



WILLISTOWN TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION

Minutes 11-15-2022 7 PM

MEETING LOCATION: COXE MEMORIAL CAMPUS, 688 SUGARTOWN ROAD, MALVERN, PA 19355

Members present: Brad DeHart, Ken Lehr, Bernadette Downey, Bob Kacergis, Denise VanValkenburgh, Bill Unrath Absent: Erin Smith,

Staff Liaison: Mary Hundt, Parks & Recreation Director

Administration

Approval of Minutes, 10-18-22 Bernadette motioned for approval with minutes as amended; Brad second. Bill and Denise abstained as they were not in attendance at the meeting. There was no public comment. All were in favor.

Budget

Okehocking Preserve Ridley Creek Restoration Project Phase I Funding Update

The matching funding request for the special fall grant round of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) was denied due to stormwater and other pending Township expenses. In order to move the project forward in 2023 without the Township's matching funds, Mary would need to find outside matching funds for the DCNR grant application in the spring and other potential grant opportunities. Bob, who is the Parks and Rec Board liaison member of the Open Space Review Board, inquired about the viability of using Open Space Funds as match for this project. Mary will follow up.

Mary reported that the draft 2023 budget was advertised as of last night, and that it includes an ATV with a trailer and cart for Okehocking Preserve project work and management and for the use of Public Works Department on the property as needed. Brad pointed out that it would also help with the GO WilMa! station placement.

Holiday/Christmas Dinner Party

Bob and Peggy offered to host next year; Brad and Nadia are under construction. Mary offered to host at her house. Details were discussed. Mary will notify the administration that the December meeting is cancelled.

Fee Schedule: Addition of Photography Permit Fee

Brad motioned to \$50 non-resident, \$30 resident in the same differential as other non-resident/resident fees in place for other permits. Bob seconded. No public comment. All were in favor.

Communications

Memo Board Volunteer Team Needed

Mary thanked Denise for her years of service. She said she is willing to continue to do so when the weather is nice. The Board agreed that Mary could do a group text to see who is available to help. Denise is willing to do the training.

Planning

New Business

Parks Code Chapter 96: Update Discussion

The Board intends to do an annual review of the Code including the role of the Board in January.

Old Business

None

Program Management

New Business

New Events

Holiday Celebration & Pavilion Lighting: Brainstorm

Mary would like to do a pavilion lighting and holiday ceremony, but she feels that the darkness is an issue; stand up lights would be needed; etc. Bernadette suggested that planning for such an event would need to begin in June. The Board agreed it was too much for this year.

Mary talked about the pavilion lighting for the holiday and said she would like to have lights that could be turned on during the event season as well. The Board response was enthusiastic.

Bernadette mentioned how wonderful her event at Greentree was and that everyone noticed how nice the pavilion looked. Mary had recently had it power washed. She mentioned that it needed paint and that was on the agenda.

Bernadette will send Mary some photos of the event for public relations purposes.

Winter Walk and Talk: Discuss Frequency and Dates

Mary reported that she was looking at hosting a subsequent hike to the Sip and Stroll with CRC Watersheds Association. There was discussion about hosting the event at Okehocking and potential logistics of hosting at Serpentine Preserve. One challenge at Serpentine is parking. As the Township's Line Road parking area adjacent to the soccer fields is still not accessible, the idea of coordinating with Bryn Mawr Rehab for parking and Natural Lands for access to their property was discussed.

Event Survey

Mary discussed doing a short survey for feedback on picking the 4th Greentree In Tune and On Tap Event being added this year. Ken suggested that when people have a chance to vote, they have a sense of ownership of the event and they will likely attend. Bernadette mentioned the importance of implementing the results so that people who have weighed in see their results; for example, assuring that you choose a category that was represented in the survey. Bill wants to see a polka band and Ken knows a band that does a great version of Total Eclipse of the Sun. The Board concurred with retaining The Sun Brothers, The Fraction, and Beg, Borrow, and Steel.

Old Business

Willistown Summer Fun Camp Update

Mary has heard back from the new franchisee of Jump Start Sports and feels very positive about moving forward. She has a meeting set up with them for next week.

Park Management

Old Business

Easement 40 Lloyd: Draft Update

Mary has clearance from the Manager to review the draft with the Township solicitor. Bernadette mentioned that it is a great accomplishment for the park and that it would be best to get it done before our event season begins. Mary stated that she had confidence that it would all be ironed out by then.

New Business

Brush Hogging Serpentine Preserve

Bernadette reported that Ryan was out there and said it was super. Mary reported that she had the contractor do some Bradford Callery Pear management, because the ornamental tree has gotten loose and become an invasive.

Wall Fence Okehocking

The former Public Works Director, Bill Hagan, is coming back as an interim Director and he will be addressing the issues with the fence installation.

Unfortunately, the orange construction fence will be in place for a while.

Mill Park Water Issue

Public Works is having Horn Plumbing do an assessment to find the source of

the high water bills and the potential for a leak adding to the existing water issues there.

Old Business

None

New Business

Ken reminded the group that we need to appoint/reappoint officers in January. Mary stated that is known as the reorganizational meeting and she will be in touch with the Chair about the slate of candidates and communicating with the Vice Chair, etc.

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

Denise motioned; Bill seconded. No public comment. All in favor.

Meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month at 7PM at the Coxe Memorial Campus, 688 Sugartown Road, Malvern. Please enter through the back door. All meetings are open to the public and registration for Zoom format is available online.