

Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting

Parks and Recreation Committee Members: Commissioner and Committee Chair Nicholas O. Scull, Commissioner Kip McFatridge, Commissioner Cheryl Lockard, Patrick T. Stasio, Director of Parks & Recreation Department.

- I. **Call to Order:** Commissioner and Committee Chair Scull called the meeting to order following the conclusion of the Finance & Administrative Committee Meeting.
- II. **Roll Call:** Commissioner and Committee Chair Scull, Commissioners McFatridge and Lockard and Patrick T. Stasio, Director, Parks & Recreation Department. Also present: Matthew H. Candland, Township Manager, and Alex Baumler, Township Solicitor.
- III. **Presentations/Announcements** - nothing to report.
- III. **Approval of Minutes** – November 25, 2019: The meeting minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.
- IV. **Acceptance and approval of the following monthly reports** – November and December 2019:
 - A. Parks & Recreation Monthly Report - Mr. Stasio provided the following updates:
 - Master Trail Plan Steering Committee will meet on January 29, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. A draft plan will be prepared for review by mid-March/April, which will be made available for 30 days for comments from residents, Hatboro Borough, Commissioners and Committees. A final Plan is anticipated to be submitted for approval at the May 4, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners. The Plan is mostly funded by a Transportation and Community Development Initiative (TCDI) grant.
 - The Township Newsletter is expected to be distributed the week of March 23, 2020.
 - Discounted tickets to Regal Cinema, Penn Cinema, and local ski mountain resorts are available for purchase.
 - Fowl Shooting Contest, Calls from Santa and a holiday party were very successful and thanks was given to Kate Kollar, Program Coordinator, and Lisa Pearsall, Recreation Assistant, for organizing the events.
 - Maintenance crews raked and vacuumed leaves in Township parks and prepared equipment for winter storms.
 - Registration for Summer Programs starts the third weekend in March, and programs will begin the Monday after schools close for the summer.
 - B. Library Board of Trustees Report: Juan Suarez Romero, President, provided the following updates:
 - Board officers for 2020 are: Juan Suarez Romero, President, Lisa Quinn, Vice President, Melissa Osborne, Secretary, and David Hakes, Treasurer.
 - Relative to the 2020 Keystone Grant application, the Trustees requested that the Board of Commissioners continue discussions regarding the application for the Keystone Grant and required resolutions to ensure the undisturbed use of the public library for 50 years or the useful life of the project, whichever is shorter, while improvements are made to two emergency exit doors that meet the Americans with

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Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility.

- The New Year's Eve Fundraiser was a successful event and thanks was given to the Committee, Freedom Federal Credit Union for a \$2,000 donation, and various organizations for their sponsorship and support.
 - Applications are being accepted from candidates who live in Upper Moreland to fill an opening on the Board of Trustees. The application can be found on the Library's website.
 - The 2020 Board meeting schedule is set for the 2nd Wednesday of each month, with the exception of April when the meeting will be held on the 3rd Wednesday, April 15th, 2020.
- C. Friends of Boileau: Alan Sentman, President of Friends of Farmstead Park, provided the following updates:
- A heating system and windows are scheduled to be installed.
 - The Friends are seeking to retain counsel to review and provide an Agreement to the Township by year end.
 - A Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Grant was awarded for \$20,000 to fund the heating and dehumidification systems.
 - To fund roofing and masonry work, applications are being considered to submit to the Pennsylvania Historical Museum Commission and to the Montco 2040 Implementation Grant.
 - The Spring Festival will be held on Saturday, May 2, 2020. This year's fundraising goals are anticipated at \$225,000.
 - Boy Scouts will be volunteering in April to study and remove the roofing of the privy and also repair doors.
 - The Friends will submit an application to the National Register of Historic Places, which would be the first designation for the Township.
 - Commissioner Spearing suggested creating future plans for proposed uses of Farmstead Park.

V. **Old Business:** Mr. Stasio provided the following updates:

A. Downtown Fountain:

- Preparation of specifications for a new water feature would cost approximately \$6,500.
- Commissioner Scull suggested and the Committee agreed to table the discussion to a future Parks and Recreation Committee meeting.

B. Masons Mill Parking Lot and Water Conversion Status:

- The parking lot and water and sewer systems are working well. The contractor and Township Engineer will return in the spring to repair the raingarden. Trees will be planted to replacing ones that died from the fall. A maintenance bond exists on the project that will ensure the remaining issues are covered.

C. Master Trail Plan:

- The public is welcome to attend the Steering Committee Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, January 29, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

D. Friends of Boileau Park Agreement:

- Communications will continue with Mr. Sentman for updates on a formal agreement.

