

**LOWER POTTSTGROVE  
PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION**

*November 14, 2006  
Meeting Minutes*

Attendance: Tom Troutman, Chair Alyson Elliott, Assistant Manager  
Patty Bleakley  
Dennis Cimino

Mr. Troutman brought the meeting to order at 7:17 p.m.

A motion was made by Ms. Bleakley, seconded by Mr. Cimino and unanimously carried to approve the meeting minutes of October 10, 2006.

A motion was made by Mr. Cimino, seconded by Ms. Bleakley, and unanimously carried to approve the Treasurer's Report. Checking Account: \$2,177.08. Savings Account: \$110,748.29. Mr. Troutman asked how much money would be coming in from the Park & Recreation fee? Ms. Elliott responded that she was unsure because she was not familiar with previous land development agreements at this time and was unsure of how many developments would be coming on line in the near future due to the sewer issues and building slow down. However, Buchert Ridge Community will probably have approximately 10 permits this winter.

**OLD BUSINESS**

I. *Halloween Extravaganza*

Ms. Elliott reported that there seemed to be a good turnout at the Halloween Extravaganza event. The band had several rave reviews. Ms. Bleakley reported that some people were surprised that it was a free event and enjoyed the hot apple cider. Mr. Troutman said the turnout was comparable to previous years and was pleased with the event.

II. *Sanatoga Park Ball Fields*

Ms. Elliott reported that Township staff had a pre-construction meeting with Reading Site on November 6, 2006 to determine what work could be done and when. According to the meeting, Reading Site will begin installing the irrigation system, paving, and perform other site work as soon as they are giving the notice to proceed. They are very anxious to proceed. Since they have very little work, they will be able to complete this work quickly, weather permitting.

Since the contract calls for a 120-day work period and weather may slow things down, they will be keeping track of the work stoppages so that time would be deducted out of the 120 time limit. Additionally, Reading Site and the Township Engineers agreed that they could plant grass seed in the spring and would take precautions to ensure that it has a good start and suppress weed growth. The Both parties believe that proper maintenance through watering, seeding, fertilizing and mowing, will ensure that the grass will grow appropriately.

Mr. Troutman asked what remedy we would have if the seed does not become properly established and the field turns out weedy? Ms. Elliott said she would research that. If it is not provided for in the contract, she will see if it is something that can be added.

II. *Approval of Banner Signs for Summer Event Series*

Ms. Elliott said she spoke with Dave Marsteller about the possibility for a sign at the corner of High Street and Sanatoga Road. She said she envisions a wood sign that fit into the requirements of the Village District concept that points to Sanatoga Park and has a section to make announcements about events in the park. Before she can price out a sign, the Township will need to approach the property owner for permission to place a sign there. Mr. Marsteller assured Ms. Elliott that he can have a sign for that corner and the banner signs prepared in a few weeks.

III. *Summer Event Series*

Concerts

Ms. Elliott asked Commissioners for guidance for choosing bands for the concert series. They said Mr. Wagner typically chose the bands and authorized her to do the same. She asked about time frame for the concerts, which usually start late June and go into August. This year, they would like to see eight bands, an increase of two over last year. They are usually Sundays at 7 p.m. Ms. Elliott said she and Ms. Corley would begin contacting bands and setting up dates.

Performance Art

Ms. Elliott said she had been in contact with two local nonprofit groups, Village Productions and the Schuylkill Valley Region Dance Company, who have expressed interest in using the Band Shell for summer events. This would allow the Township to bring a greater variety to the Band Shell stage and offer more opportunities to local nonprofits.

Village Productions said they would be interested, but asked if there was a way they could recoup their expenses for renting sound equipment through by charging admission. Ms. Elliott was unsure if this would work in an open amphitheater situation, but said the Township may be able to include the costs of renting this equipment in its sponsorship drive. They have a show, "A Grand Night for Singing" that will run June 1-10, that might be adaptable to the Band Shell the following weekend.

