

Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting

Parks and Recreation Committee Members: Commissioner and Committee Chair Nicholas O. Scull, Commissioner Cheryl Lockard, Commissioner Anthony S. Prousi, Patrick T. Stasio, Director of Parks and Recreation Department.

- I. **Call to Order:** Commissioner and Chair Nicholas O. Scull, called the meeting to order.
- II. **Roll Call:** Commissioners and Committee Chair Scull, Commissioners Lockard and Prousi. Also present: Pat Stasio, Director of Parks and Recreation, Sean Kilkenny, Township Solicitor, Matthew H. Candland, Township Manager.
- III. **Presentations/Announcements** - Nothing to report.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes – November 28, 2022:** The meeting minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.
- V. **Acceptance and approval of the following monthly reports:**
 - A. **Parks and Recreation Monthly Reports for November and December 2022** - Mr. Stasio reported the following:
 - Collaboration continues with:
 - Simone Collins Landscape Architects on the Woodlawn Master Plan as well as with the Steering Committee, and posting accurate updates on the Township’s website.
 - The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) on the submission of two grants for improvements at Farmstead Park and for the purchase of Woodlawn Park.
 - Kate Kollar, Assistant Director, coordinated very successful Fall events that included: a Fowl Shooting Contest, Calls From Santa, and a Holiday Mini-Photo Session at Farmstead Park.
 - Ms. Kollar is working with Farmstead Alliance on the structural improvements projects at Farmstead Park.
 - The maintenance crew has been working to address minor items of concern noted in the Delaware Valley Insurance Trust’s annual report.
 - A second leaf vacuuming was recently completed in Masons Mill Park and Blair Mill Park.
 - Maintenance staff goals for 2023 are being reviewed for the year and will be posted in the office as a reminder.
 - B. **Library Board of Trustees Report** – Melissa Osbourne, President, reviewed the following items:
 - Welcomed new members: Megan Friedmann and Dr. Tony Giannetti.
 - Friends of Upper Moreland Free Public Library are seeking a new treasurer on the Executive Board. Candidates are not required to be residents and can directly email: thefriendsofumfpl.com. Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. in the Community Room.
 - The Friends of the Upper Moreland Free Public Library hosted a successful family fundraiser on New Year’s Eve, which raised over \$5,000. Thanked the Board of Commissioners and sponsors including Freedom Credit Union, Hatboro Federal Savings Bank and The Rotary Club for their support.
 - Weekly in-person Toddler Story Hour has resumed.

- The Small Group Study Room is available again on a first come basis.
- A donation from The Friends made it possible to purchase and install shelves, which will hold collections of Upper Moreland local history, School District year books starting with 1960, and adult education literacy material for use by tutors from The Literacy Council of Norristown.
- Dragon Capers is a new Library program for ages 8 and up.
- Commissioner Scull commended the Library for its successful New Year's Eve event, and for offering a variety of programs.

VI. Old Business – Mr. Stasio reviewed the following items:

A. Woodlawn Park Master Plan Development:

- A complete final draft is being advertised for a public meeting at the February 6, 2023 Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting.

B. Staging Area Request for Warminster Bridge Repair:

- A Memo of Understanding was prepared by the Solicitor for the contractors, which entails the staging areas to hold equipment during the repair period.
- Commissioner Prousi requested an erosion and settlement control plan be provided for Gilmore & Associates to monitor the areas.
- Mr. Stasio will contact the contractors for an addendum to the Memo of Understanding, which will be provided at the February 6, 2023 Regular Meeting.
- Commissioner Prousi suggested adding visibility fencing or access control requirements.
- Mr. Stasio further stated that provisions should be provided for damage to curbs, sidewalks or turf, and that materials will be moved in the event of a potential storm flooding event.

VII. New Business – Mr. Stasio provided information on the following items:

A. Farmstead Park Environmental Improvements - Bid Award Recommendation:

- Bids were advertised and one bid was received and reviewed.
- Recommends accepting the base bid in the amount of \$628,802.
 - Alternate bid #1 (for cobblestone along the walkways) is cost prohibitive and therefore eliminated.
 - Work can be done in-house to save on costs regarding alternate bid #2 (adding a paved pathway on the northside of the barn) and alternate bid #3 (to pave, stripe and sign the parking lot).
 - Chris Mendel of Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust commented that alternate bid #2 is considered secondary to achieve greater access to the Park.
 - Mr. Stasio added that the trail located by the creek will be relocated, which will meet ADA accessibility and engage visitors to recreation.
- Hardwood trees will be planted in the meadow to absorb stormwater from the Park, as well as the adjacent neighbors' properties.
- Invasives will be removed along the creek area by Mr. Mendel and a team of volunteers.
- Trail along Kentner Road will be relocated away from neighbors' properties.
- Additional contractors reviewed the project but would have needed to submit higher bids due to difficulty accessing the area, handwork involved, and their busy schedules.
- Specifics of the grant obligations and a comparison of costs to the Township were discussed.
- The Committee recommends the Board of Commissioners approve the bid award recommendation at the February 6, 2023 Regular Meeting.
- Mr. Mendel, on behalf of the Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust and The Watershed, expressed thanks to everyone involved for their cooperation, which will benefit the habitat

in the Township and for its residents.

- Mr. Stasio thanked Mr. Mendel for a successful partnership.
- B. Bid Authorization for Structural Improvements to Historical Building at Farmstead Park:
 - There are \$200,000 in grants and \$80,000 in Township funds for the project. Extensions were obtained, which require work to be completed by June 30, 2024.
 - Bid specs are completed and ready to be advertised for a pre-bid meeting in February with an opening in March.
 - Specialized contractors, who perform historical restorations, are being contacted.
 - This stage of work includes repairs to roofing, soffits, chimney, barn and removal of the cottage and the security fencing.
 - The Committee recommends the Board of Commissioners approve advertisement of the bid for structural improvements at the February 6, 2023 Regular Meeting.

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

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

X. **Commissioner Comments:**

- Commissioner Spearing made suggestions on the following:
 - Gilmore & Associates review streambank issues in the area of the Warminster Bridge repair project.
 - Additional manpower in the Parks and Recreation Department to handle workload as the Township acquires FEMA money for parkland and investment in trail systems.
 - Using the 2040 Implementation Grant for the intersection project with Horsham to fund the pedestrian crossing portion. Partnerships should be advocated to accomplish work on the trails, for the basin, and in the Pennypack Park.
 - Forestry and reforestation recommended by the EAC in areas such as the Dog Park to serve as a sound barrier along the Turnpike, which itself has experienced a loss of ash trees. Mr. Stasio replied that during the Spring and Fall, trees will be added in the Dog Park and also considering trees behind Benders.
- Commissioner Prousi clarified that there is a 2040 Implementation Grant and there is a 2050 Comprehensive Plan.

XI. **Adjournment:** There being no further business for this Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Kristire.