

LOWER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP
Parks & Recreation Board

September 28, 2009 Meeting 6:00 pm

The regularly scheduled Parks & Recreation meeting was held on Monday, September 28, 2009, and was called to order at 6:00 pm. The following were in attendance:

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

Alyson Elliott, Assistant Manager
Jennifer Corley

GERALD RICHARDS PARK TOUR

At the open of the meeting, the Board met at Gerald Richard's Park to tour three areas. First was the area improvements were made for an Eagle Scout project by Royersford resident, Matt Kendra. Matt planned a project and managed the construction of steps on a steep slope area outside Field #3.

Next, the Board went to the Open Space on Pebble Beach Lane to look at the site as possible location for Pottsgrove Little League to install a T-ball field. The Board discussed the pros and cons of the Pebble Beach site. The Board had the following concerns with regard to the site:

- Parking would need to be provided for the field. Of particular concern was the safety of parking on the curve on Pebble Beach
- Site drainage. Wetlands on the site would need to be considered.
- Neighbors would need to be consulted prior to committing to the field. May necessitate site screening (fencing and landscaping).
- Site orientation and size is more favorable than the previously requested location.
- Significant grading would be necessary to prepare the site for a ball field.

Ms. Elliott said that this location would be more favorable to be used as a baseball field, than the location requested by Little League; however, preparing this site for use as a field will not be inexpensive, as anticipated by Little League. She also explained that the Township does not have any additional funding to put into this project, given the current economic conditions.

The Board requested Township staff to meet with Little League leaders to discuss this site as a potential field, provided they can fund the necessary improvements.

The Board also looked at drainage issues at the park and the site Little League wanted to use as a new League field between fields #8 and 9. The Board looked at the site and determined that it was too small and oriented in the wrong direction, which would be a significant safety concern.

The Board adjourned from the park to the meeting room at 6:40 pm.

PARKS & RECREATION REPORT

A motion was made by Rich Wood, seconded by Patty Abdalla to approve the September Park & Recreation Board which included the minutes for August 24, 2009. The minutes were approved by a vote of 4 – 0. Tom Troutman abstained from the vote since he did not attend the August meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Matt Kendra – Eagle Scout Project

Matt Kendra presented his Eagle Scout project to the Park & Recreation Board. He described the process he went through for the entire project. Matt explained that he raised \$605 to offset the costs of this project. He received the \$605 in donations from family members and had out of pocket costs of approximately \$13. Home Depot gave him a discount on the lumber and the Pottstown Roller Mills donated 2.5 tons of gravel base. His project took 4 weeks total. During this time, Matt worked with engineer Ron Fricke, who donated his time and expertise, and Lower Pottsgrove Township Public Works department donated time and assistance with a backhoe and operator. Matt thanked his supporters and those that donated time and materials with a permanent marker on or at the staircase. The Board discussed what type of marker, plaque or engraving would work best on the site. Township Staff will investigate solutions.

Snell & Norton Master Plan

Ms. Elliott reported there will be a status report for the Snell/Norton site at the October meeting.

Verizon Fall Festival

Ms. Corley reported there were prize items she would like to board to approve for Fall Festival goodie bags. Dennis Cimino made a motion, seconded by Patty Abdalla for Ms. Corley to order the prize items from Oriental Trading Co. as well as the craft items necessary for the additional craft table. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of 5 – 0.

Ms. Bleakley requested the addition of the warm apple cider for the Fall Festival. There is budget money left. Ms. Corley will order it.

Girl Scout Troop 71505

Ms. Elliott reported that she and Ms. Corley met the representative of Troop 71505, Roxanne Galamba, at Sanatoga Park for a discussion of the projects the Troop could undertake for their Bronze Award. They discussed painting the electrical building and planting around it as a possible project. The troop leader then suggested they build/place benches in the Tot-lot area. After much discussion it was decided that the troop would focus on the area in and around the Tot-Lot to provide shade tree plantings, shrubbery plantings, perennial plantings, and benches.

