



WILLISTOWN TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION
6-23-2009, 7 PM
AGENDA

Members Present: Dick McDonnell, Ken Lehr, Judy Young
Staff: Mary McLoughlin, Parks and Recreation Director

Minutes for approval: April 28, 2009 (No meeting was held in May 2009) With no quorum present, tabled to 7-28-09 meeting.

Financial Report – will be sent via email when received from township Secretary/Treasurer.

Governance and Communications

M. McLoughlin reminded the board to review the township appointed officials list and send corrections to Rita Reves at the township as soon as possible.

Coordination/Communications with other Boards and the Supervisors: D. McDonnell requested a liaison be appointed from the Board of Supervisors to the Parks and Recreation Board to attend a few meetings and as a direct contact for communication. H. Murray informed D. McDonnell that M. McLoughlin was considered the township liaison to the P&R Board. D. McDonnell will contact the supervisors directly should he feel it necessary. The P&R board decided that there was no need to pursue inviting liaisons to this board as this board has assigned liaisons to the other boards. D. McDonnell will create a spreadsheet with the name of the township board or committee, the assigned P&R liaison(s), and contact information for the P&R Board members should someone need to find a substitute.

Public Communications: The P&R standard agenda and minutes from 2009 are on the Parks and Recreation Board page under About Us. The Board agreed that separate tabs for the standard agenda and minutes are not necessary and having links on the P&R Board page would suffice.

Pending inquiry to Township Supervisors to post Daylesford Abbey information to the website as a means to quell rumors and misinformation: The Board agreed that there was no need to request of the supervisors to post any Abbey information on the Willistown Parks website at this time.

Park Maintenance

Field use and pavilion rental fee structure research: K. Lehr report was emailed to all P&R members for discussion at the July meeting.

Sugartown Preserve: A successful well was dug. Electric lines for the well and outlets have been run; waiting for PECO to install a transformer on the pole at the street to hook up electric; meanwhile, a generator is running the water to the garden. The deer fence, modeled after the Schuylkill Valley Nature Center, is installed around the garden. The garden is being planted. The access drive will be graded by Willistown Public Works this Thursday, as the installation of the electric line left the access impassible. Eagle Scout to work at Sugartown Gardens – M. McLoughlin will propose construction of picnic tables, an outdoor work bench, etc.

Programming update

Thrilling Third Thursdays at Greentree Park rescheduled blues concert to this Thursday, June 25th at 5:30 PM. 5PM D. McDonnell and J. Young will come to help set up and register people. Unfortunately, this rescheduled date conflicts with the Willistown Conservation Trust (WCT) Get to Know Kirkwood Preserve event for Willistown residents. M. McLoughlin will send regrets to WCT and will let them know that Ken Lehr will represent Willistown Parks and Recreation at the Kirkwood Preserve event.

Willistown Summer Camps at General Wayne School start June 29th

Growing Greener Summer Camps at Sugartown Preserve start July 20th

Ongoing Projects

Okehocking Design Grant deliverables discussion. Amazing job using sustainable, energy efficient design and meeting the goals of the project steering committee with environmental and design considerations for the land. Questions: The roofline – what about keeping weather out if you are having an event and it rains? Questioning the northern exposure and the slanted roof line. The roof line does not seem to fit in with flavor of the township; it seems modern. How will it integrate with the rural landscape of Okehocking? Why is the roof one slanted plane – is it to hold a full array of photovoltaics? In other words, why is it designed that way? Noting that LEED certification has been replaced with a different energy efficient/environmentally friendly certification. M. McLoughlin will forward the presentation to the P&R Board for any further comments at the July meeting.

Duffryn Avenue: The Township is applying for a Chester County Acquisition Grant for the purchase of 28 Duffryn Avenue; the Parks and Recreation Department is writing and administering the grant. The grant deadline is July 17th. A P&R Board grant application and project endorsement letter was read to the board and signed by Chairman McDonnell. A new map dated 6-12-09 has been generated by Yerkes Associates, the Township engineer, depicting two trail corridor widths. The township must determine the width of the trail for the Chester County grant. After discussion the P&R Board agreed that the narrower of the two options would be best for resale value of the house lot. M. McLoughlin will report this to Bill Shoemaker, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, and will then receive his final decision.

Northern Trail discussion

Planning

Comprehensive Plan – M. McLoughlin handed out the final draft of Chapters 1 – 4 to the Board. These sections are not for comment. M. McLoughlin will work to get the draft of the next chapter to the Parks and Recreation Board for input prior to the required submission date to the project planning consultant.

Daylesford Abbey Trail – After discussion, the Board agreed that there was no need for Lisa Thomas, Abbey Landscape Architect, to come and present the proposed trail layout and design, as the Board has a full set of plans. Any Board member can request to see the plans from D. McDonnell. Further discussion ensued. K. Lehr will get feedback from the PA Parks and Recreation Society District III list serve and local parks and recreation professionals about their experiences with such trail topics as trail maintenance, design, and public feedback and will report back to the Board.

Chester County trail meeting: The County Planning Department is visiting all of its municipalities and documenting existing trails for municipal planning purposes. M. McLoughlin brought together the following parties to be a part of the discussion: Willistown Conservation Trust, Willistown Area Trails Association, the Chairman of the Planning Commission, and the township planning consultant.

Survey results report – B. Kacergis not present; will give his report at the next Board meeting. M. McLoughlin is scheduling a review session with B. Kacergis to further interpret the survey results.

New Business

M. McLoughlin has received a request from a local geocaching organization to place cache at Okehocking Preserve. Geocaching is a high tech scavenger hunt where people use GPS units to locate hidden “caches”. K. Lehr reported that it is highly likely that the majority of parks in this area have caches placed in them without the park owners being aware. The caches are usually in the form of a film canister. K. Lehr, Director of Parks and Recreation at West Goshen Township, reported that West

Goshen has a formal policy stating that all geocaching groups must notify the township ahead of time prior to placing any caches on township property. The P&R Board has no objection to the request to place a geocache at Okehocking as long as the organization coordinates with the Parks and Recreation Department on placement and pick up.

The Board is requesting shirts to identify them at P&R events. M. McLoughlin is to order blue Willistown polo shirts for the Board for events, and will email the board members for sizes.

Next meeting: Fourth Tuesday of each month: July 28th, 7 PM