

Parks, Recreation, and Shade Tree Advisory Board

Minutes of Tuesday, April 23, 2013

A meeting of the Parks, Recreation, and Shade Tree Advisory Board was held on Tuesday, April 23, 2013, at the Plymouth Township Community Center. Present were members Bill English, Kim Pennington, Pat Ianelli, Barbara Thompson, Joe Stem, Bridget Sudall, and Lynda Lawrence; Building and Grounds Director Rick Carbo; Recreation Service Specialist Shawn Mazei; Council Liaison Maria Weidinger; and Board Secretary Rosemary Winterbottom.

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

YOUTH PRESENTATIONS

Colonial Soccer Club

Mr. Dominic Aprile and Ms. Rene Ebersole were present to represent the Colonial Soccer Club. Mr. Aprile stated that he is Treasurer of the organization. Mr. Aprile stated that all programs are doing well and growing. Ms. Ebersole stated that there were 12 teams of kindergarden-aged children this year. The travel program is also increasing.

Registration for the program can now be done on-line, and this procedure has worked well. In response to a question from the Board asking if there were any issues with the name change to Colonial Soccer Club, Mr. Aprile stated that the name change was transparent. It was also stated that approximately 50% of the players in the organization are from Plymouth Township.

Ms. Ebersole noted that the organization wants to have a permanent set of goals at Miles Park (\$3,000 cost) and hopes to work with Whitemarsh Township on this. In response to a question from the Board, Mr. Aprile stated that he would love to have a home field for their organization. Mr. Aprile stated that the organization is putting together some programs to provide information for discussions.

Mr. Aprile noted that their organization would appreciate any financial donation from Plymouth Township, even though the organization had not taken any donation in some prior years.

The Board thanked Mr. Aprile and Ms. Ebersole for their presentation.

PW Spartans Football and Cheerleading

Mr. Bob McGee was present to represent the PW Spartans Football and Cheerleading organization. Mr. McGee stated that he is President of the organization.

Mr. McGee stated that the program is going well. The flag team and the 55 lb. team both have the largest number of participants. The flag team was undefeated this past season, and the 55 lb. team only had two losses. The upper weight teams do not have as many participants. Mr. McGee stated that approximately 70% of their participants are from Plymouth Township.

Mr. McGee noted that reference to an on-line app for concussions will be mentioned in the organization's flyers. Mr. McGee also mentioned that several neighboring community football programs are now participating in a new league which aligns their programs with their school district football program.

Mr. McGee stated that the cheerleaders did well last year also. The competition team did not have as many participants. Mr. McGee stated that he would like to have the cheerleading emphasis be on side-line cheering.

The Board thanked Mr. McGee for his presentation.

Plymouth Little League

Mr. Mike Williams was present to represent Plymouth Little League. Mr. Williams stated he is President of the organization.

Mr. Williams stated that the program is going well, with over 400 participants. The tee ball program has 10 teams. The regular season ends in mid-June; the Fall league runs until mid-October.

Mr. Williams stated that new mandatory safety programs for CPR and concussion training were attended by all coaches. The organization also purchased heart protectors. Background checks were done on all coaches, and there were no issues. There are many good volunteers for the snack bar from the organization.

Mr. Williams noted that the organization had submitted a grant request for \$300,000, but have not received any response to their request as yet.

In response to a question from the Board, Mr. Williams stated that he would like to have lights on softball field #1, better irrigation on fields, and upgraded restrooms. Mr. Williams also requested use of field #4 for a new team from Mt. Carmel.

The Board thanked Mr. Williams for his presentation.

1. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 2013

A motion to approve the minutes of the March 26, 2013, meeting was made by Kim Pennington. This motion was seconded by Pat Ianelli 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 report for March-2013 was reviewed by the Board.

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. General Department

1. Service and Devotion Monument

Rick Carbo provided the Board members with a handout showing a drawing of the planned monument and detailed the various donation levels for individual and business contributors. Rick stated that it is planned to have this project go out to bid in May, and to award the project in June. It is hoped that the monument can be dedicated on Veterans Day.

2. DVIT Grants

Rick Carbo stated that grants were received from the Delaware Valley Insurance Trust to provide for security cameras, backboard and rescue tubes, and bleachers.

B. Community Center/CC Park

1. GPCC 13 – March 23, 2013

Rick Carbo reported that the 10% off discount for yearly memberships offered during the GPCC 13 celebration on March 23, 2013 was very successful.

C. Parks Maintenance/Parks Issues

1. Football Field Reseeding

Rick Carbo reported that the football field at East Plymouth Valley Park has been reseeded and aerated. The field will be closed off for now so that the field will be ready for use in the Fall.

D. Wetherill Park

1. Conservation and Management Study

a. ANCA Study

The Board members had been e-mailed the ANCA Study from April 4-6, 2013.

b. Tentative Next Set of Meetings

1. May 8 – Steering Committee
2. June 4 – Public Meeting 2
3. June 25 – Final Presentation

Rick Carbo stated that these meeting dates have been scheduled.

2. HWP Programming

Rick Carbo reported that summer camps will again be held at HWP Park. Students from Ridge Park Elementary School will celebrate Earth Day at the park on Friday, April 26, 2013.

E. Programming

1. Summer Camps – Registration Ongoing

Shawn Mazei stated that the summer camps generally fill up quickly. The outdoor summer playground is held at Plymouth Elementary, while the indoor camps are at the Community Center. The Teen Camp includes 35 participants, and the Mini Camp includes 45 participants.

2. Plymouth Township Day – June 1, 2013

a. Cupcake Contest – One Judge Needed – 5-5:30 PM

Board Member Bridget Sudall volunteered to participate in the judging of the cupcake contest which will take place as part of Plymouth Township Day on June 1, 2013.

5. NEW BUSINESS

Council Liaison Report – Maria Weidinger

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

- 1) An agreement has been reached with Norristown concerning the ownership and maintenance of the Lafayette Street bridge;
- 2) Mosquito spraying will begin shortly;
- 3) A new sign proposed at the Plymouth Square Shopping Center is being negotiated;
- 4) Awards were received from PRPS for the Swim and Give Program and the Martin Luther King Day of Service Program (pillowcases); and
- 5) A hearing will be held on May 13, 2013, regarding a proposal for townhomes to be constructed on a portion of the Driscoll Property.

Maria also noted that she is still in need of volunteers for the July 4 parade.

Additionally, a meeting will be held on April 30, 2013, to discuss the continuing odors from the Markel Corporation.

6. MISCELLANEOUS

Bill English noted that he had spoken with Colonial School District Education Foundation members Alan Tabachnick and Dave Sherman with regard to future programs at Wetherill Park. Rick Carbo suggested informing Karen Franck of these discussions.

Bill English inquired about the Brad Fox Fishing Derby that was recently held. Rick Carbo reported that there were no fish caught.

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, May 28, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,
Rosemary Winterbottom
Rosemary Winterbottom, Secretary