VI. **New Business:**

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- A. Fair Oaks Project – Mr. Stasio extensively discussed two design plan options for a storm water basin, relocation of the playground and an additional parking lot.
- A resident inquired about removal of the trees. Mr. Stasio explained that trees infected with the emerald ash bore were removed.
 - A resident of 2800 Lynne Avenue suggested the higher playground, adding handicapped parking spots and enforcing designated parking spots to prevent residents from experiencing blocked driveways and an altered view of the park.
 - Alan Sentman, a resident of 3209 Blair Mill Road, stated that he is not in favor of adding imperious texture to the existing park land.
 - Commissioner Spearing commented about unwanted activities from additional parking. Mr. Stasio suggested an option to reduce parking spaces, keep handicapped spots off Carton Road, and continually evaluate parking needs as athletic activities increase.
 - Mr. Sentman inquired on the use of impervious materials in the plan. Mr. Stasio stated that the materials are undecided at this time, but the parking lot and park design would slope water toward the basin.
 - A resident of 3317 Blair Mill Road suggested extending the existing parking lot and adding a few spaces at the upper lot. Mr. Stasio stated that Skobul Road lot is at maximum capacity.
 - A resident of 2001 Carton Road commented several concerns regarding the view and value of her property, problems with visitors, trash, illegal activities, absence of Wi-Fi service, and lights. She prefers no changes to the Park. Mr. Stasio responded that the parking lot can be designed to be less obtrusive, the trail would be ADA compliant, and the playground must meet standards for accessibility.
 - A resident of 2705 Lynne Avenue stated that he understands the need for a stormwater basin and removal of diseased trees. He prefers that the parking lot element of the design be deferred and that the playground be placed closer to the road. He requested that consideration be given to replanting large trees rather than small ornamental trees. The resident inquired if Audubon landscaping features will be installed to attract birds and wildlife to the basin. Mr. Stasio replied that landscaping will be included for native trees. The resident inquired about retention in the basin and if there is a plan for additional residential drainage. Mr. Stasio stated that water will be dispensed within 72 hours unless there is an excessive storm, and he added that the Township Engineer can address residential drainage at the February 10, 2020 Community Development Committee meeting.
 - Chris Mendel, 2935 Edgehill Road, commended the Township’s commitment to clean water and management in a densely populated neighborhood. He suggested that there be flexibility in the number of parking spaces and location of the playground. He commented on the proposed grading plan with effect to existing trees, suggested locating the playground in an impervious area that has diminished use, and add parking where stormwater can be diverted most efficiently into the basin.
 - Commissioner Valenza commented that the purpose of the plan is to fix the parking situation to meet the needs of the athletic groups that use the Park.
 - A resident of 3313 Blair Mill Road stated concerns of the view of a parking lot from his property and building of a basin, and inquired if there is a study relating to the value of his property. Commissioner McFatrige stated that there was no study relating to the value of residents’ properties. Mr. Stasio stated that the Township has designed all their Parks’ parking lots with berming and landscaping to conceal them from residential

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properties.

- Lynnette Saunders, Chair of the Environmental Advisory Council, commended the Township for proactively designing a stormwater basin, but prefers there be no impervious parking lot at the upper lot.
- The residents of 2001 Carton Road inquired on the next steps and whether a traffic study was conducted relating to use of the Township's athletic fields versus the use of the School District's athletic fields. Commissioner McFatridge stated that many townships charge for use of their fields as well as the School District.
- Mrs. Carver, a resident of Davisville Road, commented there should be a study conducted on the effects the Park's development has on property values and taxes.
- Mr. Stasio stated that the playground must be moved to add a basin and the plans have been communicated to the neighbors for approximately three years with meetings at the Park.
- A resident of 2600 Dorothy Street commented on parking for the playground, and requested adding a speedbump and trash cans.
- The resident of 3317 Blair Mill Road asked to clarify the number of additional parking spaces. Mr. Stasio stated that the maximum is 15 spaces along Skrobul Road and approximately 12 additional spaces can be added in the bottom lot.
- The Committee directed Mr. Stasio and Mr. Hersh, Township Manager, to collaborate on the neighbor's suggestions on the two scenarios to locate the playground, which will continue for discussion at the February 10, 2020 Community Development Committee meeting.

B. Cameras in the Park – Mr. Stasio provided the following updates:

- A camera system in Woodlawn Park is estimated at \$7,000, with a \$90 fee per month for storage of information.
- The Committee agree to table the discussion to a future Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting.

VII. **Other Items** – nothing to report.

VIII. **Visitor Comments** - nothing to report.

IX. **Commissioner Comments:**

X. **Adjournment** - There being no further business for this Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Kristire.