

Parks, Recreation, and Shade Tree Advisory Board

Minutes of Tuesday, March 26, 2013

A meeting of the Parks, Recreation, and Shade Tree Advisory Board was held on Tuesday, March 26, 2013, at the Plymouth Township Community Center. Present were members Bill English, Kim Pennington, Pat Ianelli, Joe Stem, Barbara Thompson and Bridget Sudall; Building and Grounds Director Rick Carbo; Recreation Service Specialist Shawn Mazei; Council Liaison Maria Weidinger; and Board Secretary Rosemary Winterbottom. Board member Lynda Lawrence was not in attendance.

Chairman Bill English called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

YOUTH PRESENTATIONS

P-W Ice Hockey

Mr. Bob Moyer, a coach and Director in the organization, was present to represent P-W Ice Hockey.

Mr. Moyer stated that the organization's middle school team did well this past season, but the varsity team struggled. There were not enough players to have an elementary school team this past season. Mr. Moyer hopes that the organization will help its players learn to love the game of ice hockey. Alumni players often return to see the games, and many of the present coaches are alumni players.

Mr. Moyer noted that the organization has been able to use the weight room at Plymouth Whitemarsh High School. In response to a question from the Board, Mr. Moyer stated that approximately 45% of their players are Plymouth Township residents.

Mr. Moyer clarified that the organization is requesting a \$3,000 donation from the township. In response to a question from the Board, Mr. Moyer stated that alumni players often provide financial support for individual players. The group's major fundraisers are the banquet raffle baskets and advertisements in programs.

Mr. Moyer thanked the township and the Board for their continued support. The Board thanked Mr. Moyer for his presentation.

Plymouth Junior ABA

Mr. Bob Himmelreich was present to represent Plymouth Junior ABA.

In response to questioning from the Board, Mr. Himmelreich stated that the organization's questionnaire had been filled out by Mr. Pete Vardakis (Vice President of Operations). It was further stated that the election of officers for the organization is usually done at a May meeting, and that only the Executive Council votes for officers.

Mr. Himmelreich stated that the organization had over 400 players on 42 teams this past season. It was noted that the girls' program in the organization is only up to age 12. The organization just completed the Jack Feeley Memorial Tournament, which included 53 teams. In response to a question from the Board, Mr. Himmelreich stated that background checks are done on all coaches. He also noted that 90% of their coaches are from the Colonial School District. Mr. Himmelreich noted that registration was affected this past season because of the school district's elimination of the Friday folders. It was suggested that the organization could use on-line registrations.

In response to a question over concerns that players are leaving the organization because better players from outside Plymouth Township are being favored, Mr. Himmelreich stated that these players are leaving for other reasons.

At the Board's specific request, Mr. Himmelreich was requested to provide:

- 1) more details on their \$3,000 budget item for miscellaneous expenses, and
- 2) an explanation of how officers are elected.

The Board thanked Mr. Himmelreich for his presentation.

Greater Norristown Wrestling

Mr. Jason Sugalski, Director, was present for the Greater Norristown Wrestling organization.

Mr. Sugalski stated that the organization did very well this past season. There were 20 additional children registered for the program this past year.

The organization is a member of the ICWL (Inter County Wrestling League), which is comprised of 43 teams and over 3200 wrestlers.

The main sources of revenue for the organization are concession stand sales and their tournament. Additional expenses will be incurred for the repair of a mat that needs to be repaired and clocks that need to be fixed.

The Board thanked Mr. Sugalski for his presentation.

1. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2013

A motion to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2013, meeting was made by Pat Ianelli. This motion was seconded by Kim Pennington and unanimously approved.

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GUESTS AND VISITORS

Guests included representatives of youth organizations who made presentations to the Board.

3. DISCUSSION OF PACKET MATERIALS

The monthly reports for January and February-2013 were reviewed.

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. General Department

1. PRPS Awards

- a. Holiday Swim and Give – Excellence in Programming -- Aquatics
- b. MLK Day of Service – Excellence in Programming – Multi-Generational

Shawn Mazei reported that these awards were presented by the Pennsylvania Recreation and Parks Society. Shawn reported that 215 pillow cases were made during the MLK Day of Service, which exceeded the number made during that event last year.

B. Community Center/CC Park

1. GPCC 13 – March 23, 2013

Shawn Mazei reported that the 10% off discount for yearly memberships offered during the GPCC 13 celebration on March 23, 2013 resulted in over 50 new yearly memberships being sold on that date.

C. Parks Maintenance/Parks Issues

Rick Carbo reported that parks maintenance is scheduled to be done as follows:

- 1. Renovate Football Field – The football field at East Plymouth Valley Park did not receive much attention after it was re-crowned last year. The field will be fenced-off until the Fall so that maintenance can be performed

so that the field can be returned to good condition.

2. EPV Playground Improvements -- Some minor updating and new features (new slides) will be done.
3. Court Resurfacing – The resurfacing of multi-purpose courts at JFK, Colwell, Alan Wood, and Black Horse parks will be done.
4. Fence Repair EPV Field 4 – Fence work will be done.
5. Softball Backstop JFK

D. Wetherill Park

1. Conservation and Management Study
 - a. ANCA Study – April 4, 5, 6

Rick Carbo reported that this study will be done by a group of nature center directors who will evaluate Wetherill Park and then provide their recommendations.

- b. Tentative Next Set of Meetings
 1. April 30 – Steering Committee
 2. May 15 – Public Meeting 2
 3. June 25 – Final Presentation

Maria Weidinger noted that most Plymouth Township Council members will be in Washington, D.C., on May 15, 2013.

2. HWP Programming

Shawn Mazei reported that the Butterfly Garden has been cleaned up. Additional clean-up dates are being scheduled during May and June.

E. Programming

1. Summer Camps

The Summer Camp brochure is now on-line.

5. NEW BUSINESS

Council Liaison Report – Maria Weidinger

Council Member Maria Weidinger reported on topics from the recent Plymouth Council Meeting as follows:

- 1) the Driscoll farm zoning request was denied; a Council hearing is scheduled for Monday, May 13, 2013;
- 2) Council will address residents' concerns on the Cold Point zoning overlay at their next Council workshop in April;
- 3) a township census advisory committee was appointed;
- 3) a second motorcycle purchase was authorized;
- 4) Police Chief Lawrence was able to secure several message board trailers at no cost to the township;
- 5) first consideration of the Eminent Domain ordinance concerning the Sandy Hill/Belvoir Road intersection was read and passed; and
- 6) the Lafayette Street Bridge Agreement was reached between Plymouth and Norristown concerning ownership and maintenance of this bridge which is part of the Lafayette Street Corridor.

6. MISCELLANEOUS

Pat Ianelli reported that odors coming from the Markel Corporation continue. Pat was advised that it will be a year before any improvement to the persistent odors can be made.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion for adjournment was made by Kim Pennington and seconded by Joe Stem. The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Tuesday, April 23, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,
Rosemary Winterbottom
Rosemary Winterbottom, Secretary