

**LOWER POTTSTGROVE
PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION**

*April 30, 2007
Meeting Minutes*

Attendance: Thomas Troutman, Chair Alyson Elliott, Assistant Manager
 Patty Bleakley, Vice Chair
 Patty Abdalla
 Rich Wood

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 March 27, 2007.

A motion was made by Ms. Abdalla, seconded by Mr. Wood, and unanimously carried by a 4-0 vote, to approve the Treasurer's Report. Checking Account: \$8,510.69. Savings Account: \$118,709.40.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

I. Open Space Acquisition & Grant Progress: Ms. Elliott reported that the Township has submitted the following grant applications for Snell & Norton Park Master Site Plan in the amount of \$39,000 from the Department of Conservation & Natural Resources (DCNR; for Sprogels Run Nature Trail in the amount of \$73,000 from OxyChem and the Pottstown Area Health & Wellness Foundation; and for the acquisition of property adjacent to Ringing Rocks Park in the amount of \$35,200 from the Montgomery County Open Space Program.

Ms. Elliott discussed the process of several open space acquisition negotiations and showed a PowerPoint presentation on the parcel adjacent to Ringing Rocks Park.

II. Lower Pottsgrove Township Website: Ms. Elliott announced that the Park and Recreation Commission's (PRC's) minutes and agendas are now posted on the Township's website. She says she and the Township staff are working to expand the scope of the website as time permits. She anticipates that it will have a greater amount of information relating to Lower Pottsgrove's parks and recreation programs in the future.

III. Montgomery County Lands Trust Publication: *Buy the Best, Zone the Rest* – Ms. Elliott distributed this publication to Commission members. She said it is an excellent publication explaining why it is important to preserve open space and how communities can do so.

IV. *Schuylkill River Sojourn (June 1-8)*: Ms. Elliott distributed information about the week-long Schuylkill River Sojourn. She thought it would be an interesting way for members of the PRC to explore the river and its surroundings from a different perspective. Mr. Wood said he planned to participate in one of the days. Mr. Troutman and Mr. Doyle said they would consider participating in this event as well.

OLD BUSINESS

I. *Skateboarder Presentation*

The skateboarders did not attend this meeting. Ms. Bleakley announced that they were working on their presentation and would contact the Township when they were prepared.

Mr. Wood said that DCNR provides grant money for skate parks that the Township and/or the skateboarders may want to pursue.

II. *Summer Movies*

Ms. Elliott announced that she spoke with a representative of Swank Motion Pictures about reserving movies for the Summer Movie Nights. She said the heavy favorite, *Cars*, could not be rented out to audiences as large as the one the Township anticipated. However, she said she reserved the following movies on the following dates:

- June 29: *Happy Feet*
- July 20: *Akeelah and the Bee*
- August 17: *Flushed Away*

Ms. Elliott asked if any one had copies of these titles. If so, the Township could use those copies instead of renting them from the movie company. Members of the PRC said they would see if anyone had copies.

She has been in contact with the Ringing Hills Fire Company about allowing the Township to reserve the following dates for an indoor rain location. The Chief said he would have to talk with his board to see if it could be permitted.

III. *Facility Use and Vendor Permit Application*

Members of the PRC discussed Ms. Elliott's drafts of the Facility Use and Vendor Permit Application. There was concern over the proposed fee schedule and scheduling on the Facility Use Permit. Ms. Elliott said she would make suggested revisions and email the revised applications to members of the PRC. She also said she would re-evaluate the fee schedule – her intent is to develop a fee schedule that is fair to all user groups, but would not unduly burden them. She would like continued input from the PRC before it is implemented.

IV. *Strategic Planning Discussion*

Members of the PRC discussed several items pertaining to the strategic planning progress, including the Pottstown Area Health & Wellness Center (PAHWC)-sponsored discussion on regionalizing park and recreation facilities and activities and a recent meeting with the local sports organizations. Ms. Elliott said the discussions generated from both of these meetings have provided a great deal of information that she can utilize in helping the PRC develop a strategic planning document.

Members of the PRC also discussed their agenda for May. Ms. Elliott wanted clarification on how they members typically formulate their May agenda, since they typically spend the meeting touring Township parks. Ms. Elliott distributed aerial photographs of each of the parks and asked the members to tell her which parks they were interested in seeing and she would organize a tour based on their interests. Members of the PRC decided they would meet early (around 5:30-6:00 p.m.) to handle any business, and then head out on their tour. Mr. Troutman asked if Ms. Elliott can have John Fogel lead the tour since he is most familiar with the parks and their facilities.

Since the PRC typically cancels its June, July and August meetings, she said she would spend time researching and developing the strategic plan and would email it to the members for comments as milestones are met.

NEW BUSINESS

I. *Funds for Amy Park Reservation*

Ms. Elliott distributed information about a reservation for Sanatoga Park on June 16, the afternoon of the Fishing Derby.

II. *Reorganization*

Mr. Troutman resigned as Chair of the PRC. A motion was made by Mr. Wood, seconded by Ms. Abdalla, and unanimously approved by a 3-0 vote, to elect Ms. Bleakley as a Chair of the PRC. The PRC decided to wait until full membership was available to elect a Vice Chair.

There being no other business, a motion was made by Mr. Wood, seconded by Ms. Bleakley, and unanimously approved by a 4-0 vote to adjourn the meeting at 9:32 p.m.

Next meeting: Tuesday, May 22, 2007