

Parks, Recreation, and Shade Tree Advisory Board

Minutes of Tuesday, March 26, 2019

A meeting of the Parks, Recreation, and Shade Tree Advisory Board was held on Tuesday, March 26, 2019, at the Plymouth Township Community Center. Present were Board members Brian Renneisen, Jason Sugalski, Mike Perez, Neil Clark, and Shannon Dryden; Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Phil Brady; Recreation Services Specialist Shawn Mazei; Plymouth Council Liaison Chris Manero; and Board Secretary Rosemary Winterbottom. Member Barbara Thompson was not in attendance. It was noted that Jennifer Dow had resigned from the Board.

1. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2019

A motion to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2019, meeting was made by Jason Sugalski. This motion was seconded by Neil Clark 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 February-2019 was reviewed. There were no comments.

Phil Brady showed the Board photos from recent events, including Kids Zone (an indoor play area), Senior Social, Dodge Ball Tournament held on Presidents' Day, Breakfast with the Characters, and Craft Night.

4. YOUTH GROUPS

A. Plymouth Whitemarsh Spartans Football and Cheerleading

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

Mr. Hegarty stated that the organization had a very good season. Registration has increased, for both football players and cheerleaders. The organization was even able to field a 125 lb. team this past season. All coaches must have concussion training certification each year. In addition to Plymouth Township residents, participants in the organization come from Whitemarsh, Norristown, and Roxborough.

When questioned about the needs for the organization, Mr. Hegarty explained that water coming off of Field 4 (East Plymouth Valley Park) settles on the ground in the area of the electrical box. Mr. Hegarty asked if anything could be done to rectify this situation. An upgrade to the Snack Bar in the next few years was also suggested, as well as the pruning of some overgrown trees.

Shawn Mazei noted that the cheerleaders have had use of the Large Group Instruction room at Plymouth Whitemarsh High School, since this room has a high ceiling.

The Board thanked Mr. Hegarty for his presentation.

B. Plymouth Little League

Mr. Bryan McKernan, President, was present for Plymouth Little League.

Mr. McKernan stated that the organization had a great year. Registration for the group is currently at 505 participants; participation last year was 534. Opening Day is scheduled for this Saturday, March 30. Capital projects for the organization include drainage repairs on Field 4 and renovate Field 7 (the practice field under the PECO area), plus new foul poles for Fields 2 and 3 (all fields at East Plymouth Valley Park).

The organization was just informed that they were selected to host the Pennsylvania State Tournament 12/Under Softball. This tournament will run from July 7 to July 15, 2019. Two games per day are generally played, winding down to one game per day as teams are eliminated. The tournament could draw between 400-500 people at the beginning games. Mr. McKernan requested that tree trimming and stump removal be done in preparation for the event. Phil Brady suggested that the group itemize what they feel needs to be done to prepare for this event, and then meet with Phil Brady and other staff to coordinate how to make East Plymouth Valley Park look as good as possible.

The Board thanked Mr. McKernan for his presentation.

C. Colonial Soccer Club

Mr. Adam Kaye, President, and Mr. John Dean, Vice-President, were present for Colonial Soccer Club.

Mr. Kaye stated that the organization has 1300 participants, with participation increasing over the last several years. Intramural, travel, and a TOPS (special needs) team make up the organization. Soccer is primarily a Fall sport, however they also play in the Spring.

Mr. Kaye noted that the organization has focused on developing players. Additionally, coaches are reimbursed for any continuing coach education. The organization also offers a scholarship program, and provided four scholarships last year. This year, the organization wants to focus on giving back to the community, through the Starfinder Foundation which provides youth development opportunities.

Future needs of the group were defined as lights on the upper field and turf. Phil Brady asked that the group make a priority of removing the goals from JFK Park as soon as possible after use of the field.

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

D. Mt. Carmel Legion

Mr. Tom Longo, Director, was present for the Mt. Carmel Legion ball organization.

Mr. Longo stated that their past season went well. The season begins on Memorial Day and lasts 6 weeks, with 3-4 games being played a week. The current season will need to end by July 15, as tournaments begin after that date. The organization is comprised of 18 participants (per defined rules), who are ages 19 and under. Mr. Longo is inviting 22-24 players to try out for the team this season, in order to have a full roster of 18 players. Home games are played on the Villanova field.

