

Lower Pottsgrove Township
Parks and Recreation Meeting
Monday, October 28, 2013 7:00PM

The regularly scheduled Parks and recreation meeting was held on Monday, October 28, 2013 and was called to order at 7:02PM. The following were in attendance:

Bill Keohane, Chair
Tom Troutman, Vice Chair
Patty Bleakley
Dennis Cimino
Rick Wood

Edward C. Wagner, Manager
Alyson Elliott, Assistant Manager
Jennifer Griffith

Mr. Wood made a motion to approve the October Report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Troutman and carried with a 5-0 vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Security Cameras - Ms. Elliott reported that the poles and cameras have been installed at Gerald Richards Park.

Regional Recreation - Ms. Elliott extended an invitation to the Parks and Recreation Board members to the December 5th meeting of the Regional Recreation Commission. A Regional Recreation Coordinator will be speaking at this meeting. At this time a selection has not been made as to who would be speaking. The meeting is held at the Pottstown Health and Wellness Foundation at 5:00PM pm on the 5th floor of 152 E. High St. She reported that the Coordinator that is hired for this area was going to be based out of the Pottstown Health and Wellness Foundation offices; however, due to a potential conflict of interest, that is no longer the plan. There is a potential that they will be based out of the Schuylkill River Heritage Foundation. Once the office location is finalized, the grant application for the coordinator will be submitted to DCNR. The outlook is positive.

Mr. Wood asked if the 7 municipalities involved in the Regional Recreation Commission are well represented at the meetings. Ms. Elliott responded that at this point they are all well represented. Mr. Wood asked when the meetings are held, quarterly or monthly. Ms. Elliott replied they are held monthly and are very good brainstorming sessions. For instance Pottstown has items that would be useful to other communities for their events. They are looking at getting a multi-municipal inventory of items that will be useful to all the municipalities involved. There is also information available regarding what recreation is needed and where. Ms. Elliott also reported on the findings of a study by the Pottstown Area Health & Wellness Foundation, which she said sparked an interesting discussion amongst the member municipalities about events the regional rec coordinator could help the municipalities with that would help provide fun, low cost exercise for area residents.

LED Sign - Ms. Elliott reported that grant for the LED sign had been submitted and that the grant committee had asked her for additional information, which she provide them. She expects to hear from them by early 2014. The questions asked focused on how much of the messaging would be dedicated to recreation, and regional recreation, messages, who would be able to post messages, and whether there would be any fees charged for posting messages. After some discussion, the Board asked Ms. Elliott to find regulations for similar signs and bring them to the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Meadow Mowing - Ms. Elliott reported that in an effort to cut budget, the Township is looking into having a local farmer mow the fields. She reported that East Coventry uses a local farmer and the farmer takes the hay and uses it on his property. Then, both the farmer and the township benefit. John Fogel knows someone local who would mow the fields. Mr. Wood commented that there would need to be a lot of preparation needed prior to this arrangement and questioned what the cuttings would be used for. Ms. Elliott reported it would likely be mushroom mulch and that with the budget getting tighter, this may be a good cost saving idea. Mr. Wagner commented that he may know someone who may like to do it.

Automatic bathroom - Ms. Elliott indicated that Public Works Director John Fogel brought up potentially using automatic locking doors, automatic sinks, automatic lights, and automatic toilets for the park restrooms. A rough estimate would be \$2500 to \$5000. The idea would be that our restrooms would then be open during the day for resident use. Mr. Wood commented that either locked or unlocked the door could malfunction. This would leave the restroom open to vandalism or possibly trapping a user in. Ms. Elliott was thinking Sanatoga Park could be the pilot program. Mr. Cimino commented that if no staff is at that park, no one would know of a malfunction. Mr. Wood commented that Gerald Richards Park should be the pilot since the cameras are going up over there. It was agreed upon that if there is a pilot program for this, it should be where the cameras are monitoring. Mr. Keohane commented that if the doors and cameras work, then the Township can invest in upgrades for the restrooms. Ms. Elliott responded there may be local money from the community that could assist with that. She will check with the Pottstown Health & Wellness Foundation.

COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

There were no further comments by Board members.

COMMENTS BY VISITORS

There were no comments from Visitors.

Mr. Wood made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Troutman and carried with a vote of 5-0.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday, November 25, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer J. Griffith