

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:** Commissioner and Committee Chair Scull, Commissioner Prousi. Absent: Commissioner Lockard. Also present: Pat Stasio, Director of Parks and Recreation, Alex Bauml, Township Solicitor, Matthew H. Candland, Township Manager.
- III. **Presentations/Announcements** - Nothing to report.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes** – January 30, 2023: The meeting minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.
- V. **Acceptance and approval of the following monthly reports:**
 - A. **Parks and Recreation Monthly Reports for January 2023** - Mr. Stasio reported the following:
 - Administrative work continues with Simone Collins on the draft Master Plan for Woodlawn Park.
 - Purchased and have received some materials for capital improvement projects.
 - Preparation continues on two separate grant applications to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) for improvements at Farmstead Park and at Woodlawn Park.
 - Communicating with Montgomery County on the 2040 Implementation Grant for structural improvements at Farmstead Park.
 - A new Pickle Ball Tournament will be held at Masons Mill Park in mid-April.
 - Golden Age Committee continues to meet and go on all their trips.
 - Registrations for Winter programs were filled up almost immediately.
 - Polar Prance Dance in early February sold out and was a success with 150 participants. Partnered with Hatboro to use the Pennypack Elementary School.
 - Maintenance crews are replacing informational signs, repairing benches and picnic tables, and removing dead trees in the parks.
 - A contractor was selected to mill the parking lots in Peliggi Park. Paving will be performed in-house.
 - B. **Library Board of Trustees Report** – Jay Silverman, Trustee, reviewed the following items:
 - There was an increase in patrons over the year from 29,000 since January 2021 to 32,000 in January 2022.
 - Thanked the Board of Commissioners for assistance with renovations to the public restroom.
 - Shelving will be installed in the Quiet Room to store the history collection and the adult literacy workshop workbooks. Friends of The Library raised funds from the New Years Eve event for the project.
 - Representative Nancy Guenst's staff has established regular hours from 12 noon until 2 p.m. on the fourth Friday of every month in the Community Room.
 - A part-time librarian was hired and now the Library is fully staffed.

- Additional programs were noted and more information is available on the website. Craft supply kits are being offered while supplies last.

VI. Old Business:

A. Woodlawn Park Master Plan Development - Mr. Stasio reviewed the following items:

- The draft plan is open for 30 days until March 6, 2023 for public review. One comment was received regarding parking, and a response was provided.
- Recommends to approve the Master Plan and submit a grant application for Phase I.
- Budget priorities with regards to improvements for Division Road, installation of half the plantings, and an adult exercise area that were moved from Phase I to Phase III. Mr. Stasio will provide a breakdown of costs at the March 6, 2023 Regular Meeting.
- Commissioners Prousi and Spearing stated precedence for pedestrian access in Phase I. Mr. Stasio replied that an application will be submitted for a transportation grant to assist with traffic tables and signal control devices on Division Avenue.
- The Committee recommends the Board of Commissioners approve at the March 6, 2023 Regular Meeting the Master Plan.

VII. New Business – Mr. Stasio discussed the following items:

A. Draft Proclamation for Arbor Day:

- Initial Tree City USA applications were denied most likely from the lack providing a Proclamation and budgetary information about planting and care of trees and shrubs, and maintenance staff hours.
- The Committee recommends the Board of Commissioners approve at the March 6, 2023 Regular Meeting a Proclamation.

B. Grants Application for Woodlawn Park:

- Simone Collins Architects are skilled at preparing applications to the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and to the Department of Community and Development (DCED) Grant.
- The Committee recommends that the Board of Commissioners at the March 6, 2023 Regular Meeting approve hiring Simone Collins to prepare grant applications.

C. Professional Services for Adaptive Reuse of the barn at Farmstead Park:

- Propose that the current barn be modified for use as a gymnasium with lockers, offices, storage and restrooms.
- Two architect firms have provided agreements for feasibility studies, each at the cost of \$10,000, which need comparison in order to make a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners.
- Commissioner Prousi commented on the community's desire for rentable conference space, or an event facility with open space.
- Reiterated the purpose and population that will use a Community Center and a Civic Center from the feedback that was received during surveys and public meetings.
- The Committee recommends the Board of Commissioners at the March 6, 2023 Regular Meeting approve hiring architectural services for adaptive reuse of the barn.

VIII. Other Parks and Recreation Items – Mr. Stasio discussed the following items:

A. Spring 2023 Newsletter –

- Mailings are to be distributed during the fourth week of March. The online version will be posted to the Township's website the week of March 13th.

B. North Willow Grove Neighbors Meeting:

**Upper Moreland Township
Committees Meetings
February 27, 2023 - Meeting Minutes**

- As part of the Capital Improvement Program, a meeting was held to discuss styles, important aspects, safety and budget for a playground. Neighbors collaborated and provided examples of playgrounds they would like installed.
- Play equipment, safety surface and an ADA sidewalk are being researched within the budget. Enhancements to the playground should be completed by the end of June.

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

X. **Commissioner Comments:**

- Commissioner Spearing commented on the following:
 - Commended Mr. Stasio for his work on the parks;
 - Projects with SEPTA have many challenges and delays;
 - Other resources should be considered that will move forward with a Roller Rink;
 - The expense of milling and paving at Pileggi Park.
- Commissioner Prousi announced that the Upper Moreland Historical Association will present a lecture on Tuesday, February 28, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Room entitled, “The Circus in Philadelphia – The Birth of an American Institution”.

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

Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Kristire.