



WILLISTOWN TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION

MINUTES 9-17-19

ATTENDANCE: MEMBERS: NICK BOCCELLA, VICE CHAIRMAN; DENISE VANVALKENBURG; KEN LEHR; BRAD DEHART; BERNADETTE DOWNEY

ABSENT: ANDREW VASKAS, CHAIRMAN; BILL UNRATH

Administration

Approval of Meeting Minutes 6-18-19

Denise moved, Ken seconded, all in favor. (July meeting cancelled. August meeting cancelled due to conflict with Willistown Country Fair.)

Board Vacancy Appointment

Andrew warmly welcomed Bernadette Downey as a new board member. The Board is now full.

2020 Budget Discussion

Mary reviewed the highlights of the proposed 2020 Parks and Recreation Department budget.

New Business:

Parkland Acquisition

Mary read the findings of Andrew and Bill in their absence regarding the property in question. The Board further discussed their site visits regarding a potential acquisition project, itemized concerns and rendered a decision regarding whether to recommend the acquisition to the Open Space Review Board and Board of Supervisors. Mary will write a memo to the OSRB and Supervisors and copy Sally Slook, Township Manager.

Events

Parks In Tune & On Tap: September 29, 4:30-7:30PM Eagles are not playing.

Jokes, Toasts, and Tapas @ Greentree Park

Mary discussed her idea of Jokes, Toasts, and Tapas in the park, hosting a wine and food tasting Park Party. She cautioned that having comedians can get a bit risky because a lot of stand up humor relies on inappropriate topics and language. The Board agreed but liked the idea of Toasts & Tapas in the park. Mary will give the potential program more thought.

Grand Opening Ice Cream Social at Mill Park 2020 to Celebrate the New Playset

After some discussion, the Board agreed that Chester Valley Little League's Opening Day would be too cold and that this event should be held in June. Considering the 3rd week of June so there is no conflict with the School's Out—Let's GO WilMa! Park Party the second week in June.

Spotted Lanternfly Program

Mary reported that she was coming up with a couple of fun and educational Spotted Lanternfly squashing programs including giving an award for highest number of bugs killed and eggs scraped and who shares the most creative management technique. Mary will promote through all outreach avenues.

The Board discussed the Okehocking Koffee Klatches and agreed that they were worth considering again for this fall.

Park Ambassador Program

Mary Reviewed Park Assignments

Okehocking New Trail Signage

Mary will get a map and the new signs to Bill and Nick for installation.

Spotted Lanternfly Program

Mary will be working on Spotted Lanternfly Scraping Station signage, bag dispensers, and sanitizers for each Park Ambassador to mount in their designated park, preserve, or trail this fall/winter.

Kiosk Updates

Mary supplied fliers for the Ambassadors to post in their parks.

Old Business:

Administration

Township Code Chapter 96: Parks Proposed Changes Update

Mary reported that she attended a Planning Commission Meeting to respond to any questions from the Commission regarding the proposed changes. The Commission made a couple of minor recommendations. Mary proposed an addition of vaping and similar activities to the Code regulation regarding "No smoking." She explained her concern with the new vaping epidemic among teens and the need to have the Code up to date so it can be enforceable on Township recreational land. Ken moved to approve the language and Denise seconded, all were in favor. Mary will request review of the language by the Planning Commission at their meeting tomorrow night and will adjust her Memo to the Supervisors accordingly. The Township Manager will review the memo with the Supervisors at their next scheduled meeting on Monday, September 23.

Park Management

Mill Park Replacement Playset

Mary showed the Board some images of the playset and reported that the installation is scheduled to be completed by the end of October.

Spotted Lanternfly Management

Mary reported that the Spotted Lanternfly is in all of the Township's recreational lands, and only appears to be on its favored host tree, the Tree of Heaven. Mary interviewed two management consultants and will be making the final choice in the next couple of days.

Okehocking Preserve

Maintenance & New Trails

Mary reported that she has a contractor brush hogging and cutting back existing and new trails at Okehocking. New trail signs and signage keeping horses clear of sensitive wetland areas will need to go in once the trail work is complete. Bill and Nick, as joint Ambassadors of Okehocking will then install the signs.

Willistown Conservation Trust Access Road

Mary needs to notify WCT again of the need for maintenance of their access drive to Golder's Barn.

Serpentine Preserve Stream Crossing

Mary reminded the Board that she is a member of the Willistown Conservation Trust Trails Team and that this stream crossing is one of that group's priority projects. She reported that, after having the property line surveyed, the very boggy equestrian stream crossing at Serpentine Preserve has been identified as being on Township land. She has spoken with DEP about the potential need for permitting to rectify the situation. DEP has advised that a watershed delineation needs to be done. Mary has scheduled a site visit with a firm recommended by Willistown Conservation Trust, A. D. Marble out of King of Prussia, for October 3. Local horse barns have pledged to raise the funds for the restoration.

Eagle Scout Projects

Mary reviewed the current Eagle Scout projects including picnic table restoration and the installation of a shade sail as well as trail loop naming and identification, both at Okehocking Preserve.

Greentree Park

PECO Green Grant

Mary is awaiting approval of the proposed amended Scope of Work from PECO Green through Natural Lands.

Parking

Mary has spoken with the owner of Greentree Office Plaza regarding documentation of the nice relationship it has shared with Willistown Township and the permission for daily and event park visitors to utilize their parking lot. Mary will send a memo.

Planning

Survey

The Board discussed the Parks & Recreation Survey and it's timing. All agreed to send the survey this winter/early spring, 2020. Mary summarized the purpose of the survey as "seeking input to improve our output!"

Nike Site Discussion

The Board discussed the Nike Site and the mention of it being a potential historical resource in the latest minutes from the Historical Commission. Denise will speak with Bart, her husband, who is on the Commission to get his input regarding arranging a meeting with Brad, Mary, Terry (the Commission Chairman) to discuss the site.

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

Ken motioned, Bernadette seconded. All were in favor.

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

All meetings are open to the public.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Hundt, Recording Secretary