

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 Nicolas O. Scull called the meeting to order.
- II. **Roll Call:** Commissioner and Committee Chair Scull, Commissioners McFatridge and Lockard and Kate Kollar, Program Coordinator, Parks and Recreation Department, in the absence of Pat Stasio. Also present were Matthew H. Candland, Township Manager, and Alex Baumler, Township Solicitor.
- III. **Presentations/Announcements** - Nothing to report.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes - January 25, 2021** - The meeting minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.
- V. **Acceptance and approval of the following monthly reports:**
 - A. **Parks and Recreation Monthly Report** - Ms. Kollar provided the following updates:
 - The Spring Newsletter is being prepared for printing.
 - Projects at Fair Oaks Basin and Park have been delayed due to the winter weather.
 - The 2021 Farmstead Environmental Improvements Grant application was reviewed during a Zoom meeting with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR).
 - Planning has begun for spring softball nights and summer programs.
 - Working with the School District to incorporate a learning component with the supervised playground program.
 - The maintenance crew cleared sidewalks, parking lots, assisted the Public Works crew with storm cleanup, and are working to remove trees and debris that fell during 2020.
 - Commissioner Scull commended the Parks and Recreation and the Public Works maintenance crews on recent storm cleanup.
 - Commissioner Lockard inquired about the number of damaged trees and the plans for replacement. Ms. Kollar stated that a report will be included at the next meeting.
 - B. **Library Board of Trustees Report** - Tamara Goodrow, Secretary, provided the following updates:
 - A shelving unit in the Childrens Room has been eliminated, which will make room for storytelling and play space areas.
 - A Montgomery County Library District Cares Grant Application for \$1,400 was awarded to the Library to purchase two Amazon Fire 10 tablets for circulation to patrons who do not have the necessary devices for video conferencing.
 - The emergency exit and patio project designs have been reviewed by the Community Development Committee and an extension has been approved to return the bid documents to the Keystone Grant by May 31, 2021.
 - Donations of used books require appointments and the amount accepted is limited due availability of the storage area where materials are quarantined for 72-hours.
 - Appointments for the AARP Tax Assistance program have been limited due to COVID restrictions, which has altered the availability of trained volunteers, number of patrons permitted in the building, and set one-hour time slots.

- The Library is open seven days a week with the following hours: Monday 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Tuesday/Thursday 1 to 9 p.m.; Wednesday/Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Saturday/Sunday 1 to 5 p.m.
- C. Annual Finance Report from Friends of Boileau:
 - Alan Sentman, Chair, reviewed items during discussion of the 5-Year Plan.

VI. Old Business:

A. Power Line Trail Project - Grant Opportunities:

- Anton Kuhner, McMahon Associates, Inc., provided an overview of the project separated into three segments and discussed items concerning agreements and designs in preparation for the grant applications.
- Ms. Kollar commented that Montgomery County provided notification that trail improvements will begin throughout the Township on the Cross-County Trail.
- Mr. Kuhner will provide further costs of the trail's full design, survey, layout and post construction.
- The Committee directed Mr. Stasio to contact PECO regarding its lease agreement.
- The Committee will continue a discussion at the March meeting.

B. Friends of Boileau Park Agreement:

- Commissioner Spearing inquired about the timetable for the name change to The Farmstead and Mr. Sentman explained that "dba" registration is being prepared for submission to the State, and the remaining name change process will continue throughout the year.
- The Committee recommends the Board of Commissioners receive a red-lined copy of the Agreement for comparison with the new agreement.
- The Committee will continue a discussion at a future meeting.

C. 2021 Capital Projects – Masons Mill Hardcourts (Table):

- Ms. Kollar stated that Mr. Stasio is preparing the final expenses.
- The Committee agreed to table this agenda item to a discussion at the March meeting.

VII. New Business:

A. Friends of Boileau – 5-Year Plan:

- Mr. Sentman discussed the name change, fund-raising campaign, projects and costs timeline, on-site revenue and capital improvements and "work from farm" flex workspace, in preparation for the United States Semiquincentennial celebration in 2026. Plans for the barn will be developed during another phase in 2026-2027.
- Commissioner Lockard inquired about flex workspace. Mr. Sentman stated that conducting commercial activities on public property is feasible and discussed an example of a working venue in Whitpain Township, located in Blue Bell, PA.
- Commissioner Scull replied that there are several DCED grants that refer to improving a township's business climate, providing jobs and equity.
- The Committee extensively discussed concerns about the structural analysis of the spring house, permissible use of the buildings, financing issues, suggested creating an aggressive marketing plan to energize the project, and a zoning initiative inviting private entities to become involved.
- Mr. Sentman commented that they will submit every available grant application, and ask the Township for partnerships, plans, ideas, and resource assistance. Additional funds will be raised through private donations.
- Commissioner Lockard requested feedback from the Parks and Recreation Advisory

Committee and the Township Solicitor regarding use as workspace.

- The Committee recommends that the Advisory Committee thoroughly review the 5-Year Plan and will continue discussions at the March meeting.

B. Request to use Memorial Park and Downtown for Celebration:

- Sharia Wallace, business owner, discussed a detailed proposal for a celebration of Juneteenth and requested use of Veterans Memorial Park for the event on June 19, 2021.
- Commissioner Scull commented concerns on crowd control and establishing a planning committee. Ms. Wallace explained that the event would be separated out over two blocks, and will be supported by several organizations, community leaders and volunteers.
- Ms. Kollar commented concerns about construction at the Park, which is anticipated this Spring.
- Commissioner McFatrige commented concerns about construction, sidewalks and ADA accessibility, a Certificate of Insurance, safety, and street closures.
- Ms. Wallace requested to collaborate on ideas with the Township to initiate awareness of Juneteenth, and realizes that an event on this scale may take a few years to materialize.
- Commissioner Whiting commented his support for a Juneteenth event with relevance to the African-American community.
- Ms. Wallace requested a Juneteenth sign be displayed at the Township building and Commissioner McFatrige directed her to obtain a permit from the Code Department.
- Commissioner Whiting suggested advertising on the Township's digital sign and having the church involved as the main sponsor. Commissioner McFatrige replied that Chief Block can assist Ms. Wallace.
- Commissioner Scull stated that the event would require commitment from the establishments, community leaders and volunteers that will participate.
- The Committee recommends Ms. Wallace plan a smaller event for this year.
- The Committee will continue a discussion at a future meeting.

C. 2040 Montco Grant Application for Farmstead Park:

- Mr. Sentman stated that he is awaiting the structural analysis report. The Grant application will be to fund three roof replacements.
- Mr. Candland commented that significant stabilization needs to be performed to the spring house building and the parking lot is in need of paving. The deadline to submit the grant application is March 1, 2021.
- The Committee agreed to the submission of the Grant application and recommends the Board of Commissioners take action to ratify the application at the March 1, 2021 meeting.

VIII. **Other Parks and Recreation Items** - Nothing to report.

IX. **Visitor Comments** - Nothing to report.

X. **Commissioner Comments** - Nothing to report.

XI. **Adjournment:** There being no further business for this Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Kristire.