

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, Commissioners Prousi and Lockard. 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** – February 27, 2023:
 - The meeting minutes were amended on page 1, section V., B., first arrow to read: “There was an increase in patrons over the year from 29,000 since January 2021 to 32,000 in January 2022.”
 - The Committee unanimously approved as amended.
 - Commissioner Prousi commended Kathleen Kristire, Administrative Assistant to the Township Manager’s Office, for her work on minute taking.
- V. **Acceptance and approval of the following monthly reports:**
 - A. **Parks and Recreation Monthly Reports for February 2023** - Mr. Stasio reported the following:
 - A meeting was held with neighbors that included youngsters of North Willow Grove Park to poll requests for new playground equipment. An order has been placed and installation is anticipated by July 4th.
 - The Spring Newsletter was mailed out and residents can call if they have not received a copy.
 - Tree City USA approved the Township’s application, which is retroactive to 2022.
 - Polar Prance Dance at the Pennypack Elementary School was a successful event with 150 participants. Thanked Parks and Recreation Advisory Council, members of Key Club, parents and volunteers.
 - First Annual Pickle Ball Tournament will be held April 14-16, 2023 and more information can be found on uppermorelandrec.com.
 - Replacement and repair of damaged signs, tables and benches are being completed in the parks.
 - Maintenance employees are participating in a certified pesticide training program.
 - A report from the Shade Tree Committee is being prepared and will be provided at a future Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting.
 - B. **Library Board of Trustees Report** – Dr. Anthony Giannetti, Trustee, reviewed the following items:
 - Commended the Library for their extraordinary services, which enticed him to become a Trustee member.
 - Literary Council of Norristown has developed a program to help adults obtain their GEDs, which will be offered, and volunteers will be trained during the month of April.

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- The Seed Garden program will be offered, which collects seeds from grown vegetables and are returned to the Library as a renewable resource for the following year.
- Results from a completed survey show that patrons are very much pleased with the services offered by the Library.
- A Teen Chess Club involving several teams has been meeting regularly.
- A table will be setup at the Earth Day Event offering information about the Library.
- Friends of Upper Moreland Library are seeking to fill the Treasurer's position and interested candidates do not need to be a resident.
- Mr. Candland thanked the Library for hosting the tutoring sessions that are being funded by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

VI. Old Business – Nothing to report.

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

A. Farmstead Park Roofing Project – Bid Results:

- Two grants were acquired for a total of \$200,000, the Alliance will provide \$25,000, and the Township will provide some funds for demolition of the cottage along with restoration and engineering in certain areas. Seven firms reviewed bid packets, two bids were received and the lowest bid was \$368,875. Further contacting these firms to discuss costs and inquire on those that did not submit a bid.
- Recommends no award at this time, but will look at options to re-bid through PennBid, change the scope of the project, and apply for additional grants.
- Montco 2040 approved an extension on their grant for one year and a request was made to also extend the grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC).
- The Committee will continue a discussion at the April 22, 2023 Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting.
- The Committee recommends the Board of Commissioners reject the bids at the April 3, 2023 Regular Meeting.

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

A. Seasonal Employment:

- Current status of hiring is as follows:
 - Eight maintenance worker positions are available and four have been hired;
 - Eight to 12 park attendant positions are available and six have been hired, who only want two days a week;
 - 30 summer counselor positions are available and 13 have been hired;
 - Pay rates are higher at the Township than most other municipalities;
 - Hiring age for certain positions has been approved for 16–17-year-olds (previously 18 or older);
 - Park attendants and summer leader positions are the most relevant;
 - Program registration waitlists will be established until more positions are filled;
 - Many applications are received, but contact is difficult to make with applicants and, in some cases, they do not appear for interviews.
 - Due to the shortage in park attendant staff, will alternatively float overtime work from the pool of Parks and Recreation maintenance and Public Works highway crews in order to complete tasks.

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IX. Visitor Comments:

- A resident asked about location of the parks' camps and responsibilities of the maintenance jobs. Mr. Stasio briefly described the summer camp locations and maintenance work.
- Dr. Lynnette Saunders asked if a bagel food vendor would be allowed at the Earth Day Event. Mr. Stasio stated support for a vendor that follows Montgomery County guidelines and permits, which may also need approval by the Board of Commissioners.

X. Commissioner Comments:

- Commissioner Spearing shared that SEPTA has announced its reallocation of investments, and suggested that the Township contact them to reconsider developing the Roller Rink project.

XI. Adjournment: There being no further business for this Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Kristire.