

Parks, Recreation, and Shade Tree Advisory Board

Minutes of Tuesday, July 25, 2023

A meeting of the Parks, Recreation, and Shade Tree Advisory Board was held on Tuesday, July 25, 2023, inside the building at Harriet Wetherill Park. The meeting began at 6:30 PM.

Board members attending were Chairman Bryan Renneisen, Members Jason Sugalski, Jennifer McCracken, Naomi Winchester, Sharon Dryden, Neil Clark, and newly-appointed member Harshal Dear; Parks & Recreation Director Phil Brady; Building and Grounds Director Rick Carbo; Council Liaison Karen Bramblett; and Board Secretary Rosemary Winterbottom..

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBER

New Board member Harshal Dear was formally introduced to the Board members.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GUESTS AND VISITORS

Guests at the meeting included 12 citizens who were present to discuss pickle ball courts in the township.

DISCUSSION WITH GUESTS AND VISITORS

Ms. Pat Yarkas served as spokesman for the group of citizens who were present at the meeting. Ms. Yarkas explained that pickle ball has become a very popular sport, which is enjoyed by all ages, from young people to senior citizens. There are currently no pickle ball courts in Plymouth Township, although neighboring communities Ambler, Lansdale, and East Norriton have courts. In response to questions from the Board, it was stated that desirable locations for a pickle ball court would be at the Plymouth Township Building or Greater Plymouth Community Center locations (both having the availability of indoor restrooms). It was also stated that courts would mostly be used during the months from April to November.

Phil Brady noted that tennis courts are being utilized to play pickle ball. Pictures of the tennis courts at JFK Park were provided to the Board, which showed several large cracks on the surface of the courts. Rick Carbo was asked if these cracks could be repaired. Rick noted that it costs approximately \$35,000 to resurface a tennis court; the cost of a newly constructed pickle ball court would be approximately

\$100,000. Phil Brady questioned if the group had talked with Plymouth Swim Club about using their tennis courts for pickle ball. It was also suggested that the group look into fund-raising.

After further discussion, the Board offered to meet with the group in September to again discuss the matter. Phil Brady will schedule a date for this meeting.

1. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR TUESDAY, April 25, 2023

A motion to approve the minutes of the Tuesday, April 25, 2023, meeting was made by Jason Sugalski. This motion was seconded by Shannon Dryden and the minutes were unanimously approved.

2. DISCUSSION OF PACKET MATERIALS

The Board reviewed the monthly report for April, May and June-2023. Phil Brady noted that the Fitness Center has been getting busier. A copy of the Proclamation that designated July 21, 2023, as "Pennsylvania Park and Recreation Professionals Day" in Plymouth Township was provided to the Board members.

3. OLD BUSINESS

A. General Department

Phil Brady reported that everything is going smoothly and that it has been a good summer so far.

B. Parks and Maintenance

Rick Carbo reported on the progress of work being done on the Plymouth Township Building. New electric has been installed, a new HVAC system was installed, new water lines installed, and a new roof installed. There is a new Mechanical Room and a new IT Room. All improvements are being funded by township monies.

Rick Carbo also reported that bids were requested for new foul ball netting at the Community Center ball field. Only one bid was received, and the bid was too high. Repairs will be made to the netting.

Vandalism at East Plymouth Valley Park was also discussed. It was noted that the situation has improved. Bryan Renneisen suggested that cameras be installed near the snack bar.

C. Wetherill Park

Rick Carbo noted that Gary McKeown had applied for and received a grant for some drainage improvements on the farm portion of the tract.

D. Programming

1. Playground, Camp PCC and Teen Camp

Phil Brady reported that all camps are running well.

2. Plymouth Township Day

Plymouth Township Day was held on Saturday, June 3, 2023. Phil Brady reported that the event went well. It was perfect weather that day.

3. Veteran's Banners

Phil Brady reported that the Veteran's Banners were hung in May. Banners are still being sold. The banners will be up for the Summer and will then taken down on Veteran's Day.

4. "Official" Plymouth Township T-Shirts

Plymouth Township T-Shirts are being now being sold. It was suggested that the t-shirts be offered for sale during the concerts and movies being held at the Greater Plymouth Community Center Park.

5. Holiday Lights Contest Timeline

Phil Brady requested the Board members' opinion as to whether the holiday lights contest should be judged over one weekend or two weekends. The Board decided in favor of having the lights judged over two weekends.

6. National Night Out: August 1

Phil Brady reported that National Night Out will be held on Tuesday, August 1, 2023. Phil asked the Board members for their assistance with this event.

4. NEW BUSINESS

No items were discussed.

5. MISCELLANEOUS

A tour of Harriet Wetherill Park was taken by the Board members.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion for adjournment was made by Harshal Dear; this motion was seconded by Shannon Dryden.

The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Tuesday, October 24, 2023, at 6:30 PM at the Greater Plymouth Community Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Winterbottom

Rosemary Winterbottom, Secretary