

**Lower Pottsgrove Township  
PARK AND RECREATION MEETING  
MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2009**

The regularly scheduled Park & Recreation meeting was held on Monday, October 26, 2009, and was called to order at 7:02PM. The following were in attendance:

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

Alyson Elliott, Assistant Manager  
Jennifer Corley

#### REORGANIZATION

Ms. Bleakley turned the floor to Vice Ms. Abdalla for nominations for the Chair of the Parks and Recreation Board. Ms. Abdalla nominated Ms. Bleakley for 2010. The nomination was seconded by Mr. Wood and the motion carried with a vote of 5 – 0.

Ms. Bleakley opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair. Mr. Wood nominated Ms. Abdalla and the nomination was seconded by Mr. Troutman. The motion carried with a vote of 5 – 0.

#### PARKS AND RECREATION REPORT

A motion was made by Mr. Troutman, seconded by Ms. Abdalla to approve the November Park & Recreation Report and the January Park & Recreation Report. The motion carried with a 5 – 0 vote.

#### OLD BUSINESS

*2010 Events Schedule* – Ms. Corley went through the dates for the 2010 events with the Board. With the exception of a correction of the date for the Easter Egg Scramble to Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Cimino made a motion to approve the dates for the Park & Recreation events which was seconded by Ms. Abdalla. The motion carried with a unanimous vote of 5 – 0.

There was discussion on an increase in advertising to better promote the events. Ms. Corley informed the Board that the School District now allowed the printed flyers to be sent home through the children's homeroom. It was also suggested that Township Staff contact the Tax Collector Jen Marsteller to see if she would stuff a flyer in the annual tax bills that are mailed at the beginning of July which is near the beginning of the Summer Concert Series. Ms. Elliott said she would look into timing, cost, and labor, to determine whether sending information out with the tax, sewer, or trash bills would be more appropriate.

Another suggestion was to have the editor from *The Community Connection* do a feature story the week before the concerts begin and include the band schedule in that story. Ms. Elliott said that a press release is sent every year both before and after events for *The Community Connection*, *The Pottstown Mercury*, and now *The Sanatoga Post* for publicity. *The Community Connection* is also sent information about the events for its Community Events section.

Ms. Elliott brought up for discussion the possibility of doing a children's puppet show for the entertainment for the Fall Festival in lieu of having a children's band. Ms. Corley described the available bands as well as the puppet show in mind. The Board requested that Ms. Corley present them with a cost comparison for the bands versus the puppet show before they render a decision.

## NEW BUSINESS

*Portable Restrooms* – Ms. Elliott opened discussion on the need for portable restrooms at the parks for 2010. Mr. Wood said that last year at Gerald Richards Park there were 4 units. He commented that 3 would be sufficient until September. In September we should increase by 1 to a total of 4 again. Mr. Troutman proposed having local businesses sponsor the portable restrooms to alleviate the cost burden on the Township. Ms. Elliott also suggested that a restroom would be necessary at the Sanatoga Park ball field. Ms. Bleakley asked if the baseball organizations would consider donating a portable restroom for each park, one at Gerald Richards and one at Sanatoga.

*Sanatoga Park Opening* – The Board participated in discussion on the opening of the Sanatoga Park baseball field and how best to promote the opening and the timing. Ms. Elliott commented that she will be discussing this with the Township Manager and bring the results of that discussion to the Park Board afterwards.

*Pottsgrove Soccer Association Field Reservations* – Ms. Corley reported that the appropriate paperwork was completed and received from Pottsgrove Soccer Association for their request for field usage for 2010. Ms. Abdalla motioned to approve the request with a second provided by Mr. Troutman. The motion carried with a unanimous vote of 5 – 0.

## COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Troutman inquired as to whom was mowing Sanatoga Park ball fields as they were left with a thick layer of cut grass over them last season. He wanted to know if they would be mown by an outside service or Township Staff. Ms. Elliott explained that the Township hired a contractor to handle Sanatoga Park due to staffing shortages and that once the fields are in use they will be trimmed neatly.

Ms. Abdalla questioned a prior discussion on the soccer field at Sanatoga Park. She inquired as to whether that field would be opened for rentals as well. Ms. Elliott stated she would working with Public Works to determine whether the fields will be ready for the 2010 season. She said she thinks the baseball field will be ready, but does not believe the soccer field will be, at least not for the spring season. Ms. Abdalla also inquired as to whether or not the Township was going to move forward on a project to enlarge the parking lot at Gerald Richards Park . Ms.

Elliott commented that the redesign was going to be a donation from a local developer, but that was no longer the case. During budget negotiations, this project was cut. At this point there remains a design and conceptual stormwater designs, but the need for funding for the necessary engineering is on the “wish list”.

Ms. Bleakley submitted information on grant funding from the school district and inquired as to whether it has been investigated yet. Ms. Elliott and Ms. Corley will look into it.

#### COMMENTS BY VISITORS

Tony Doyle questioned the dollar figure in the 2010 approved budget for the portable restrooms. Ms. Elliott responded by stating that the amount budgeted would cover portable restrooms for Sanatoga Park. In 2009, PGLL funded one of the units, thereby alleviating some of the cost to the Township

Mr. also commented that the parks have significant dandelions and questioned why they are not treated with a weed & feed product.

Ms. Elliott stated that treating the parks in their entirety for dandelions and other weeds would not be practical given the Township’s budget; however, the Soccer Association does donate seed and fertilizer to the Township each year. Mr. Wood added that Pottsgrove Soccer donates all the seed and fertilizer for both Gerald Richards Park fields and Sanatoga Park fields. Township staff applies as necessary. No weed killer is applied to the fields as they are constantly in use and it would be inappropriate to use the chemicals with children playing on the fields. Mr. Wood also explained that the public Works staff does a great job of aerating and seeding, which promotes healthy grass growth that will crowd out weeds and create a more desirable turf for play.

Mr. Doyle also asked whether local sports organizations pledge a specific dollar figure in product and/or services to the Parks & Recreation department. Ms. Elliot responded that while each organization does not donate a specific amount of money to the Township each year, they do commit to donating specific items and labor throughout the season.

Mr. Wood motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:47. The motion was seconded by Dennis Cimino and carried with a unanimous vote of 5 – 0.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 22, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer J. Corley