

LOWER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP  
Parks & Recreation Board

*August 24, 2009 Meeting*

The regularly scheduled Parks and Recreation meeting was held on Monday, August 24, 2009 and was called to order at 7:02 p.m. The following were in attendance:

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

Alyson Elliott, Assistant Manager  
Jennifer Corley

PARKS & RECREATION REPORT

A motion was made by Rich Wood, seconded by Dennis Cimino and unanimously approved by a 4 – 0 vote to approve the August Parks & Recreation Report which includes the minutes for June 22, 2009.

OLD BUSINESS

*Matt Kendra – Eagle Scout project presentation*

Matt Kendra's presentation has been postponed due to a prior commitment he had. We will invite him to present his project on site during a site tour of Gerald Richards Park the Park & Recreation Board will be taking following their September meeting.

*American Girl Doll Store Trip -* Ms. Corley reported on the specifics of the bus trip. Mr. Wood requested that she email the registration form to board members so they are able to distribute to residents that inquire.

*Verizon Fall Festival Entertainment-* Ms. Corley reported that the canceled children's band from the Summer Concert Series, Ernie & Neal, is available to play at the Verizon Fall Festival. The concert had been canceled due to dangerous weather conditions after the band reported and performed their sound check. They were paid as agreed by the contract, but agreed to contact Ms. Corley with their availability for the Fall Festival and play then at additional cost.

In a motion made by Dennis Cimino and seconded by Patty Abdalla, and unanimously approved by a 4 -0 vote, the Parks & Recreation Board voted to contract Ernie & Neal to play at the Fall Festival at no additional cost.

*Baseball Field @ Gerald Richards Park*

Ms. Elliott presented the plan described to her by Pottsgrove Little League for the addition of one field at Gerald Richards Park.

After review of the memorandum the Board had questions. Ms. Bleakley inquired about the size of the field. Would it be softball sized base paths? Would area residents use this field for private recreation? Also, since this field will be oriented with players facing westward, who is responsible should an injury occur? Is the Township, if this Board recommends approval? Is Pottsgrove Little League?

Ms. Elliott was informed that fields 8 and 9 were rarely used and this would fit for younger players that are not hitting the ball too far. Ms. Abdalla commented that in the past few years these fields have been used more often. Mr. Wood confirmed and added that PGLL is still using West Pottsgrove Elementary School as well. A suggestion was made to use the Open Space the Township owns on Pebble Beach Lane.

Ms. Elliot said she has been in talks with the Public Works Department and the Township Engineer to resolve the water issue on the fields. She has also proposed that she will speak to the consultants that are developing a Master Plan for Snell & Norton Park and Pleasantview Park to see if there can be a solution for all Township facilities included in their study. When working on Pleasantview Park, the consultant will be asked to review Gerald Richards Park before presenting a Master Plan that will include a solution for several issues at GRP. Ms. Elliott reported that the goal is to have a solution in place prior to the May construction grant deadline. She would like to continue discussion on the topic and ask for a recommendation from the Board.

Mr. Wood brought up the point that adding another field to Gerald Richards Park is going to further complicate the parking problem at that facility.

Ms. Elliott then reported that the Board of Commissioners voted not to enter into an agreement for a permanent parking solution with Coventry Christian Schools. She does suggest each organization approach CCS to reach individual agreements for a parking solution.

Ms. Bleakley then asked if Coventry Christian Schools will now be charged the rental for the field use since there will be no parking agreement. Ms. Elliott reported they would be charged and they are expecting the organizations to request permission for parking. There is no indication of any animosity about the agreement. Mr. Wood suggested there could be a fee for use of parking and said fee could cover the cost CCS incurs for field rental.

Mr. Cimino revisited the suggestion of using Pebble Beach Lane. Ms. Elliott said there would be the added expense using that site due to the slope and the rocky terrain. Ms. Abdalla added that in her personal experience the area is very muddy, parking is not ideal and could prove dangerous for both sides of the street. She also commented that parking at the top could be too far for young or elderly spectators.

Mr. Wood requested we table this discussion until the September meeting and walk both sites for a first hand look at them. All agreed.

Mr. Wood excused himself from the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

*Snell & Norton Master Plan* - Ms. Elliott met with the Board of Commissioners on the Snell & Norton Master Planning. She explained that Simone Collins has worked with the Township in the past and in the interest of efficiency she would like to hire them as consultants on this Master Plan. Simone Collins was previously hired through an RFP process and the grantors are amenable to using them. Planning will begin on September 2, 2009 for the steering committee staff members. There are going to be 6 public meetings held on Tuesday nights at a time determined at a later date.

The grant application for Pleasantview Park was previously denied due to there not being a Master Site Plan. This application was resubmitted. She has budgeted for half of the cost in the 2009 Budget and would like to spend half in 2010. Construction grant applications are due in mid-May. Ms. Elliott would like to report to the Board of Commissioners in September that Pleasantview is also under way in conjunction with Simone Collins taking in to consideration Gerald Richards Park at the same time. Ms. Elliott would like to retain continuity by using the same consultant for all projects.

A motion was made by Patty Abdalla, seconded by Dennis Cimino and unanimously approved by a vote of 3 -0 to begin Pleasantview Park Master Site Planning this year while simultaneously looking at Gerald Richards Park.

## NEW BUSINESS

### *2009 Budget Amendments*

Ms. Corley explained to the board that she has provided the entertainment for all events this year under budget and fully funded them with sponsorship dollars. In lieu of the excess, she is requesting approval for the amendment of the budget to purchase additional items to further organize the Parks & Recreation “department”. These items are as follows:

- Permanent signs for P&R events
- New Easter Bunny suit
- Large locking totes to store P&R supplies categorized by event
- Vacuum sealed bag for preservation of Bunny Suit

Mr. Cimino acknowledged that Ms. Corley is doing a good job on all Park & Recreation events and supported her request to purchase the additional items.

A motion was made by Dennis Cimino, seconded by Patty Abdalla to approve these budget amendments and was unanimously passed with a vote of 3 – 0.

## COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

No comments were made by Board members.

## COMMENTS BY VISITORS

No comments were made by visitors.

Patty Abdalla made a motion to adjourn the August Parks & Recreation meeting at 7:55 p.m. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote of 3 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer J. Corley

*The next regularly scheduled Parks & Recreation meeting is Monday, September 28, 2009.*