

Parks, Recreation, and Shade Tree Advisory Board

Minutes of Tuesday, October 27, 2020

A virtual meeting of the Parks, Recreation, and Shade Tree Advisory Board was held on Tuesday, October 27, 2020. Board members participating were Bryan Renneisen, Mike Perez, Jason Sugalski, Neil Clark, Shannon Dryden, and Naomi Winchester; Parks and Recreation Director Karen Franck; Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Phil Brady; Plymouth Township Council Liaison Chris Manero; and Board Secretary Rosemary Winterbottom. Board member Barbara Thompson did not participate.

Chairman Bryan Renneisen called the meeting to order at 7 PM.

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GUESTS AND VISITORS

There were no guests or visitors.

2. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR TUESDAY, July 28, 2020

A motion to approve the minutes of the July 28, 2020, meeting was made by Jason Sugalski. This motion was seconded by Naomi Winchester and unanimously approved.

3. DISCUSSION OF PACKET MATERIALS

The monthly report for September-2020 was reviewed. Karen Franck reported that participation in activities increased during September and October. Reserved times are required for lap lane swimming, and attendance is increasing. Land fitness classes are going well; reserved times are required, but drop-in times will begin next month.

Bryan Renneisen asked if memberships were lost to other gyms in the area. Karen replied that the only loss she could observe was people not using the Community Center due to Covid concerns. Bryan also asked if refunds for memberships have been given. Karen explained that membership lengths were extended, unless a member specifically requested a refund.

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. General Department

1. Youth Groups

a. Soccer, Baseball, Indoor Sports, Football

Phil Brady reported that youth soccer (Colonial Soccer Club) began right after Labor Day. Coaches are wearing masks and all safety aspects are being observed. There is not much baseball activity now, as most youth baseball (Plymouth Little League) is played in the Spring. The youth football program (PW Spartans) is not playing this Fall.

Phil expects that requests for indoor sports should be coming in soon.

2. Brochures and Public Relations

A copy of the November and December Program Guide had been sent to the Board members. Karen noted that brochures are not being mailed out at this time. Inserts listing various programs continue to be placed in the sewer bills. Notifications of programs, deadlines, and other information are being placed on social media. The use of social media for communication is the format that will be followed for now.

3. Holiday House Decorating Contest

Phil Brady explained that a Holiday House Decorating Contest is being held this year. This first-time event is perfect for this year, in a socially-distancing environment. Residents can sign up to participate between November 16 and December 11, 2020. Judging will take place between December 15-17, 2020, with winners being announced on December 18, 2020. Winners will receive a yard sign and will be mentioned in social media. Board members are being asked to be judges for this event.

B. Community Center/CC Park

1. Fitness

a. Classes — Indoor and Outdoor Classes

b. Senior Classes

c. Premium Classes; i.e. Boot Camp

Karen reported that fitness classes (both indoor and outdoor) are going well. Boot Camp continues to be a popular class. Senior aerobic classes are being conducted inside. As the weather gets colder, outdoor classes will be moved inside and be held in the gym or Activity Central.

Phil Brady further noted that pickle ball began today. The basketball courts are being used, with a limit of four (4) people in each court. Masks are being worn and Covid protocols are being followed.

2. Aquatics

a. Lap Swimming, Lessons, Water Aerobics

Karen noted that lap swimming is conducted on a reserved-time basis. Time slots are mostly booked. Water aerobics has been moved to morning sessions. Kickboards are used to define distances between participants.

Karen reported that Silver Splash has a class limit of 10 participants, while Deep Water classes have a class limit of 15 participants. Overall, pool attendance is going well and in an orderly fashion.

Naomi Winchester questioned the ventilation in the pool area. Phil Brady stated that the ventilation system is less than 5 years old and is set to provide as much fresh air as possible.

3. Programming

a. Pre-school Programs and Small Special Events

Karen stated that pre-school programs are working well. A Flea Market was recently held and was very successful. A new program this fall is pottery class. An outdoor vendor market is scheduled for November 7, 2020.

Phil also noted that he hopes to still have some type of Tree Lighting Ceremony. Due to pandemic restrictions, the event might just include Plymouth Township Council members.

C. Parks and Maintenance

1. East Plymouth Valley Park Concession Stand

The contract for improvements to the East Plymouth Valley Park concession stand has been awarded and work has begun. Karen noted that there have been no major changes from the plans that were worked on and included input from the youth groups.

2. Increased Use in General

Phil Brady reported that he has observed increased use of the township parks in general. People are using the parks for walking, exercise, and other outdoor activities.

D. Wetherill Park

1. Small Events

Karen Franck reported that Mystery Madness was held this past weekend; the event went very well.

A Scarecrow Building event is scheduled for November 22, 2020.
Hayrides and Hot Chocolate with Santa is scheduled for December 12, 2020.

E. Programming

Karen suggested that we need to look ahead to next year as far as planning for events, when regulations make it possible to return to activities. Karen asked for suggestions, and Jason Sugalski suggested having a Food Truck Day. Chris Manero suggested making the Summer Concert Series a drive-up event. Phil Brady noted that we would need to find the right spot for that event. Naomi Winchester suggested that growing honey might be a good project in connection with Earth Day.

5. NEW BUSINESS

Naomi Winchester questioned whether there might be some businesses who would want to advertise on our website. Karen noted that this might be something to be worked on in the future, citing staff limitations at this time.

6. MISCELLANEOUS

Chris Manero recalled that Naomi Winchester had been interested in pursuing an event or activity in connection with Black History Month. Chris reminded Naomi that she should contact Joanna Sherapan to discuss her suggestion. Naomi thanked Chris for the reminder, and noted she had already been in contact with Joanna.

Chris Manero also noted that his neighbor has suggested the township might be interested in having a pyro-technic display (music with fireworks). Phil Brady asked Chris to forward Phil's contact information to the individual so they can contact Phil directly to discuss this idea.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion for adjournment was made by Jason Sugalski and seconded by Naomi Winchester. This meeting was the last meeting of the Board for 2020.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board is January 26, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Winterbottom

Rosemary Winterbottom, Secretary