

**LOWER POTTSTGROVE
PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION**

*March 27, 2007
Meeting Minutes*

Attendance: Thomas Troutman, Chair Alyson Elliott, Assistant Manager
 Patty Bleakley Thomas Yuhas, Township Engineer
 Dennis Cimino
 Patty Abdalla

Mr. Troutman brought the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Ms. Bleakley, seconded by Ms. Abdalla, and unanimously carried by a 4-0 vote, to approve the meeting minutes of February 27, 2007.

A motion was made by Ms. Bleakley, seconded by Mr. Cimino, and unanimously carried by a 4-0 vote, to approve the Treasurer's Report. Checking Account: \$1,148.16. Savings Account: \$124,667.76.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- I. The Easter Egg Hunt will be this Saturday, March 31 at 10 a.m. All preparations have been made for the event.

- II. Ms. Elliott said she and Township staff had researched the timing of the Fish Rodeo the ability to stock bass. She suggested pushing the event back one more week to June 16 to allow bass fishing. Members of the Commission agreed that it would be an appropriate move. Mr. Troutman asked if the Township still plans to install "No Fishing" signs after stocking the lake until the Fish Rodeo. Ms. Elliott said she did not know, but would check with John Fogel.

- III. As per Ms. Elliott's request, members of the Commission made suggestions for the summer movie night. They suggested the following titles: *Cars, Flushed Away, Akeelah and the Bee, Spiderman, Happy Feet, Rocky, Hoodwinked, and Madagascar*. Ms. Elliott said she would submit these requests to the movie company and let the Commissioners know if there was any need to provide more titles.

Ms. Bleakley suggested turning the movie nights into a community event. They could either ask attendees to bring cans for the local food shelter or provide items for local service men and women. The Commissioners agreed this was a good idea and would look into this further.

- IV. Ms. Elliott said the newsletter was sent out with the Trash & Recycling bills on March 15. Ms. Abdalla said she knew a lot of people who received it.

- V. Ms. Elliott and Rodney Hawthorne will be meeting with the Pottstown Area Health & Wellness Foundation-sponsored facilitator to discuss the merits of a regional park and recreation commission.

OLD BUSINESS

- I. *Sanatoga Park Ball Fields*
Mr. Yuhas, the Township Engineer, discussed Commissioner concerns about costs and delays on the Sanatoga Park Ball Field project. He summarized that there was approximately \$10,000 in

engineering fees to resurvey the fields and provide more accurate drawings. This was necessary to provide a better slope of one percent (as opposed to two percent) on the fields and accommodate wear and tear on the fields due to ATVs and other vandalism to the fields. These changes necessitated a \$20,000 change order with the contractor to accommodate additional work for cut and fill to achieve the desired slope.

Additionally, the Township will be required to submit a permit to the Pottstown Water Authority to connect to public water for the sprinkler system, which will cost approximately \$20,000, and a permit to the Montgomery County Conservation District for an NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) permit, which will cost approximately \$250. Mr. Yuhas said he will be meeting with the Township's Fire Marshal to establish that there is adequate pressure in the system to accommodate the Township's water needs at the park.

Mr. Yuhas said the contractor is ready to start as soon as the NPDES permit is received. The Township Solicitor is keeping the contracts up-to-date.

Mr. Troutman is concerned that this additional \$50,000 will be taken out of the Park & Recreation budget as opposed to the Township's reserve fund. He asked the Commissioners to support him in his request to have the Township pay for this out of the reserve fund rather than depleting the Park & Recreation fund, which has limited funding sources.

Rich Wood, Vice President of the Pottsgrove Soccer Association, said he believes Soccer would be willing to contribute some money toward bringing these fields on line. Ms. Elliott suggested that the Park & Recreation Commission may want to investigate other source of funding for the Park & Recreation fund besides the fee-in-lieu for new developments. She suggested selling field sponsorships or supporting a fundraising effort, such as selling bricks, bleachers, or other items at the parks.

II. *Skateboarder Presentation*

The skateboarders did not attend this meeting.

III. *Park & Recreation Commission Appointee Consideration*

The Board of Commissioners is considering appointing Rich Wood to the Park & Recreation Commission. Rich is currently the vice president of Pottsgrove Soccer and will be resigning from the Township's Planning Commission. Rich will be an asset to the Commission. He currently works for the Montgomery County Parks Department, and has worked for the PA Fish & Boat Commission and the Chester County Parks & Recreation Department. He received a degree in Recreation & Parks Management from Penn State University.

A motion was made by Mr. Cimino, seconded by Ms. Abdalla, and unanimously approved by a 4-0 vote to recommend the Board of Commissioners appoint Mr. Wood to the Board of Commissioners.

NEW BUSINESS

I. *North Pointe Community Church request for park reservation*

Ms. Elliott said she was contacted by North Pointe Community Church in Limerick Township to reserve Gerald Richards Park for the afternoon and evening of May 27 for an event. They would like to have a movie, band, hot dogs and sodas, and, if possible, inflatable play structures for local residents who do not go away for the holiday weekend. They estimate that they would attract approximately 250 people.

After some discussion, the Commission expressed concern that this event would tear up the sports fields and requested that Ms. Elliott contact the Church to determine if they would be interested in using Sanatoga Park, since it has a band shell and pavilion. They also suggested that the Township consider ensuring that the Church would be liable for any damages incurred during the event.

II. *Other Items*

Mr. Troutman said he had been contacted by a resident on Pleasantview Road that abuts Kurtz Field in Gerald Richards Park. The resident was upset because despite her attempts to ask them to leave, they continued to use her property as a practice area. Mr. Wood said he would notify the soccer coaches that this was not part of the park and Ms. Elliott said she would ask Mr. Fogel and Mr. Hawthorne to post no trespassing signs.

Mr. Troutman mentioned that Elsie Norton had sent a thank you note for the Commission's flowers and support after Smokey Norton's death. A copy of the letter was provided to the Commissioners.

Mr. Troutman announced that Sunnybrook Ballroom would be having a media day on Saturday, March 31, 2007 at 1 p.m. He said he believes Sunnybrook will provide a good opportunity for cooperation on future Park & Recreation events and looks forward to its completion.

There being no other business, a motion was made by Ms. Bleakley, seconded by Mr. Cimino, and unanimously approved by a 4-0 vote to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 p.m.

Next meeting: Monday, April 30, 2007