Future needs of the organization are for a practice field, since the field currently being used will be lost due to the planned rebuilding of Colonial Middle School. Mr. Longo hopes that the group will be able to use Field 4 at East Plymouth Valley Park. Mr. Longo is proposing the purchase of a \$5,000 batting practice turtle, with the cost being split between Mt. Carmel, Plymouth Little League, and Plymouth Township. This new item as well as all of Mt. Carmel's field equipment would be kept at EPVP for use by Plymouth Little League.

The Board thanked Mr. Longo for his presentation.

E. Plymouth Jr. ABA

This presentation has been re-scheduled for the May-2019 Board meeting.

F. PW Ice Hockey

Mr. Ron Keller, Treasurer, and Mr. Keith Galie, President, were present for PW Ice Hockey.

Mr. Keller stated that the organization had a great season. Enrollment in the organization has increased, which resulted in the creation of two high school teams the past season. One of the high school teams then qualified for the Flyers Cup Scholastic Championship. In addition to the two high school teams, the group also had two middle school teams. Of the 55 participants in the organization, 31 are from Plymouth Township. It was stated that USA Hockey mandates concussion training for all coaches.

Mr. Keller noted that the registration fee is \$900 per player (less \$100 discount for Plymouth Township residents). It is hoped that increased enrollment in the organization would decrease the registration fee. Mr. Keller noted that all participants must purchase their own equipment. Goalies receive a 50% discount on their registration fee to offset the additional cost of their equipment.

In response to a question concerning the cost of ice time, Mr. Keller stated that they pay \$410 for 1 hr. 15 min. of ice time. Mr. Keller noted that a frozen over area at Colwell Park is used for practice. Phil Brady instructed Mr. Keller that a permit is needed for this use of Colwell Park or JFK Park as well as a Certificate of Insurance.

The Board thanked Mr. Keller and Mr. Galie for their presentation.

G. Greater Norristown Wrestling Club

Mr. Jason Sugalski, Co-President, was present for Greater Norristown Wrestling Club.

Mr. Sugalski stated that the organization had a very good season. Enrollment was increased (125 participants), and they finished 4th out of 47 teams. Sixteen (16) of their participants finished in 1st to 4th place. Participants range in age from 3 to 14 years old.

Mr. Sugalski stated that a Friday evening practice for girls only was started last year. The program was well-received; approximately 16 girls participated. It is hoped to continue this practice in the future.

It was stated that the meets held at Colonial Middle School went very well. The organization has a good relationship with both Colonial Middle School and Plymouth Whitemarsh High School in the use of their facilities. All of their coaches are required to have background checks completed.

The Board thanked Mr. Sugalski for his presentation.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. General Department

1. Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan (PROS Plan)

Phil Brady reported that draft chapters for the PROS Plan are coming together. It is expected that it will take another few months for this plan to be finalized.

B. Community Center/CC Park

1. Lighting Replacement Continues

Phil Brady reported that lighting replacements in the hallway bathrooms have been completed.

3. Roof Replacement Preparations

Phil Brady reported that the roof replacement project is almost ready to be put out to bid.

C. Parks and Maintenance

1. Alan Wood Basketball Court Improvements

Phil stated that the improvements to the basketball court at Alan Wood Park have been completed.

D. Wetherill Park

1. Lowe's and DCED Initial Grant Coordination

Work continues on this grant and bids are expected to go out in a few weeks.

2. PECO Grant

Phil reported that notice was received that, unfortunately, we were not awarded this grant.

E. Programming

Board members were provided with the Spring/Summer 2019 Program Brochure. Phil Brady noted that several new nature-based programs are

scheduled at Harriet Wetherill Park. Additionally, more sports camps are also being offered this Summer.

5. NEW BUSINESS

No items were discussed.

6. MISCELLANEOUS

Councilman Chris Manero reported on the following:

- Plymouth Council is hoping to work with the Environmental Advisory Board to look at more ways to make the township "more green."
- The police department has hired a new police officer.
- Council is still evaluating options to consider over possible sale of the sewer system.
- A firm has been retained (eCollect) to try to find unpaid business taxes.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion for adjournment was made by Barbara Thompson and seconded by Jason Sugalski. The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Tuesday, May 28, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Winterbottom
Rosemary Winterbottom, Secretary