

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 via audio conference call following the conclusion of the Finance & Administrative Committee Meeting.
- II. **Roll Call:** Commissioner and Committee Chair Scull, Commissioners McFatridge and Lockard and Mr. Stasio. Also present: Matthew H. Candland, Township Manager, and Sean Kilkenny, Township Solicitor.
- III. **Presentations/Announcements** - nothing to report.
- III. **Approval of Minutes - February 24, 2020:**
 - Commissioner Scull stated that the **February 24, 2020** minutes were not attached and approval will continue to the June 22, 2020 Committee meeting. (The March 16, 2020 and April 20, 2020 meetings were canceled, and therefore there were no meeting minutes to consider.)
- IV. **Acceptance and approval of the following monthly reports:**
 - A. Parks & Recreation Monthly Report - Mr. Stasio reported the following updates:
 - Parks remain closed with the exception of solitary recreation activities such as walking, running and biking.
 - There has been some vandalism in the parks, which is being addressed.
 - Programs, trips and activities have been canceled through mid-June, which includes public rentals at Masons Mill Park.
 - The community is asked to be patient with summer Township maintenance as there are only five full-time staff available to handle the workload, due to a freeze on hiring seasonal personnel. Attendants at Masons Mill Park are unavailable to assist with trash pickup and cleaning of rest rooms.
 - Commissioner McFatridge inquired on the damage at Masons Mill Park. Mr. Stasio stated that tennis court fences were cut, caution tape was ripped down, and kids are using playgrounds. Police are patrolling park areas to discourage trespassing.
 - Kathleen and Francis Carver, residents of Davisville Road, inquired on activities closed to parks. Mr. Stasio stated that parks are closed to gatherings for events and social activities that include use of the athletic courts, fields and picnic pavilions.
 - B. Library Board of Trustees Report - Margie Peters, Director of Upper Moreland Free Public Library:
 - Full-time employees are busy working remotely providing school programing and easy access to online activities and resources. The number of participants viewing and using the site has been very impressive.
 - Ms. Peters delivered the 2020 Keystone Grant Application for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for the improvements to two emergency doors. The Keystone

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grant request is for \$70,457 with an equal match from the Township.

- With Governor Wolf's directive, the Library will reopen in very slow stages. The building will be cleaned and disinfected, social distancing encouraged, operated with limited staffing, and a minimal contact on "check-out" materials.
- Friends of the Library mailed the annual fund brochure to 5,000 residents and donors are thanked for their very generous contributions.
- Summer Reading is available online through the Beanstack program and the official kickoff date is June 1, 2020.
- Librarians are creating YouTube tutorials about using the Library.
- Commissioner Spearing inquired about reopening plans of libraries across the County. Ms. Peters stated that there are weekly Zoom meetings with the Pennsylvania Library Association, which is a venue to network and discuss recommendations on ideas that are working.
- Commissioner Spearing inquired on providing services to the Golden Age Club. Ms. Peters replied that they are thinking of ways to provide dedicated services, initially on a one-on-one basis, to come into the Library.
- Commissioner Scull commented about funding in the Capital Plan for improvements to the Library's parking lot as well.
- Commissioner Scull inquired about staff working from home. Ms. Peters replied that a limited number of employees access the building to work on accounting, collect the book drop, and maintain the Library's aquarium and facilities.

V. Old Business:

A. Master Trail Plan - Mr. Stasio provided the following updates:

- The draft Plan is available at uppermoreland.org for review, and comments are due by Friday, May 22, 2020. The Steering Committee will consider the comments, make modifications to the draft Plan, and provide a report to the Board of Commissioners and Hatboro Borough in early June for completion and approval by the deadline of June 30, 2020. No extensions will be granted and the process will move quickly.

VI. New Business:

A. DCNR Grant Application - Parking Lot and Stormwater Management:

- Mr. Stasio explained that the grant application will be withdrawn because the Township is unable to secure funding to meet Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' (DCNR) required 50% match. The application will be resubmitted in 2021, depending on additional grants awarded to the Township.

B. Friends of Boileau Park Agreement - nothing to report.

C. Reopening selected Township Park facilities:

- Mr. Stasio stated that play areas and amenities were evaluated and suggested the following activities be allowed based on guidelines from the Solicitor: single-use tennis games (one player versus one player) and doubles (if from the same family), social distancing with masks in the dog park and cleansing materials at the gates. The archery stations at Masons Mill Park are intended for one person, more than six-feet apart, with cleansing materials at the gate. Specific signage will be posted and visitors will be expected to abide by the rules.
- Commissioner Spearing suggested implementing an online registry to use the athletic

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courts. Mr. Stasio replied that he will monitor the courts to decide if there is a need for registration. He has been in communication with other municipalities and reopening these specific park activities is not in violation of the Governor's Order.

- The Committee directed Mr. Stasio to reopen the dog park, tennis courts and archery with specific signage and equipped with cleaning materials, while staying within the CDC's and Governor's guidelines.

VII. **Other Items** - Mr. Stasio discussed the following items:

- Based on Governor Wolf's next directive, a decision will be made concerning cancellations of pavilion reservations and the summer supervised playground programs and camps.
- Commissioner Whiting commented that wearing a mask is an important device in protecting the health, safety and welfare of everyone participating in the programs.
- Weekly communications continue with neighboring municipalities to keep informed about their plans to reopen summer camps and programs.

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

IX. **Commissioner Comments:**

- Commissioner Spearing inquired about opening of pools. Mr. Stasio stated that he has been in contact with representatives from the area's swim clubs and they are awaiting the Governor's announcement on June 4, 2020.

X. **Adjournment:** There being no further business for this Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Kristire.