The Schuylkill Valley Region Dance Company said they will bring this partnership up at their Board of Directors' meeting on November 19. If this is accepted by the Board, they will need to establish dates pretty quickly since many of their performers are students and may have other summer plans.

Ms. Elliott said she would keep the Commissioners posted as she learns more.

Movie Nights

At the last meeting, Commissioners expressed concern over security issues and noise that would be generated by the event. Ms. Elliott said she could either approach Chief Shade about using the Bike Patrol or contact Harry Chrusch, the School Crossing Guard, to provide patrols during the movie nights. The Commissioners all agreed that they would like to use the Bike Patrol as it would be good exposure for them. Ms. Elliott said they could set the movies up so the sound would minimally impact the surrounding neighbors.

The Commissioners discussed the best time and day for hosting movie nights. Ms. Bleakley said they could try week nights in July or August after soccer and/or baseball practice. Mr. Cimino said Friday or Saturday nights might be better for working parents, since the movies probably would not let out until 11 or 11:30 p.m. After some discussion, the Commissioners asked Ms. Elliott to contact the equipment renter to see if he has three Friday or Saturday nights available this summer.

IV. *Santa's Hotline*

Ms. Elliott passed out flyers an information sheet revised by Ms. Bleakley for Commissioner review. Based on bringing and disbursement timelines, parents would call in with their requests on December 11 between 2 and 4 p.m. and the Santas would contact the children on December 18 and 19. Ms. Elliott and Ms. Bleakley said they would be Elves. Mr. Troutman and Mr. Cimino would be Santas. Mr. Doyle and Mr. Leh would also be solicited to serve as Santas.

V. *Grants*

Montgomery County Open Space Acquisition Fund – April 2008

Ms. Elliott said the Township was very close to drawing up agreements with two of the property owners. The School District had just received its facilities report and needed time to digest it before it would entertain an offer from the Township.

Oxy Chem Grant for Sprogels Run

Mr. Hawthorne has given Oxy Chem the proposed design and costs for the trails. We are waiting to hear from them.

Health & Wellness Foundation – March 2007

Mr. Hawthorne met with a representative of the Foundation to discuss opportunities for future funding relationships.

**NEW BUSINESS**

I. *Soccer Tournament*

Ms. Bleakley reported that there will be 700 teams represented at the soccer tournament this weekend, November 18-19. They will be playing on fields at Gerald Richards Park, Lower Pottsgrove Elementary, and the High School. Teams will be coming from all over and will be patronizing local businesses during their weekend stay.

II. *2007 Meeting Dates*

The Commissioners discussed potential meeting dates. A motion was made by Mr. Cimino, seconded by Ms. Bleakley, and unanimously carried to change the 2007 meeting dates to Mondays at 7 p.m. Whether are on the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month will be determined after Ms. Elliott confirms the Monday meeting date for the Planning Commission.

III. *New Membership*

The members discussed expanding their membership, but decided to table this until some future date.

IV. *Recognition of Smokey Norton for Years of Service*

Smokey Norton is the last original member of the Park and Recreation Commission and will celebrate 40 years of service in 2007. To honor him, Commissioners discussed language for a plaque that is planned to be presented to him at the December 4, 2006 Board of Commissioners' meeting.

V. *Sanatoga Park Fountain*

Ms. Elliott said she began research for the fountain at Sanatoga Lake. The company she contacted suggested three fountains for the Lake, a two-horsepower fountain that would cost \$5,000 and two one-horsepower fountains that would cost \$3,800 each. This cost does not include installation. She said they would be able to have the same effect with one two-horsepower fountain. She said she

found this company on the internet, but Mr. Yuhas has a local contact in Downingtown that may be able to provide a better price. Commissioners suggested contacting George Bosch who originally promised the fountain to see if he can help the Township find a good deal.

**COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

There were no Commissioner comments. Ms. Elliott said that the plexiglass on the Sanatoga Park sign had been replaced.

A motion was made by Ms. Bleakley, seconded by Mr. Cimino, and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 p.m.

Next meeting: December 12, 2006