

**LOWER POTTSTGROVE  
PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION**

*September 12, 2006  
Discussion Points*

Attendance: Patty Bleakley, Tom Troutman, Rodney Hawthorne, Alyson Elliott.

The following is a record of items discussed during the meeting; however, no action was taken as a quorum was not reached.

**OLD BUSINESS**

I. *Fence & Backstop Project at Richards Park*

Mr. Troutman said the new fence at Richards Park had been installed and it made the park nicer and safer. He has heard a lot of positive comments about the fence. Ms. Bleakley added that Pottsgrove Little League Baseball donated \$500 toward the project.

II. *Sanatoga Park Grant*

At their September 7, 2006 meeting, the Board of Commissioners awarded approximately \$306,000 for the Sanatoga Park ball fields. This money is in addition to the PA Dept. of Community and Economic Development (DCED) grant of \$127,000 recently awarded to the Township. This project has already received \$240,000 in grant money.

Mr. Troutman questioned the timeline for the project and said he would like to see it started this fall, if possible. Mr. Hawthorne replied that process has started and that a letter of notice of intent to award was sent out September 8, following the Board of Commissioners' meeting. Mr. Hawthorne also said that Bursich Engineers had kindly offered their services for the pre-construction meeting and inspections at no charge.

II. *Brush Hog – Field Maintenance*

Mr. Troutman said that the new brush hog was purchased since the last meeting and John Fogel and his crew did a great job cleaning out the paths with the new brush hog, and where needed, a rented bulldozer to help clear the larger trees from the area.

III. *Approval of Banner Signs for Summer Concert Series*

The Commission discussed creating a new banner advertising the summer concert series that could did not have specific dates or other items that dated them, so they could be used every year. Mr. Troutman suggested having Dave Marsteller design a sign and, if they were inexpensive enough, purchasing a half dozen banners so they can extend their advertising area.

Ms. Bleakley suggested posting a banner at the entrance to Sanatoga Park and putting a "slide in" to announce which band would be performing for the week.

**NEW BUSINESS**

I. *Halloween Extravaganza*

Mr. Hawthorne reported that the band, *Cool Beans*; a tractor with hay for the hayride; pumpkins, cider, and candy, have all been secured for the Halloween Extravaganza on October 22 at

Sanatoga Park. Ms. Bleakley asked if the cider was heated and suggested possibilities for heating it. The Commission agreed to look into this further.

Mr. Troutman said he really enjoyed the *Cat's Meow*, a band that played last year and asked if they could be booked for this year's event. Ms. Bleakley said that since they are very popular and book up pretty quickly, they could try to book them for next year.

II. *Summer Movie Night*

Ms. Bleakley suggested expanding the recreation program to include a summer movie night at Gerald Richards Park that would be geared toward a crowd younger than that which frequents the concert series. She said they could rent a projector and a screen, or just hang a sheet over the pole barn or back stop. The Commission suggested that she and Ms. Elliott look into the specifics of this project.

III. *Expanding the Summer Concert Series*

Mr. Troutman said he thought this year's summer concert series was successful. Mr. Hawthorne reported that on average the concerts attracted approximately 125 attendees, but the final concert had more than 180 attendees.

Since the summer concert series has been very successful, the Commission discussed expanding the summer concert series by one or two more dates. If this is possible, Mr. Troutman recommended the Bill Koss Combo, a local band, and Glen Miller, a big band-type band, for the additional concerts.

## **COMMENTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS**

I. *Mr. Troutman's Comments*

Mr. Troutman suggested staking out the parks to establish boundaries for mowing and informational purposes. Mr. Hawthorne suggested installing monuments at the park boundaries. He also asked if Mr. Fogel could conduct a tour of the parks and suggested that the next tractor the Township purchases should have a cab on it to protect the operator from the elements. Adding a new member or two to the Commission was also discussed, to which Mr. Hawthorne said he would discuss amending the ordinance to add these new members to the Commission with the solicitor. He suggested that it might be nice to have a fountain in Sanatoga Lake. Mr. Hawthorne said he would look into it. In Sanatoga Park, Mr. Troutman asked for the glass to be repaired around the sign and for caps to be put on the fence so they don't fill up with water. Mr. Troutman spoke about the Peer-to-Peer study and would like to discuss it more at the next meeting so they can take some action on it. He added that he would like to look into hiring someone next year, on a part-time basis, to look after the parks. It has been suggested that this person would be a Township employee who would do this outside of work and serve to evaluate things that need to be done to keep the parks up and notify the public works crew and serve as additional security in problem parks. It is approximated that this would involve 10 hours a month starting in March and ending in December.

II. *Ms. Bleakley's Comments*

Ms. Bleakley inquired whether or not the Township had purchased the house by Ringing Rock's Lake for parking. Mr. Hawthorne said it is one of the properties for which the Township completed an appraisal and will attempt to acquire in the future using money from Montgomery County dedicated to open space acquisition. Ms. Bleakley also discussed the meeting she

participated in with representatives of Upper Pottsgrove, Lower Pottsgrove and West Pottsgrove Townships to follow up on the Peer-to-Peer study. The purpose of the meeting was to determine what facilities are needed for all youth groups/teams in the three townships and devise a plan for meeting the recreational needs of all three townships. Since that meeting, there have been staffing changes in all three townships, but hopefully we can resume the discussions, once everyone is on board and up to speed.

III. *Mr. Hawthorne's Comments*

Mr. Hawthorne said he received a letter from Debbie Moholland, president of the soccer association, concerned about a child who darted out in front of a bus in the turn around behind the snack bar at Gerald Richards Park. He said he will begin the legal procedure to post "No Parking" signs there.

**RESIDENTS' COMMENTS**

Mr. Brian Smith of Walnut Ridge addressed the Commission on a number of issues.

- Asked about the possibility of having a 5K run once or twice a year for residents who are looking for more local runs. This would be an opportunity for fundraising and to highlight our parks.
- Would like to have map of the Township's open space and trails in the Township Building or on the website for residents. Ms. Bleakley said that they already distribute it to the schools and Mr. Troutman said it will be on the Township's new website. Additionally, Mr. Wagner had been researching websites that promote municipal trail systems.
- What is the plan for the Sunnybrook Property? Mr. Hawthorne said the Township is working with the new owners on a land development plan that will involve the development of condos and may include a trail and a reuse for the ballroom.
- He mentioned that he had a friend who was a Park Ranger in Chester County and may be able to make arrangements with the Township for Park Ranger interns for the additional park and rec work, if the township needs it.

Next meeting: October 10, 2006