

LOWER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP
PARKS AND RECREATION MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 23, 2011 7:00 PM

The regularly scheduled Parks and Recreation meeting was held on Monday, May 23, 2011 and was called to order at 7:10 pm. The following were in attendance:

Tom Troutman
Bill Keohane
Rich Wood

Alyson Elliott, Assistant Manager
Jennifer Corley

PARKS AND RECREATION REPORT

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

OLD BUSINESS

Summer Concert Schedule - Ms. Corley reported that the 2011 Summer Concert schedule has been finalized. She reported that Pottsgrove Community Band has agreed to move their performance to Sunday, August 7th, ending the series for 2011.

Promotional Items - Ms. Corley reported that staff would like to have exit surveys at Township events and provide incentive prizes for those that respond. The choice of prizes she would like to order is a reusable water bottle or an insulated lunch bag. The cost ranges from \$3.00 to \$8.50. These items would be customized with the Township seal, name and web address. Each item is appropriate for either children or adults and can be used as prizes at the children's events as well as the incentive items for the exit surveys.

After discussion as to how the incentives would be distributed and the exit survey would be handled, it was a consensus of the Board to order a small amount of the prizes for distribution.

Regional Recreation Coordinator - Ms. Elliott explained that at the Regional Planning meeting the possibility of hiring a regional recreation coordinator was discussed. Right now it is in the very early stages of discussion. They are looking to discuss it throughout the summer, and have a meeting with DCNR in the fall. The Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation completed its regional recreation study, which suggested that a Regional Recreation Coordinator would be an asset to promoting recreation in the region. DCNR has a Circuit Rider Program that could help partially fund it for the first 3-4 years. DCNR has been contacted and seems excited about funding a regional recreation coordinator. She reported that the municipalities involved have become increasingly less adverse to the idea, but that each has a different recreation culture in their Township with different expectations that will make it difficult to develop a regional recreation program.

Mr. Wood recalls that years ago there was discussion of sharing facilities as well. Mr. Troutman commented that each municipality may lose their identity as each has a recreational niche.

Mr. Wood then asked if this coordinator would determine what events are held where and also, who was responsible for overseeing this position. Ms. Elliott explained that, at this point, the coordinator would serve as a clearing house for the events and facilities to municipalities, organized recreation groups and private citizens, rather than developing programs. A committee consisting of representation from each of the municipalities will most likely be necessary to oversee the position and any other regional recreation initiatives. The coordinator probably would not control events in each municipality, but would assist each municipality in finding the facility that would best suit their event if that facility is not in their home municipality. Although, regional recreation planning and/or advising would not be outside of the realm of possibilities. She also explained that the PAWHF would assist in establishing this project. But once a coordinator was hired that they might assist with technical advice and financially, but would not be involved in decision making

Ms. Elliott added that a coordinator such as this could prove beneficial if Lower Pottsgrove Township had to take fields off line if it wants to improve Gerald Richards Park or any other park. The coordinator would help teams find an alternate facility for the teams that regularly use the fields.

Mr. Troutman asked how the current road crew would be able to handle more fields and if there was a plan to hire a Parks and Recreation maintenance person. Ms. Elliott said organizing at a regional level for parks and recreation could help member municipalities with this exact issue. They may be able to realize savings in park maintenance by either hiring personnel or contracting out with a landscaping group that does nothing but maintain all the parks in the region.

Ms. Elliott provided an overview memo for the Board to review on this topic.

NEW BUSINESS

Chair Nomination - This agenda item was tabled until a full board is available.

Summer Meeting Dates - Due to the light agenda during summer months it was suggested that the Board table the summer month meetings and reconvene in September. After discussion it was decided that the June and August meetings could be canceled. To keep the line of communication opened, we will meet on July 25, 2011.

COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Keohane commented about a fundraising concert he heard about through his son for a young lady with brain cancer that is going to be held at Sanatoga Lake Park. Ms. Corley reported she spoke with the young lady's grandmother, a township resident, about the rental fees and the procedure for the rental. Ms. Corley reported she has not

received the request back from the resident yet, but that the park was tentatively reserved for their event. Mr. Wood asked if the family was renting the venue and we explained they were. After discussion on the rental fees, Mr. Wood made a motion to discount the rental fees for the Sanatoga pavilion, band shell and restrooms to \$60 plus the \$25 key deposit, rather than \$90, plus the key deposit. The motion was seconded by Mr. Troutman and carried with a vote of 2 – 0. Mr. Keohane abstained due to the personal connection with the family.

Mr. Wood excused himself at 7:56 pm.

Mr. Troutman asked if the public works crew could fill holes at Gerald Richards Park as he noticed there were a lot of puddles over the past weekend. Ms. Elliott responded that the storm water management in the new master plan will address this issue and that we have had an unusually wet year which is exacerbating the issue. She will look into the issue, though.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm was made by Mr. Troutman and seconded by Mr. Keohane. The motion passed with a 2 -0 vote.

The next regularly scheduled Parks and Recreation meeting will be held on Monday, July 25, 2011 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer J Corley