



WILLISTOWN TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION

MINUTES 5-22-18 7PM DRAFT

MEMBERS: ANDREW VASKAS, CHAIRMAN; BRYAN GRIMM, VICE CHAIR ; KEN LEHR, DENISE VANVALKENBURG, NICK BOCCELLA
ABSENT: BRAD DEHART, CHRISTIAN ARENA

Administration

Approval of April Minutes: Table

Ongoing Business

P&R Board Park Ambassador Programs & Projects

Mary thanked the Board members for adopting a park and for their help in updating the kiosks in each park.

Andrew updated the Board on his Parks on Tap research: Limerick Township changed their Code to permit beer in the parks for township events only. Mary will follow up to request copies of the applicable Code and to inquire about insurance coverage ramifications, if any.

Bryan is working with Mary on the Okehocking Dog Management Program which will be discussed this evening under Park Management.

Parks

Nike Site: Mary reported that Brad and she and Dave Burman, Township Manager, met to discuss the Nike Site adjacent to Okehocking Preserve. The last Township hosted public meeting about the site was winter of last year. The property is in a bit of limbo, as the US Government is not sure which branch of government owns it. The Army Corps is conducting studies of the groundwater, Hamid Refaie is the contact. The Township asked for further testing. In 2022 another testing study will be completed. Mary and Dave concluded that putting funding in the 2019 budget request for a use study and public meeting for the site to occur in 2020 with the idea that the Township could potentially lease the property or have a use license on the property.

Programs & Events

GO WilMa!

Mary reported that she would be creating the 2018 Field Guide and managing the Station Host clue collection and review. She thanked Bryan, Brad, Denise, and Ken for doing clues for the Township's Stations. Ken asked if there were any reproduction rights or any rights for publicity purposes regarding the Field Guide. There is no copyright on the Field Guide. Mary will add that to the Field Guide going forward.

Pizza & Puppets Park Party

Mary reported record attendance at the Park Party of 369 registered guests. Andrew stated that the events and programs hosted by Willistown Parks & Rec set an example that Willistown is the place to be.

Park Management

Okehocking Dog Management Program (ODMP)

Review of first Oakie Dog Owner Training Event:

Mary thanked Nick and Bryan for attending and the group reported on the event.

Request for recommendation for two interns:

Mary went through her proposal to hire two interns to assist with the Okehocking Dog Management Program. The interns would act as greeters and Preserve ambassadors, talking to visitors, informing them about the Preserve, noting any concerns or questions they had, handing them business cards with Friends of Okehocking contact information and encouraging them to sign up for

communications and opportunities to provide input through email and survey(s). Mary's proposal weekdays early morning and early evening and weekend shifts. Pay and recruitment were discussed. Ken stated that camp counselor pay ranged from \$10-\$12 per hour. He offered to share the job opportunity and description with his counselors as the timing would not interfere with his camps and Mary said she intended to share the job description with other Parks & Recreation colleagues and the Cheyney University of Pennsylvania Parks & Recreation Program. Bryan moved to recommend the Supervisors approve the hiring of interns to assist with the Okehocking Dog Management Program as outlined by Mary and discussed. Ken seconded. All in favor.

Furry Friends of Okehocking:

Mary discussed her concept of the Furry Friends of Okehocking with the Board. Mary and Bryan will continue collaborating on the ODMP.

New Business

Artist Request Okehocking Print: Tabled

Andrew had previously sent the Board a flier created by Township Resident Peter Batchelor that was sent to some Township residents and claimed that the Director of Parks & Recreation Position could be executed by volunteers, and had information including that the current Director was given the job, had no experience, and that no other applicants were interviewed. Andrew had asked Mary to put together the facts of her hiring and some of the accomplishments and tasks of her work here to share with the Board and address the claims. Mary distributed her work product and a copy of the flier to the Board. A lengthy discussion ensued. The Board members confirmed that looking at the list of accomplishments and tasks they, or any volunteers, would not be able to do the work on their own. They concluded that the position was vital to the quality of life in Willistown. The Board, acknowledging its advisory role, discussed sending a letter on behalf of the Board to this effect as well as members sending individual letters. Many members stated they would send individual letters. Andrew moved to write a letter to the Supervisors on behalf of the Board, circulating a draft first, and to request a slot on the next Supervisor agenda to read it into the record. Denise seconded. All in favor.

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

Ken moved, Denise seconded, all in favor.

Next meeting: 3rd Tuesday of the Month at 7PM

All meetings are open to the public.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary N. Hundt, Recording Secretary