

LOWER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP  
PARKS & RECREATION MEETING  
MONDAY, JANUARY 31, 2011 7:00 PM

The regularly scheduled Parks and Recreation meeting was held on Monday, January 31, 2011 and was called to order at 7:04pm. The following were in attendance:

Tom Troutman  
Dennis Cimino (7:07)  
Bill Keohane  
Rich Wood

Alyson Elliott, Assistant Manager  
Jennifer Corley

#### PARKS AND RECREATION REPORT

Mr. Wood made the motion to approve the January Parks and Recreation report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Keohane and carried with a 3 – 0 vote.

#### OLD BUSINESS

*Gerald Richards / Pleasantview Park* – Ms. Elliott presented the revision of the concept drawings for both Gerald Richards and Pleasantview Parks. She identified the concepts that were drawn from various plans and compiled into one final plan that is available for comment.

Ms. Elliott commented that the plan for Gerald Richards Park has been divided into phases to allow for continued use of the fields while changes are being made. This park is primarily soccer fields with the addition of a clubhouse, pavilions, trails, playgrounds, tennis courts, and much needed storm water management. Security and safety was identified as a common concern by people in attendance at the meetings. They suggested the club house, pavilions and storage facilities be oriented towards the more visible areas of the park along Buchert Road and behind the Township Municipal Garage. The consultant will see if adjustment can be made to the plans which may result in the loss of field space. Board members also commented that pavilion spaces should be oriented closer to parking facilities to remain more user friendly.

Ms. Elliott then described the plan for Pleasantview Park and comments made on the plan at the last public meeting. One concern with this plan is the orientation of baseball/softball fields with their outfields along Pleasantview Rd. If the batter is a strong hitter, a fly ball could do damage to a car traveling along Pleasantview Rd. Mr. Wood commented that he has never seen a dog park in an active park. Concerns over that are that there are a great number of children and other distractions such as baseballs and softballs as well as food at picnic pavilions that could cause a dog to react. Mr. Wood's second concern was the installation of an artificial turf field. He has just attended classes on installation and maintenance of these fields and says that the fields are very expensive. The field would be approximately \$1million dollars to install

and then specialty equipment is needed to maintain it. It would be very time-consuming and expensive to maintain. He also commented that the maintenance needs for a park of this size with the specialty fields / courts would not be possible with our current four man crew. Mr. Wood also inquired as to how many requests we receive for tennis courts and if we knew of other municipalities that were installing them in public park areas. He commented they are expensive to install and very laborious to maintain at USTA standards. He said the county is removing them from parks currently due to lack of use and safety concerns. The final concern Mr. Wood addressed was a second means of egress for this park over on Pleasantview Rd. He feels this would alleviate a congestion area at the entrance /exit area and on Bleim Rd. With the potential activity at this park, traffic safety is a growing concern.

Mr. Troutman asked when these plans were going to come to fruition. Ms. Elliott explained that this is only the planning process and these could be shelved for many years until money to construct and maintain them becomes available. The Township is taking advantage of the available planning money to master plan the sites so the Township is ready to go when money becomes available. Master site plans make municipalities much more competitive when it comes to raising money, whether from private or public sources. In general, most parks are built very closely to the master plan; however, it is possible that the plans might be tweaked if needs change between the time the plan is completed and the time money becomes available, She explained that having a framework to go by is an advantage and a necessity for future grant funding.

The next master planning meeting is scheduled for February 23. Ms. Elliott asked that any comments on the plan be sent to her by mid February, so they could be included in the revisions. She said the February meeting might be canceled if there are not many drastic changes to the concepts, so the consultant can spend more time preparing the draft report, which will be presented at the March 23 meeting.

### *Park and Recreation Strategic Planning*

Ms. Corley presented the questionnaire she will be sending to residents of Rolling Hills and Walnut Ridge communities. The group made several suggestions for minor revisions. Ms. Corley will make those revisions and prepare the questionnaire for distribution to the communities. She will be contacting both property managers for assistance with distribution.

## NEW BUSINESS

### *Annual Program Schedule*

Ms. Corley presented the dates for the Park and Recreation events for 2011.

- Easter Egg Scramble- April 16<sup>th</sup>
- Fishing Derby - June 18<sup>th</sup>

- Concerts- June 26<sup>th</sup> to August 14<sup>th</sup> (Sundays—excluding July 3<sup>rd</sup>)
- Fall Festival - October 23<sup>rd</sup>

Ms. Corley commented that there was an additional slot open for concerts and she will forward the band list to the board for their comments. She also commented that one of the nights was going to be marketed as a “Family Night” and a children’s band was going to be selected. A contact was made with a country/western band to fulfill the requests made by residents on a 2007 P&R survey.

Ms. Corley also informed the board that she received documentation from DCNR that the Sanatoga Park Grant is being finalized and the payment is being processed. A balance of \$17,000 remains outstanding and should be received by Lower Pottsgrove Township shortly.

Ms. Corley was also approached by Girl Scout Junior Troop #71505 with a request that they continue to make improvements at Sanatoga Park in the Tot Lot area. The troop is receiving cooperation from Home Depot and would like to construct 2 – 4 benches to have permanently installed.

#### COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Wood inquired as to whether or not Sanatoga Park was going to be in use by local baseball organizations this year. Ms. Corley responded that she has been in contact with Joe Vecchio from PBO and a city/county league coach and has that field scheduled for use 4 – 6 days per week for games only.

#### COMMENTS BY VISITORS

There were no comments from visitors.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is Tuesday, February 28, 2011. The motion to adjourn was made at 8:07 pm by Mr. Wood and seconded by Mr. Keohane and passed with a vote of 4 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer J. Corley