

Parks, Recreation, and Shade Tree Advisory Board

Minutes of Tuesday, April 25, 2023

A meeting of the Parks, Recreation, and Shade Tree Advisory Board was held on Tuesday, April 25, 2023, at the Greater Plymouth Community Center. The meeting began at 6:30 PM.

Board members attending were Bryan Renneisen, Jason Sugalski, Jennifer McCracken, Naomi Winchester, and Shannon Dryden; Parks & Recreation Program Manager Joanna Sharapan; Recreation Services Specialist Shawn Mazei; and Board Secretary Rosemary Winterbottom. Board member Neil Clark was not in attendance. A seventh Board member has not been selected yet by Council.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GUESTS AND VISITORS

Guests included representatives from youth sports organizations who were making their presentations to the Board.

1. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2023

A motion to approve the minutes of the Tuesday, March 28, 2023, meeting was made by Jason Sugalski. This motion was seconded by Naomi Winchester and the minutes were unanimously approved.

2. YOUTH GROUP PRESENTATIONS

Plymouth Junior ABA

Mr. Wayne Montgomery, President, was present to represent Plymouth Junior ABA.

Mr. Montgomery stated that the organization has bounced back well after having no season in 2021 due to the pandemic. There were 435 participants in the program last year, and there were 455 participants this year. There are 9 teams in the Instructional program, 13 teams in the Intermediate program, 9 teams in the Junior Varsity Program, and 8 teams in the Varsity Program. Each child plays a quarter and 1/2 half in each game.

Mr. Montgomery stated that a goal of the organization is to run a tournament again. The previous tournament (run from the 1970's to 2018) was a major fundraiser which raised a significant amount of money for the organization.

Additionally, a pre-season or holiday tournament could also raise some funds from concession stand sales. Another area of potential income could come from obtaining sponsors for the teams.

Mr. Montgomery noted that referee fees are a big expense for the organization. In prior years, referees often donated their services due to their association with the late Pete Vardakas who was a part of Plymouth Junior ABA for many years. Referee fees cost the organization \$40/game. Shannon Dryden offered to provide Mr. Montgomery's contact information to the individual she knows who runs Sponsor Jawn (an organization for obtaining sponsorships).

The Board thanked Mr. Montgomery for his presentation.

### PW Ice Hockey

Mr. Bob Shoemaker, President, was present to represent PW Ice Hockey.

Mr. Shoemaker stated that the participants in the organization are from grades 5 through 12, and must live in the Colonial School District or attend Colonial Elementary School or Plymouth Whitmarsh High School. There were 60 players participating this past season, 25 of whom were from Plymouth Township. Plymouth Township residents receive a \$100 discount on their registration fee. Practices begin in September and the season runs through February, and generally consists of 10-12 games.

The organization had (2) middle school teams and (2) high school teams this past season. The group takes all applicants to their program. Participants must purchase their own equipment. At the end of the season, participants are asked to donate their gently used equipment to be made available to other participants. The middle school teams utilize the ice rink in Hatfield. The high school teams utilize the ice rink in Haverford. Three of the four teams made it to post-season playoffs.

Transportation to the ice rinks is a big expense, and generally include the leasing of a 29 passenger bus. There were 24 bus trips leased last year, at a cost of \$7500. Shannon Dryden offered to provide Mr. Shoemaker's contact information to the individual she knows who runs Sponsor Jawn (an organization for obtaining sponsorships).

It was noted that the organization volunteered to help with Breakfast with Santa this past holiday season.

The Board thanked Mr. Shoemaker for his presentation.

### Greater Norristown Youth Wrestling Organization

Mr. Jason Carrington, Co-Vice-President, was present to represent Greater Norristown Youth Wrestling.

Mr. Carrington stated that their organization is the first or second largest wrestling club in the largest league in the country. Participants in the organization range in age from 4 years old to 14 years old. Some players also participate in football as the seasons do not conflict.

The organization had 159 participants in the program last year. This number was up 10% from the previous year. This number includes 19 girls. Four (4) girls placed at the largest girls' tournament in the United States. Additionally, the organization had 7 state qualifiers last year.

Practices are held during the week, and different skill levels practice on different days. There generally are 6-7 meets each year. Each participant gets to compete in two matches during each meet. Mr. Carrington explained that the organization utilizes a computer program which was developed to evenly match up players according to a combination of skill level, age and weight.

The Board thanked Mr. Carrington for his presentation.

### 3. DISCUSSION OF PACKET MATERIALS

The Board reviewed the monthly report for March-2023. Shannon Dryden noted the "adjusted" number for GPCC General Attendance. It was explained that this number includes participants in the fitness center, basketball, and open leisure activities. The number does not include participants in classes or special events. Shawn Mazei noted that the number of participants usually decreases in the spring because people are involved in outside activities.

### 4. OLD BUSINESS

#### A. General Department

Joanna Sharapan noted upcoming events as follows:

- Brad Fox Memorial Fishing Derby - April 29,
- Community Yard Sale - May 6 (to be held at Montgomery County Community College,

- Swim with The Little Mermaid - April 28, and
- National Night Out - August 1. This event will include a Billy Joel Tribute Band, inflatables, and vendors

Additionally, the movie and concert series will begin on June 14.

#### B. Community Center/CC Park

##### 1. Front Doors

The installation of the mag locks on the doors of the Community Center has been completed. The doors are running well.

#### C. Parks and Maintenance

No items were discussed.

#### D. Wetherill Park

The next meeting of the Board which is scheduled for July 25, 2023, will be held at Harriet Wetherill Park at the Butler Pike side.

#### E. Programming

##### 1. Camp and Teen Camp

Shawn Mazei reported that Teen Camp includes 12-15 year old youth. The camp generally has two trips per week scheduled. The camp runs 8 weeks. It is hoped to have 30-35 participants.

##### 2. Plymouth Township Day

Plymouth Township Day will be held on Saturday, June 3, 2023. The event runs from 10 AM to 2 PM. Joanna distributed signs for the Board members to place on their lawns to advertise the event.

##### 3. Veteran's Banners

Joanna Sharapan reported that the first group of banners installed will be celebrated on May 23, 2023, at 7 PM. The banners will be up for the Summer. They will be taken down on Veteran's Day and then reinstalled on Memorial Day.

##### 4. "Official" Plymouth Township T-Shirts

The Board members were encouraged to vote for their favorite design for these new shirts. The shirts will be available for purchase on Plymouth Township Day.

#### 4. NEW BUSINESS

No items were discussed.

#### 5. MISCELLANEOUS

No items were discussed.

#### ADJOURNMENT:

A motion for adjournment was made by Jennifer McCarthy; this motion was seconded by Jason Sugalski.

The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Tuesday, July 25, 2023, at 6:30 PM a Harriet Wetherill Park.

Respectfully submitted,

*Rosemary Winterbottom*

Rosemary Winterbottom, Secretary