

Lower Pottsgrove Township  
Parks and Recreation Meeting  
Monday, February 25, 2013 7:00PM

The regularly scheduled Parks and Recreation meeting was held on Monday, February 25, 2013 and was called to order at 7:05PM. The following were in attendance:

Bill Keohane, Chair

Alyson Elliott, Assistant Manager

Tom Troutman, Vice Chair

Jennifer Corley

Dennis Cimino

Rich Wood

Prior to business being conducted, Boy Scout Eric Kendra presented his Eagle Scout project to the Parks and Recreation Board. He earned his Eagle Scout rank in December 2012. His project was to improve on the pavilion area of Sanatoga Park. Eric organized a team of his fellow troop members with some adult supervision to demolish an outdated fireplace / grill and then install two new charcoal grills. The team then sanded and sealed the picnic tables and benches. The team also cleaned up the area. Eric collected donations for this project. Materials for the project were well under the donations Mr. Kendra collected. He chose to donate the remaining funds to the Parks and Recreation fund for the purpose of purchasing a permanent recycle container for the pavilion area. The Parks and Recreation Board members posed several questions to Eric about the organization and the implementation of his project and accepted his donation, with their thanks.

#### REORGANIZATION

The Board recognized Mr. Wood's motion to nominate Bill Keohane as Chair and Tom Troutman as Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cimino and passed with a 4-0 vote.

After the reorganization, Mr. Troutman made a motion to accept the January 2013 Report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wood and carried by a vote of 4-0.

#### OLD BUSINESS

*Gerald Richards Playground Update* - Ms. Elliott provided information on the grant funds and the accounting of what was spent on the Gerald Richards Playground. She reported there is approximately \$2,500 residual funds that can be used for the rules signs, trash and recycle bins and possible landscaping, possibly shade trees. Mr. Wood suggested trees should definitely be placed in the high sun area. He suggested that we use 2" to 2.5" caliper trees that are indigenous to the area; such as sugar maples, red oak or sycamore. Mr. Keohane asked why evergreens would not work. Mr. Wood responded that they still lose their needles and create a mess with the dropped pinecones. Mr. Wood felt that the addition of 2 trees would be sufficient and should cost approximately \$200 each.

*Regional Recreation Update* - Ms. Elliott reported that the subcommittee has made headway and hired a consultant. Mr. Wood asked if it was Sue Landes; Ms. Elliott said it was. Ms. Elliott

reported that preliminary reports were good for the region. Seven out of eight municipalities would work with the Regional Recreation Coordinator. She then reviewed the proposed financial obligations of the municipalities and the proposed contributions from DCNR and Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation. Mr. Wood inquired as to whether this position was to be self sustaining as the PAHWF and DCNR cannot fund forever. Ms. Elliott responded that was a goal for the position. PAHWF, in addition to generously contributing financial resources, has also offered to provide office space and technical resources to the Rec Coordinator.

Mr. Wood inquired as to whether the creation of this Regional position would alleviate staff of the Parks and Recreation commitments they have at present. Ms. Elliott responded that in the big picture, this person would provide coordination assistance for regional events, help with funding and promotion of events. This person would be the expert resource that municipal staff members would have access to.

Mr. Wood commented that LPT is years ahead of several of the other townships involved with respect to the programs offered and inquired as to whether this progress would determine who received the funds and the attention of the coordinator. Ms. Elliott explained that the Regional Recreation subcommittee will be the key to that matter. They will set the work program for the Regional Rec Coordinator.

Mr. Cimino asked if there was separate funding available from DCNR for this project. Ms. Elliott responded that this is a project that DCNR has supported for many years. They are providing funding. Mr. Cimino clarified that PAHWF and DCNR are interested in doing the project at a minimal cost to the municipalities. He also stated that it makes financial sense and inquired as to whether the Board of Commissioners are showing interest and asking questions. Ms. Elliott responded that she will inquire as to the Board's position. She also commented that she will have more information for the Board after the Regional Planning meeting on Wednesday.

*Open Space Referendum* - Ms. Elliott reported she has found three different ways to help fund open space. The first is an open space tax. It must be pass via referendum and can only be used for the purpose of acquiring open space. The second is a recreation tax, which she does not believe will need to be passed by referendum. The recreation tax can be used for building and maintaining recreation facilities and programs, but not purchasing open space. The taxes can be on earned income or property. The third option is utilizing the regional recreation coordinator, if accepted by the region to help garner grants, sponsorships, and other sources of income.

Mr. Wood inquired whether Lower Pottsgrove Township would float a bond for open space. Ms. Elliott said the open space and/or recreation tax can provide the Township with leverage to float bonds. Ms. Elliott has the Board for their thoughts on whether they feel it is more important to preserve open space or build and maintain recreation facilities and programs, or both. Mr. Wood said it would be best to seek both as the Board cannot be short sighted and must anticipate the needs of the community. Mr. Cimino asked if action was required by the Parks and Recreation Board and Ms. Elliott responded it was not. She will prepare a memo for the Board of Commissioners to outline the issues and see what they want to do.

*Health and Wellness Foundation – Mini-grants* – Ms. Elliott discussed that the Pottstown Health & Wellness Foundation has awarded mini-grants for the regional municipalities to share. These grants are for approximately \$5000 each and will be used for park improvements. A potential project would be building a pavilion at Gerald Richards Park. She asked the Board to let her know if they felt there were other qualified projects.

*Mr. Troutman excused himself at 8:32pm.*

#### NEW BUSINESS

*2013 Events* - Ms. Corley reported on the 2013 events. She reported that the Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:30 am. The rain date for this event is Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm. She inquired about volunteers for this event. Mr. Keohane responded that his daughter would again be the bunny. Ms. Corley then reported that she had selected bands to play for the Summer Concert Series and would be sending proposals out shortly. She also reported that the Fishing Derby would be Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

There were no comments by Board members.

#### COMMENTS BY VISITORS

There were no comments by visitors.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.

At 8:42 pm Mr. Cimino made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wood and carried with a vote of 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer J. Corley