They explained they would like this project to be long term as the “little sisters” of this Troop will need a project for next year. They can just pick up where the current troop has left off.

Ms. Abdalla asked if the Township is keeping a list of project items for around the Township as it seems there are more requests every year for something the children can volunteer for. Mr. Wood and the remaining members of the Board agreed that there should be such a list. Ms. Elliott explained that Township staff was compiling such a list and it would be presented to the Board for final approval.

NEW BUSINESS

2010 Budget

Ms. Elliott reported that work was still being done on the 2010 budget,. She cautioned that the 2010 budget will be even tighter than 2009. The current economic conditions are having a severe impact on municipal budgets. Lower Pottsgrove is not alone in its concerns for the 2010 budget. She said she expects to present a draft budget at the October Board meeting.

Geocaching

Ms. Corley reported that a resident request has come in to place a cache in Sanatoga Park. Ms. Corley researched the sport and supplied Board members with an information sheet. Mr. Wood also provided the policy that Montgomery County Park Service uses for their parks. The group discussed establishing a procedure and registration form for these requests. Mr. Troutman made a motion to allow Geocaching in Lower Pottsgrove Township Parks. The motion was seconded by Patty Abdalla and passed with a unanimous vote of 5 – 0. Ms. Abdalla made a motion to have staff create an annual registration form and that Township staff should inspect the cache upon the renewal date and with limitations on how long the cache may remain active and in the park. The motion was seconded by Rich Wood and passed with a unanimous vote of 5 – 0.

Vendors @ Verizon Fall Festival

Ms. Corley reported that three requests were received for vendors to attend the Fall Festival. A motion was made to deny these requests by Dennis Cimino, seconded by Tom Troutman and passed with a unanimous vote of 5 – 0.

Comments by Board Members

Patty Abdalla informed the Board that the Middle School is collecting Nestle bottle wrappers as a fundraiser for their school. She asked if the Township would post something on the website and be a collection point for these wrappers and she will see to it they are delivered to the school. Alyson Elliott said she would talk to the Township Manager to see if the Board of Commissioners would support this project.

Dennis Cimino – No comments. Mr. Cimino excused himself from the meeting at 7:25pm.

Rich Wood asked Ms. Elliott if Sanatoga Park is going to open 2010. Ms. Elliott said the Township has been working with the goal of opening the fields in the spring. Mr. Wood also reported that the Pottsgrove Soccer Club sustained damage on Field 1. There were soccer games and a group of residents also played football on Field 1 after a storm. Field 1 was closed for the week of September 28, 2009. Discussion ensued on how to patrol the fields and play on them. Ms. Abdalla asked if the public could use the flag system. Ms. Elliott suggested adding an article on field etiquette to the Winter newsletter. Mr. Wood had suggested the Township investigate the cost of field goals to place at a field; however, he acknowledged that they are very costly.

Tom Troutman asked that a status on the Snell/Norton Park be presented at the next Parks and Recreation meeting.

Patty Bleakley noted that Little League has many volunteers to assist with the planning and construction of the additional field. She suggested that the Township advise PGLL that the Township won't have the finances for this additional field and that PGLL would be required to build the field to Township standards at its own expense.

Alyson Elliott confirmed the consensus was that the best spot for an additional T-bal field would be the Open Space on Pebble Beach Lane. This area would have to include a parking lot as the street would not provide safe or sufficient parking. Ms. Elliott will take comments to the Board of Commissioners and talk to Mr. Hawthorne about proceeding to the next step.

Comments from Visitors

Tony Doyle commented that the T-ball field on Pebble Beach Lane sounds good and he wants Pottsgrove Little League to understand the cost of constructing this field.

Rich Wood made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00pm. This motion was seconded by Patty Abdalla. The motion carried with a vote of 4 – 0.