

LOWER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
Thursday February 23, 2023

The Board of Commissioners of Lower Pottsgrove Township held their regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday February 23, 2023, at the Lower Pottsgrove Township Building, located at 2199 Buchert Road, Pottstown, Pennsylvania.

Board of Commissioners: Raymond W. Lopez, Robert Mohollen, Michael McGroarty, and William Keohane were present. Earl E. Swavely was absent.

Edward C. Wagner: Manager, Jamie Ottaviano: Solicitor, and Nicole Varady: Secretary, were also present.

The regularly scheduled meeting was called to order by President Raymond W. Lopez at 6:30 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Commissioner Lopez stated that the meeting will be recorded, and he asked any speakers to give their names and address for public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner McGroarty made the motion to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2023, Board of Commissioners meeting. Commissioner Keohane seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

REPORT FROM THE TOWNSHIP MANAGER: NONE

CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION:

2023-02 Zoning Hearing Application for 3260 Pruss Hill Road R-1 Residential District. The Applicant is requesting a variance to 250-50. B to encroach in the side yard setback 8.9 feet from the property line and Section 250.51.B for any building accessory exceeding 15 ft. (20.5 ft.) and exceeding one story. In addition, they are requesting a special exception from Section 250-21. D.4 for an accessory building exceeding 600SF.

Mr. Wagner explained that the applicants have an existing 24 x 24 foot garage that they received zoning relief for in 2006. They are asking to replace that garage with a 24 x 28 foot 2-story garage for additional storage on their property. The new garage will be in the same location. The Commissioners deferred the decision to the Zoning Hearing Board.

OLD BUSINESS:

Commissioner Lopez gave an update on the progress of the Infrastructure Committee regarding a new Municipal Building and Police Department. He stated they have been reviewing available buildings and sites but don't have anything concrete to report at this time. He advised that they are open to, and looking at, all options at this point. Mr. Ottaviano explained that the Infrastructure Committee is gathering information, not making any formal decisions.

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

Presentation from the Adventure Grove Inclusive Playground Committee

Patti Grimm: President, Annique Ruiz-Brown: Vice President, Charlie Valentine: Treasurer, and Pamela Ball: Secretary were present.

Pam Ball explained that Adventure Grove is a non-profit organization made up of local Pottsgrove community members who volunteer their time to bring people of all ages and abilities together in a safe space to build social skills, boost creativity and promote physical health. Patti Grimm, who had the initial idea for the playground, believes that families in our community and surrounding areas would greatly benefit from having a place where children with disabilities can feel like part of a community and make connections with other families. Annique Ruiz-Brown explained how typical playgrounds generally don't take things into account like fencing, height of equipment and difficulty, all things that can be problematic for children with special needs. Annique reports that Pottsgrove School District has approximately 700 students with special needs such as developmental disabilities or educational disabilities. An inclusive playground would allow those children and their families to play side by side with other children of all abilities and build friendships with people that they may not have otherwise had the opportunity to interact with.

Commissioner McGroarty asked the group to explain to the Commissioners what their current vision is and how it involves Lower Pottsgrove. Pam explained that they were looking for a site for the playground and Commissioners McGroarty, Keohane and Mr. Wagner thought the space at Sanatoga Park would be perfect. Mr. Valentine, Commissioner in West Pottsgrove, offered a piece of land at the former West Pottsgrove pool site as well. Instead of building one large playground, the goal now is to build two smaller playgrounds, to make them accessible to more of the community through various locations. The project will be funded through grants, sponsorships, and donations.

Commissioner Lopez commended their efforts. Commissioner McGroarty believes this would be beneficial to the community and wholeheartedly supports this project. Commissioner Keohane echoed Commissioner McGroarty and added that it was Gerilyn Keohane from the Pottsgrove Recreation Board who had the initial idea to utilize Sanatoga Park for this project. He also pointed out that the Township will benefit by having aging playground equipment replaced.

Commissioner Lopez suggested entertaining a motion to secure a Memorandum of Understanding. He asked if anyone had any comments or questions. There were no comments or questions from the public.

Commissioner Keohane made a motion to authorize Mr. Ottaviano to prepare a Memorandum of Understanding with Adventure Grove to move forward with the Inclusive Playground Project. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

Motion to award the Equipment Rental Bid to Sacks & Sons of Zieglerville, PA for \$142,335.00

Mr. Wagner explained that this is for the purpose of paving the roads this year. Those roads include Heather Lane, Bradley Way, portions of Industrial Highway, Heritage Drive, and Medical Drive. Medical Drive will be done at night, so some contractors did not submit bids due

to their inability to accommodate night work. Sacks & Sons has worked with the Township in previous years and Roadmaster John Fogel is pleased with their work. Commissioner Mohollen made a motion to award the Equipment Rental Bid to Sacks & Sons of Zieglerville, PA for \$142,335.00. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES: NONE

APPROVAL OF WARRANT #929 FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2023

Commissioner Mohollen made a motion to approve Warrant #929 for the month of January 2023. Commissioner McGroarty seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

ACCEPT THE TREASURERS REPORT FOR JANUARY 2023

Commissioner Mohollen made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for January 2023. Commissioner Keohane seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

COMMENTS BY VISITORS:

Fred Schultz 312 Oak Tree Court thanked Mr. Wagner and Mr. Ottaviano for all the communications since he last attended a Board of Commissioners late last year. He provided an update on the various state representatives he has been in contact with and his progress regarding the charging of his electric vehicle. Commissioner Lopez informed Mr. Schultz that the Township will be meeting with Montgomery County Planners next month and will gather any information that may be helpful in the matter. Mr. Wagner assured Mr. Schultz he will be provided with updates after the meeting.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

Commissioner McGroarty thanked the members of Adventure Grove for their insightful presentation. He looks forward to partnering with the organization and moving forward with the project.

Commissioner Keohane echoed Commissioner McGroarty and added that the Township's contribution to Pottsgrove Recreation Board goes towards projects like this.

Commissioner Mohollen also echoed Commissioners McGroarty and Keohane and assured the members of Adventure Grove that he is already thinking of possible corporate sponsors. He added that Senator Tracy Pennycuik represents all Pottsgroves so she would be an excellent resource.

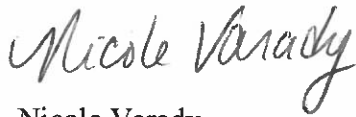
Commissioner Lopez echoed Commissioners McGroarty, Keohane and Mohollen. He appreciates the volunteers in the township and will be in contact to move the project forward.

Mr. Wagner stated he will email contact information for Lisa Walters, Chief of Staff for Tracy Pennycuik, to the members of Adventure Grove so she can be utilized as a resource.

Mr. Ottaviano had no comments.

Commissioner McGroarty made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Mohollen seconded the motion. The vote was 4-0 in favor. There being no further business, the public meeting was adjourned at 7:40 P.M. The next meeting will be on Monday, March 6, 2023, at 6:30 P.M. at the Lower Pottsgrove Township Building.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nicole Varady".

Nicole Varady
Township Secretary