

Lower Pottsgrove Township
Parks and Recreation Meeting
Monday, September 24, 2012 7:00 PM

The regularly scheduled Parks and recreation meeting was held on Tuesday, May 29, 2012 and was called to order at 7:04pm. The following were in attendance:

Bill Keohane, Chair	Alyson Elliott, Assistant Manager
Tom Troutman, Vice Chair	Jennifer Corley
Patty Bleakley	
Rich Wood	

Mr. Troutman made a motion to approve the September Parks and Recreation Report. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Bleakley and carried with a vote of 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Eagle Scout Project - Eric Kendra is doing an Eagle Scout project at Sanatoga Park., Mr. Kendra will be installing two grills, demolishing an existing stone grill and stripping, sanding and refinishing the picnic tables in the pavilion.

Regional Recreation - Ms. Elliott began the meeting with discussion of the Regional Recreation Survey that was distributed to parks and recreation members prior to the meeting. She commented that Sue ? asked what Lower Pottsgrove Township would like to emphasize regarding regional recreation. Mr. Troutman asked if there was any indication on whether the concept was going to take hold and if it was realistically going to happen. Ms. Elliott responded that there is a “wait and see” attitude amongst all the townships and that the only known non-participant is New Hanover Township. Ms. ? was going to make another attempt at drawing them back in. Mr. Wood asked for clarification as to whether they were hiring her to do a feasibility study. Ms. Elliott responded that the Pottstown Health and Wellness Foundation and DCNR both want the circuit rider. It will be comprised of Lower Pottsgrove, Upper Pottsgrove, West Pottsgrove, North Coventry, East Coventry and ...

Ms. Elliott commented that this person has to identify what areas of recreation they will control and what the organizations need out of a circuit rider. Ms. Bleakley commented that the person coming in from the outside would still have no power as the underlying organizations would still have the power to veto. Mr. Wood commented that this usually happens. Mr. Troutman responded that was the fear when the Regional Planning Organization was being planned and that turned out that there was strength in numbers. He hopes the same thing happens with the Regional Recreation. Ms. Elliott responded that the thought was this group would work better since it would be comprised of like minded people working towards a common goal. The goal is to make recreation programs work better, generate revenue and encourage the economic development of the region. Mr. Wood stated that each townships programs work well it is the facility based recreation that is the trouble spot. Mr. Keohane added that each municipality is working towards the common goal of generating funds to assist with enhancing programs. This could be done through fundraising or grant writing.

Mr. Wood further suggested that the townships host events together to pool resources and funds. There is an example of this in Chester County with a “Fall Frolic”. There are 5 municipalities that participate; therefore each is only responsible for hosting duties once every 5 years. Every municipality contributes to the event every year. Mr. Troutman commented that he would like to see more budget money contributed towards Parks and Recreation. In the past we used to have developers pay \$1000 per building lot to help us along. Mr. Wood added that if we cannot sustain the growth of Parks and Recreation, then there is no need to put budget funds towards it. Ms. Elliott added that at present we are doing what we can to maintain what we have. Regional recreation is getting more consideration because we will not be able to sustain the parks on our own. Selling parks as regional might benefit us in the future for building parks.

Gerald Richards Park Rules – Ms. Elliott brought to the Board’s attention the necessity of having rules posted at the playground at Gerald Richards Park. She explained that the Parks and Recreation Board may pass special rules by Resolution. The Board of Commissioners can then approve these rules for enforcement as soon as possible. Mr. Troutman asked if the rules will be age specific and for the children to follow or for the adults supervising them. After much discussion, it was determined that the posted rules will address, pets, garbage, foul language and rough play. A list will be created and forwarded to the Board of Commissioners for their approval of the resolution. There are already general park rules posted at the entrance to the park. A motion was made by Mr. Wood and seconded by Mr. Troutman to amend the rules to include the changes discussed and recommend approval of Resolution #951 to the Board of Commissioners.

Fundraising – The modified Parks and Recreation ordinance should have guidelines with provisions for fundraising. Will we accept donations? How do we recognize them? Do we use a plaque or a letter to the donor? Do we acknowledge every donor? Mr. Wood commented that Montgomery County created a template. They chose the bench that will be used and the plaque size, shape and placement. Ms. Elliott asked what would happen when the product donated reaches the end of its life. Mr. Wood stated that in his experience the item is not replaced by the County. The donor is notified of the expiration or any damage and asked if they would like to replace at their expense. The Board also discussed naming rights for fields, snack bars and even parks as another means of fundraising.

NEW BUSINESS

Park Ordinance – Ms. Elliott informed the members that the Park Ordinance has been sent to Chief Foltz and Solicitor Kurtz Holloway for their review. The Chief made a few recommendations of items that need to be changed. The Solicitor has also commented. The goal is to take the Parks and Recreation Board to the next level. We will also need to get fundraising worked into the ordinance. For example, if the sports organization makes improvements to a township field, what do the township’s ownership rights include and how far do they extend? The ordinance should contain guidelines for these donations and recognition of the donations. Ms. Bleakley had questions regarding some portions of the ordinance.

COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

There were no further comments by Board Members.

COMMENTS BY VISITORS

There were no comments from visitors.

There being no further business to discuss, the motion was made by Mr. Wood and seconded by Mr. Troutman for adjournment at 9:12pm. The motion carried with a 4-0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer J. Corley