



WILLISTOWN TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION

MINUTES 11-21-17 7 PM

PRESENT: KEN LEHR, ANDREW VASKAS, DENISE VANVALKENBURGH, NICK BOCCELLA, BRYAN GRIMM, BRAD

DEHART ABSENT: CHRISTIAN ARENA

STAFF: MARY HUNDT, DIRECTOR OF PARKS & RECREATION

Administration

Approval of Minutes

Approval of August 15, 2017: Mr. Boccella motion; Mrs. VanValkenburgh second; all in favor.

Approval of October 11, 2017 Minutes: Mrs. VanValkenburgh motion; Mr. Grimm second; all in favor.

Welcome New Board Member

Christian Arena, who was appointed by the Board of Supervisors at their November meeting.

Mr. Arena's wife is under the weather, and he is taking care of the kids tonight.

Crier Articles: Highlight a Board Member

Ms. Hundt discussed a new article theme for the Towne Crier Newsletter that will highlight a volunteer board member. The Board agreed that Mr. Vaskas will be the first from the Parks & Recreation Board.

Board Member Participation

Ms. Hundt asked the board to think about their specific parks and recreation interests and inspirations, and she requested that members let her know their thoughts. She also stated that she will have meetings with each board member to further discuss their and her ideas.

2018 Proposed Budget

Ms Hundt reviewed and discussed the proposed 2018 Parks & Recreation budget with the Board.

Volunteer Reception RSVPs

Ms. Hundt checked in with the Board members as to their availability for the first annual Willistown Township Volunteer Thank You Reception.

Board Parks & Recreation Shirts

Ms. Hundt requested sizes of members for Township shirts to wear at Township events to help the public to identify the members as Parks & Recreation Board representatives.

Old Business

Parks

Greentree Park Addition Follow Up

Ms. Hundt reported on the status of the project. After discussion, the Board decided to follow up on their initial recommendation for acquisition of the .6 acre field adjacent to Greentree Park with a memo from Mr. Lehr to the Board of Supervisors reiterating the importance of the project. Mr. Lehr will coordinate with Ms. Hundt as needed.

Greentree Park Grubb Road Entrance Update

Mr. Vaskas frequently attends Board of Supervisor meetings, and he reported that when the topic of a 3-way stop at the Grubb Road and Third Avenue intersection was discussed, there were objections from two neighbors. Ms. Hundt reported that the Police Department was further reviewing the traffic engineer's recommendation and speed studies that it conducted on the Grubb Road.

Greentree Park PECO Green Grant Update

Ms. Hundt reported that the contract with AKRF Environmental Planners and AutoCad file release documentation for the Township Engineer, Yerkes, had been reviewed by the Township

Solicitor, and Ms. Hundt made and cleared the changes with AKRF. The documents are awaiting execution at the December Supervisors meeting.

Okehocking Dogs

Ms. Hundt discussed complaints about dogs at Okehocking and the idea to educate visitors about dog etiquette. Mr. Grimm is willing to coordinate with Ms. Hundt about a dog etiquette brochure to distribute on windshields and other measures to encourage respectful use of the Preserve for all visitors.

A discussion ensued about dogs off leash. Can people be deputized to enforce the on-leash rules? When the Police Department put the traffic control trailers out at the entrances stating "Dogs must be leashed", that had a significant result. Mr. Grimm observed that the few warnings and the citation that were administered by the Police department "worked" for a while. Ms. Hundt discussed putting an educational brochure on visitor windshields, and possibly creating a dog friends of Okehocking group where people would receive a dog tag with the Township fox, sign a pledge, and pay \$5 annually. Mr. Grimm made the point to include the reasons why rules and behaviors are requested in the brochure and he agreed to work with Ms. Hundt on a canine etiquette and outreach plan for Okehocking.

Programs

Summer Camps at Sugartown Update

Ms. Hundt reported that General Wayne School was not an option as a summer camp site, because the school is only open for 4 days in the summer. She contacted Sugartown School with the knowledge that Sugartown subcontracts a 5 day program through Warwick. She has inquired with the recommended liaison at Sugartown School, but was having a great deal of difficulty hearing back. She will continue to pursue the possibility of Sugartown School as the site for an all-day and half-day Willistown Township Summer Camp.

Parks on Tap Update: Ms. Hundt reported that Mr. Vaskas found a couple of local examples of this type of program, and Mr. Vaskas agreed to work with her to further research this proposed programming.

Scout Projects

Eagle: Ms. Hundt reported on 3 Eagle Scout candidates who attended the Okehocking Trail Corps fall workshop and are conducting their Eagle projects on a portion of the trail identified in the Okehocking Trail Assessment adjacent to the spray fields.

Girl Scouts: Ms. Hundt reported that she was coordinating with the Sugartown Elementary School Girl Scout Troop on a tree identification project at Okehocking Preserve, where trees will be identified and then tagged with brief descriptions by the scouts.

Trails

Willistown Conservation Trust Trails Team Update

Serpentine Preserve: Ms. Hundt reported on a potential relocation of an existing stream crossing of the Serpentine Run tributary to Ridley Creek from Natural Lands' property to Willistown Township property in the northeastern corner of the Preserve adjacent to the Greater Chester Valley Soccer Association (GCVSA) fields. GCVSA currently leases the area in question from Willistown Township. There is a trail easement identified by the Willistown Conservation Trust easement in this area. Ms. Hundt will be meeting with the Chair of the Willistown Conservation Trust Trail Team and a local equestrian to scout the area. The representative from Natural Lands was not accommodating and was resistant to relocation of the trail on Natural Lands property. Ms. Hundt discussed the situation further with the prior Natural Lands property manager, pointing out that the lay of the land may be restrictive, but that it should be assessed to see if it offers the best alternative. This is a challenging area for equestrian stream crossings.

Willistown Trail Loop: Ms. Hundt updated the Board on the proposed Trail Loop and communications with key landowners.

Communications

Kiosk Updates

Each Board member pledged to update Township park, preserve, and trail kiosks as assigned.

Social Media Participation

Ms. Hundt encouraged the Board members to share information about Willistown Parks and Recreation on their social media networks and to let their friends and neighbors know to go to the Willistown Township website and Notify Me to sign up for email and text alerts from different Township Departments.

New Business

None

Public Comment

Allie Barchi, Willistown resident and equestrian, introduced herself and gave her perspective of being a horse rider in our community.

Adjournment

Mr. DeHart motion; Mrs. VanValkenburgh second; all in favor.

Next meeting: The Board discussed the annual Christmas/Holiday dinner party logistics and all approved the cancellation of the December public meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Hundt, Recording Secretary