

Parks, Recreation, and Shade Tree Advisory Board

Minutes of Tuesday, July 28, 2020

A meeting of the Parks, Recreation, and Shade Tree Advisory Board was held on Tuesday, July 28, 2020, at the Plymouth Township Community Center pavilion. Present were Board members Brian Renneisen, Barbara Thompson, Mike Perez, Jason Sugalski, Neil Clark, Naomi Winchester; and Parks and Recreation Director Karen Franck.

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 PM.

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF NEW MEMBER, GUESTS, AND VISITORS

There were no guests or visitors in attendance.

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

At this time there was no review or approval as the January minutes had not been distributed. This will be done at the next meeting.

3. DISCUSSION OF PACKET MATERIALS

Due to the location and lack of monthly reports completed over the past few months, no packet materials were available.

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. General Department

1. Youth Group Organizations

The Board members were asked to provide information on the youth groups that they are involved with. Mike Perez stated that baseball and softball have started on a smaller scale and that the feedback on the safety aspects have been positive. This was noted by others they have been playing against or when they individually have been involved in tournaments.

Miscellaneous notes included that there may be a lack of open fields and that there are also some outdoor basketball leagues taking place in other areas.

Naomi had questioned the policy on refunds where certain league aspects are not taking place. Mike Perez and Jason Sugalski both stated that they have not heard of this in our area. They had described what is taking place that parents have

the option of leaving the funds in place for next year or refunds were processed if anyone wanted their money back or their children will have aged out of the program.

Jason Sugalski noted that wrestling had not yet been cancelled but it most likely would be the case. They did not feel they would be permitted in schools and the fact that they are a contact sport would make the season an impossibility. He also noted that he has seen individual football drills taking place at other locations.

Karen Franck asked for their thoughts on inviting the youth organizations in to meet with the Board in September or October and then having them repeat the process in the Spring versus just meeting in 2021. Karen Franck stated that we do have the information from the first set of groups that were to meet in March. A discussion ensued with various thoughts on the need for one, the other or both. Mike Perez and Jason Sugalski felt that it might be of a benefit to host the groups this fall on an informal basis to hear their feelings on where the organizations stood, what extra expenses they may incurred, and in general to see who and what is serving the community and in what ways. Neil Clark was not sure this was the best use of time at the moment on either side.

The question would be on how and where to have the meeting with extra people take place in a safe manner. There was discussion of a second outdoor meeting, moving the meeting indoors in a larger room with distancing, and doing the meeting via Zoom. A discussion on Zoom took place as some felt that would be the greatest comfort level. Karen Franck stated that she would have to check on the availability on the Township account. Currently, almost all meetings are utilizing this service and she would check on our capacity and then consider the best route and time. Karen Franck also stated that the staff would work on getting the written information from the remaining groups in the near future.

B. Community Center/Community Center Park

1. Fitness

a. Outdoor classes

Karen Franck mentioned the outdoor fitness classes such as boot camp had registrations and are being received well. Ed has a following that fills his classes in many seasons.

a. Indoor and senior classes

Karen Franck also covered the three indoor senior fitness classes that were taking place. There is one level class on Monday and Wednesday and the third was added on Friday which is a different format. Karen stated that the fitness center was slow but, along with other types of participation, was growing each week.

a. Walking in the gym

The gym is also open for walking at certain hours when the camps are not using each quarter of the gym.

2. Aquatics

Karen Franck stated that lap swimming or water walking in the pool is the most requested activity and participation is by reservations made on line or by calling in to reserve your lane. The lanes are slightly over 6 foot and first lanes have been divided for the walking activity. Registrations for this are strong and steady with the afternoon hours being the slowest time.

Swim lessons have been requested. A few lessons are being taught in the afternoon hours and lanes are reserved for this purpose. We are hoping to increase the ability for lessons as time goes on but staffing is a bit of a problem.

Water aerobics has also been a request and we are looking to start that on a registration basis in the near future.

3. Programming

a. Camps

Karen Franck stated that we have been offering camps as permitted since Pennsylvania moved into the yellow phase. Camps were set up at the Community Center and East Plymouth Valley Park, however, the registration was too low to run at EPV Park. Community center camps are running at limited levels and registration was near capacity. Each camp is kept separately there are no joint activity and staff do not co-mingle.

- a. Karen Franck went over the possibility of an afterschool program but that the style of the program may depend on the outcome of what the Colonial School district was planning for the fall.

4. Fall

- a. Karen Franck provided some additional fall fitness classes that might be available outside and others depending on participation some of the senior programs that are being requested now.
- b. Karen Franck provided a small list of programs additional programs that might have possibility in the near future
- c.

C. Parks and Maintenance

Barb Thompson mentioned that the white fencing at JFK Park has developed green mold.

Naomi Winchester was asking about bricks wall that needed repaired in front of the community center. Karen Franck stated it is repaired.

D. Wetherill Park

No discussion at this time.

E. Programming

No further discussion at this time.

5. NEW BUSINESS

No discussion.

6. MISCELLANEOUS

No further discussion at this time.

ADJOURNMENT:

Prior to the close of the meeting, Karen Franck again thanked everyone for the flowers and gift presented prior to the meeting in recognition of the Fred M Coombs Outstanding Achievement Award.

A motion for adjournment was made by Jason Sugalski and seconded by Barb Thompson. The next regular meeting of the Board is to be announced based on a youth group meeting in the next two months.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen S. Franck

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Parks and Recreation Director