouth Township residents were participants, and Mr. Samarin stated that they would probably not have enough participants. Neil Clark suggested that the open enrollment period be limited to Plymouth Township residents only for the first month.

Mr. Himmelreich also noted that the organization had to rent gym space since the gym at PWHS was not available due to construction. Mr. Himmelreich is hoping that when the new gym at PWHS is completed, the gym at the 4/5 school will become available for community use.

Mr. Himmelreich stated that he was grateful for the equipment shed that was provided to house the organization's equipment. Mr. Himmelreich noted that the organization is facing increased insurance costs and increased custodial fees. It was stated that all of the referees used are volunteers, with the exception of the tournament referees.

The Board thanked Mr. Himmelreich and Mr. Samarin for their presentation.

MOUNT CARMEL LEGION BASEBALL

Mr. Tom Longo was present to represent the Mount Carmel Legion Baseball organization.

Mr. Longo stated that the team is comprised of 18 players, aged from 15 to 19 years old. The 18 team maximum number is set by American Legion Baseball. Sixteen (16) of the players are from Colonial School District, and the two (2) other players are from a section of Norristown within the boundary set by American Legion Baseball.

In response to a question from Kim Pennington, Mr. Longo stated that the organization conducts background checks. The team plays their games at the Villanova baseball field, and practices at the Colonial Middle School field. Tryouts for the team were held over two weekends; there were no cuts made this year. The season runs from Memorial Day to July 4, for a six-week season.

Councilman Chris Manero voiced his support of the organization and the job they are doing.

The Board thanked Mr. Longo for his presentation.

GREATER NORRISTOWN WRESTLING CLUB

Mr. Jason Sugalski represented the Greater Norristown Wrestling Club.

Mr. Sugalski stated that the organization had a very good year, and won a League title for the first time since the 1970's. The organization had 124 children registered in the program. Mr. Sugalski noted that most neighboring clubs have shut down, which has resulted in an increase in the size of their organization. The organization hopes to have a girls-only program in the near future.

In response to questioning, Mr. Sugalski stated that the group does background checks. There were 13 coaches this year. A discount is given to Plymouth Township residents. Mr. Sugalski also stated that the organization's biggest fundraiser is the one-day tournament held at Colonial Elementary School; this event can bring in \$3,000.

Mr. Sugalski also noted that costs are increasing for the organization, including custodial fees. The organization would also like to purchase a new mat, at a cost between \$5,000-\$6,000.

Mr. Sugalski reported that twelve (12) of their members were able to participate in Eastern National in Maryland this year.

The Board thanked Mr. Sugalski for his presentation.

1. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 27, 2018

A motion to approve the minutes of the March 27, 2018, meeting was made by Jason Sugalski. This motion was seconded by Bryan Renneisen 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-2018 was reviewed; there were no comments on the report.

Phil Brady showed photos from the Earth Day Cleanup at Ridge Park Elementary School, the FairyTale Ball, Brunch with the Bunny and Egg Scramble, and the Fishing Derby.

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. General Department

1. Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan (PROS Plan)
 - a. Consultant Meeting with Parks Board

Phil Brady reported that Karen Franck is finalizing plans for Consultant Ann Toole to meet with the Board at the regularly-scheduled May 22, 2018, meeting.

B. Community Center/CC Park

1. Rooftop Unit Installation

Phil Brady reported that the expected delivery date for the rooftop units is between 4/23 to 4/26.

C. Parks and Maintenance

1. EPV Field 3 Renovations

Phil Brady reported that the East Plymouth Valley Park Field 3 renovations are almost complete. A few minor items still need to be done.

2. GPCC Baseball Field Work

Phil reported that some netting is being changed at this field.

D. Wetherill Park

1. DCED Grant Building Exterior

Phil reported that the façade of the building has been completed. The windows will be replaced next.

2. Barn Entrance Area

Karen Franck and Rick Carbo are working together on grants for this project.

3. Streambank Stabilization Grant
 - a. New Grant Applications

Karen Franck is still working to find new grant opportunities for this project.

E. Programming

1. Camp Registration

Phil Brady reported that camp registration is going well. Both the 6-7 year old program and the 10-12 year old program have five weeks full registration.

2. Pre-School Afternoon Camp

The new pre-school afternoon camp has six children registered. Certification for this program is still being worked.

3. Plymouth Township Day Wristbands

Phil Brady explained that wristbands for Plymouth Township Day can be bought on-line this year. Early Bird Special tickets can be purchased prior to June 1 (\$16 for ages 5 and over; \$14 for ages 4 and under). Day of the Event tickets are \$20 for ages 5 and over; \$18 for ages 4 and under. A Games Only ticket will sell for \$5 (all ages). A Beat the Clock ticket will be sold after 2 PM on Plymouth Township Day for \$10 (all ages). Plymouth Township Day is June 2, 2018, from 11 AM to 3 PM.

4. Fishing Derby

Phil Brady reported that the Fishing Derby was a great success. The event was well-attended, and the fish were biting.

5. NEW BUSINESS

Phil reported on a recent incident in the Fitness Center in which a person suffered a heart attack. The AED equipment on site was successfully used by Community Center employees to save the person's life.

6. MISCELLANEOUS

Chris Manero reported that township residents will be receiving post cards in the mail advising them of upcoming public "town hall" meetings. These meetings will be used to communicate and discuss the future capital needs of the township. Resident feedback will be solicited.

Chris Manero also noted that the office building at the Plymouth Meeting Mall is almost vacant. A possible re-use of the building may be considered.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion for adjournment was made Jason Sugalski and seconded by Barbara Thompson. The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Tuesday, May 22, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Winterbottom
Rosemary Winterbottom, Secretary