

Lower Pottsgrove Township
Parks and Recreation Meeting
Tuesday, October 25, 2011 7:00pm

The regularly scheduled Parks and Recreation meeting was held on Tuesday, October 25, 2011 and was called to order at 7:03pm. The following were in attendance:

Patty Bleakley
Tom Troutman
Dennis Cimino
Bill Keohane
Rich Wood

Alyson Elliott, Assistant Manager
Jennifer Corley

PARKS AND RECREATION REPORT

Mr. Wood made a motion to approve the October Parks and Recreation report. The motion was seconded by Dennis Cimino and carried with a 4-0 vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Regional Recreation - Ms. Elliott presented the update on Regional Recreation. She said that the Pottstown Metropolitan Regional Planning Committee (PMRPC) heard a presentation by DCNR and the Pottstown Health and Wellness Foundation at their September meeting with respect to regional recreation. DCNR is very excited about the prospect of regional recreation in the Pottstown area and has pledged to fund a regional recreation coordinator; however, DCNR was not able to help those present at the PMRPC meeting determine whether Regional Recreation is right for the Region, and if so, at what level and with what governance structure? DCNR representatives stated that the Region might want to consider utilizing RecTAP funding which would help them hire a recreation consultant to help the Region answer these questions and help it get set up for a regional recreation coordinator, if it is determined that it will work for the Region. Since a needs and facility assessment has already been completed, it should be relatively inexpensive to hire someone to help with this task. DCNR also pledged support to help the region establish a structure to support regional recreation. Mr. Wood asked if the person funded by the RecTAP grant would be a DCNR appointee or employee. Ms. Elliott responded DCNR could make recommendations for the consultant, but they would most likely be hired by an RFP process.

Ms. Elliott stated that utilizing the RecTAP grant to help formulate the best way to implement regional recreation will be very helpful as each municipality has different recreation cultures and facilities, as well as ideas as to how they view their participation in regional recreation. At this point, bringing in someone impartial with an expertise in regional recreation can help the region assess the value of regional recreation and how it might be structured to bring value to the region. After lengthy discussion, Ms. Elliott closed with if this comes to fruition, it will open the door to more funding. DCNR likes to see a multi-municipal project. These projects go to the top of the list for funding consideration. The financial benefits could be substantial.

Sprogeles Run Trail Bid Opening- Ms. Elliott commented that the project was modified by having the accessory items such as trash/recycle cans, benches and signage removed from the bid specifications. The low bid received this time was approximately \$160,000. At present we have a \$75,000 grant obtained from two sources, Pottstown Health and Wellness Foundation and Occidental Chemical. In preliminary discussions with the Board of Commissioners' Budget Committee it has been determined that the Board will most likely not be willing to pull the excess

funds needed from the Reserve Fund. Ms. Elliott said there are several options on the table and asked for discussion as to the PRB's thoughts on these:

Option 1 - Table the project until funds are available

Option 2 - Re-bid the project for just the bridge over the creek. The current bid for said bridge constructed of recycled lumber is approximately \$80,000 (including mobilization/demobilization and E&S costs). If the project is rebid, these costs may be less.

The PRB discussed the project, its costs, and other options:

- They asked why the bridge was suggested for completion and why it was so expensive. Ms. Elliott explained that the bridge will be made out of recycled lumber, which will be more durable and that the length and terrain of the bridge added to the cost. She added that a DEP permit is required for the project and it would be prudent to complete this part of the project before the permit expires.
- The PRB asked if the Township would be willing to seek outside help to see if the bridge could be designed/constructed less expensively.
- Could the park remain a natural walking trail without improvements?
- Could the funds be reallocated to creating a parking lot or trailhead? Or Snell & Norton Park? Ms. Elliott stated that the funds would be required to be spent on projects that meet the mission of the funding organizations and will need to be completed in a quick period of time. "Shovel ready" is a very important factor in these projects.

The Board decided to authorize Ms. Elliott to see if the pending grant funds earmarked for Sprogels Run Trail can be reallocated to another project that can be accomplished short term.

Mr. Cimino made a motion to see if the grant funds can be reallocated to construct a Tot-Lot at Gerald Richards Park. Mr. Troutman seconded the motion and the motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Promotional Items - Ms. Corley reported that she ordered small insulated lunch bags for prizes at Parks and Recreation events. They could be used as incentive for feedback on events or as prizes for the children's events.

Park Planning - Ms. Elliott asked the Board members if they would prioritize the park projects that are on the horizon so that she may budget accordingly. Ms. Elliott explained that a master plan was adopted for Snell & Norton Park and that a second master plan will be adopted for Gerald Richards and Pleasantview parks, but she would like to take those master plans a step further and have engineered drawings prepared for these parks so when funds are available they will be much closer to completion and more competitive for grant funding. Ms. Elliott also explained that there is \$20,000 in the 2012 budget that she would like input from the board on spending. After much discussion, the Park & Recreation Board determined the priority development project should be Pleasantview Park.

Mr. Keohane made a motion to support adding \$20,000 to the 2012 Budget to be used for the preparation of engineered drawings of Pleasantview Park. Mr. Cimino seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of 5-0.

Park Board Organization - Ms. Corley commented that the Park & Recreation Board is to be reorganized annually. She requested all members be present for the January 2012 meeting to name a chairperson and vice-chair to complete the reorganization.

NEW BUSINESS

Budget 2012 - Ms. Elliott presented the 2012 Park and Recreation Fund Budget. She presented a budget with very limited income, reflecting the tough economy. As a result, expenditures are minimal – to ensure that current programs keep running. The Board requested a funding for a sign at Pleasantview Park be added to the 2012 Budget. Mr. Keohane made a motion to support the budget for 2012 as proposed and to include a line item for a sign at Pleasantview Park. Mr. Troutman seconded the motion and the motion carried with a 5 – 0 vote.

Sanatoga Park Field Use & Maintenance Agreement - A draft copy of an agreement for a pilot program to have Use & Maintenance Agreements for each field was presented to the Board members in their packets. The Board was generally supportive of the concept. Ms. Elliott and Mrs. Corley accepted their copies with comments and will review and present another draft for Board approval at the November meeting.

Kelius Tract Acquisition - Ms. Elliott reported the Township recently acquired more land adjacent to the Snell and Norton Park.

COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Board members had no comments at this time.

COMMENTS BY VISITORS

There were no comments by visitors.

NEXT MEETING

A motion was made by Mr. Troutman to adjourn the meeting at 9:15. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wood and carried by a vote of 5 – 0. The next regularly scheduled meeting is Tuesday, November 22, 2011 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer J. Corley