

**Lower Pottsgrove Township
Parks & Recreation Board Meeting
May 26, 2009 6:00pm**

The regularly scheduled Parks and Recreation meeting was held on Tuesday, May 26, 2009 and called to order at 6:04pm. In attendance were the following:

Patty Bleakley, Chair
Patty Abdalla, Vice Chair
Tom Troutman
Dennis Cimino
Rich Wood

Alyson Elliott, Assistant Manager
Jennifer Corley

Parks & Recreation Report

The approval of the Parks & Recreation Board minutes for April 27, 2009 was tabled until the June 22, 2009, meeting.

Old Business

Ms. Corley reported on the progress for the June 20, 2009, Fishing Derby. The Fish & Boat commission has contacted an Angling specialist that will come to the Derby and teach the participants about the responsibility of proper angling and also assist in the identification of catches made. Participants will receive a certificate for their catches from Fish & Boat Commission.

New Business

Gabby Schurr - Ms. Corley presented a request from Roxanne and Gabby Schurr to set up a table at the Gerald Richards Park Fields to hold a fundraiser for her bid for Pottstown July 4th Queen. After much discussion the Board decided not to allow this as in the future there would be requests from other fundraising organizations as well.

Coventry Christian School - Ms. Elliott presented to the Board a request from Coventry Christian Schools to be exempt from the Field Rental Fee for use of Gerald Richards Park for their sports teams due to their donation of use of the school parking lot for sports organizations as overflow from the Gerald Richards Field parking lots.

Discussion included suggestions from Board members to have the agreement include language that Coventry Christian Schools should also contribute to the maintenance of the field by donating necessary maintenance items, dragging baseball fields after use and lining soccer fields.

A motion was made to authorize Ms. Elliott to draft a formal agreement between Coventry Christian School and Lower Pottsgrove Township Parks & Recreation to allow parking at the school as an overflow lot from Gerald Richards Park in exchange for field use at no cost. This

motion was made by Tom Troutman and seconded by Dennis Cimino. The motion unanimously passed with a vote of 5 – 0.

Bus Trips – Ms. Corley presented an opportunity to collaborate with Limerick Township Parks & Recreation and New Hanover Township Parks & Recreation to provide bus trips for our residents. Limerick currently partners with Upper and Lower Providence and would like to partner with direct neighbors to make the service more convenient. Board members asked what commitment was involved and Ms. Corley will look into that. Board members were pleased with the opportunity to offer the residents another recreational service.

A motion was made by Dennis Cimino to have Ms. Corley contact Limerick Township with interest for the bus trips. The motion was seconded by Patty Abdalla and passed with a vote of 5 – 0.

Gerald Richards Parking Lot - Ms. Elliott presented the Board with three preliminary solutions to the lack of parking and also the storm water in the Gerald Richards Parking Lot. In all of the solutions Ms. Elliott displayed her concern over traffic moving around the snack bar creating a hazard for children at play and pedestrians. The Board chose one plan to work with and agreed with Ms. Elliott to address the safety of the residents. The suggestion was made to close off the upper section of the parking lot and the vehicle loop around the snack bar. The upper section would then be used only for authorized vehicles and emergency vehicles. Fencing would be constructed along the parking lot and field sides of the snack bar to protect pedestrians.

Ms. Elliott reminded the Board that this is not a final solution, merely a discussion beginning on how to best fix the problem. The intent is to formalize the parking more efficiently and address the storm water issue.

Comments by Board Members

Mr. Troutman commented that the cans at the little league field at Gerald Richards Park were overflowing Saturday afternoon. Ms. Elliott said she would contact Public Works about making sure this does not happen again.

Mr. Wood said that an Eagle Scout has approached him about doing a project in Gerald Richards Park as his final project. He would like to build steps down the bank on Field #3 to make retrieval of a rogue soccer ball safer and easier. Mr. Wood recommended he put together a proposal for presentation to Township Staff. Mr. Wood also requested assistance from the Public Works department in digging the area out. The Scout will be sending a letter to the Township shortly.

Mr. Cimino had no comments.

Ms. Abdalla had no comments.

Ms. Bleakley had no comments.

Comments by Visitors

Greg Biangini – Pottsgrove Little League

Mr. Biangini wants to propose that PGLL build another T-ball field above Field #8. PGLL is committing to paying for a backstop and doing the bulk of the work. They are requesting Public Works assist with skinning the field. Ms. Elliott said PGLL should set up a meeting with her and Township staff to discuss their plans. Proposed work might need to go through the land development process, including engineering, grading permits, and other approvals, as necessary. They will submit plans for review.

Tim Brown – Pottsgrove Little League

Mr. Brown commented that he was pleased to hear that the Board is discussing the problem with parking and field drainage at Gerald Richards Park.

Ms. Elliott concluded the meeting with a short slideshow of the progress being made on repairs of the Sanatoga Park fields.

A motion to adjourn to the Bateman Tract tour was made by Rich Wood at 7:25pm. The motion was seconded by Patty Abdalla and carried with a vote of 5 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer J. Corley