

## Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting

**Parks and Recreation Committee Members:** Commissioner and Committee Chair Nicholas O. Scull, Commissioner Kip McFatrige, Commissioner Cheryl Lockard, Patrick T. Stasio, Director of Parks and 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 McFatrige and Lockard and Pat Stasio, Director of Parks and Recreation. Also present were Matthew H. Candland, Township Manager, and Sean Kilkenny, Township Solicitor.
- III. **Presentations/Announcements** - Nothing to report.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes - March 15, 2021** - The meeting minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.
- V. **Acceptance and approval of the following monthly reports:**
  - A. **Parks and Recreation Monthly Report** - Mr. Stasio provided the following updates:
    - Concerns were discussed with neighboring residents of Fair Oaks Park regarding the basin project. Construction of the basin is progressing on schedule.
    - Resignation was accepted from Lisa Pearsall, Recreation Assistant. An advertisement has been posted for her replacement and applications are being reviewed.
    - The Executive Committee of the Golden Age Club met for the first time in over a year and events and trips are being planned for the Fall.
    - Kate Kollar, Program Coordinator, is actively working to coordinate Summer programs.
    - The maintenance crew is preparing the parks for Spring and Summer use. Positions for a crew leader and a maintenance laborer have been filled. Seasonal maintenance workers started in early April.
    - Commissioner Scull inquired about damaged flags in Memorial Park. Mr. Stasio replied that the flags have all been replaced.
    - Commissioner McFatrige inquired about the return to normal maintenance at the parks. Mr. Stasio replied that work is in progress and will continue throughout the Summer to restore landscaping and safety at all the parks by the Fall.
    - Commissioner Spearing inquired about the Fair Oaks Park parking lot on Carton Road. Mr. Stasio explained that they are working on the lot, which include 11 spaces, a handicapped space, a sidewalk and access to the playground.
    - Commissioner Spearing inquired about resuming programs and activities. Mr. Stasio explained that notification of Summer programs was recently sent out and 150 registrations have been received. Available places to hold activities are currently limited.
  - B. **Library Board of Trustees Report** - Melissa Osbourne, Vice President, provided the following updates:
    - A community survey is being mailed, posted to the website, and available at the lobby kiosk asking residents about days and times the Library should be open to the public post-pandemic. The Friends of Upper Moreland Free Public Library's annual fund-raising brochure is included in the mailing.

- A children's seed planting activity is planned for the Environmental Advisory Council's Earth Day Event on April 24, 2021 at Masons Mill Park. A table will be setup to accept Library registrations from Township residents who are not yet card holders.
- Montgomery County Districts Library will sponsor "One Book One County" to be held via Zoom on April 29, 2021 at 7 p.m. with author David Baldacci discussing his latest book, "A Gambling Man".
- A Keystone Grant First Quarter Report has been submitted at the Office of Commonwealth Libraries and the next deadline is May 31, 2021 to provide the Grant's coordinator with bid specifications for improvements to the entrance.
- New Trustee, Jay Silverman, was approved at the April 14, 2021 Board of Trustees Meeting.
- The "Cardboard Robot Challenge" event is running April 13-30, 2021 with kits available for pick up in the Childrens Room.
- There are frequent issues with cars driving the wrong way in the parking lot; however, the parking lot will be reconfigured in the near future.
- Commissioner Scull inquired about equipping the Community Room with AV, which would enable mixed media meetings in the Community Room to accommodate Covid restrictions. Margie Peters, Director, explained that the Board is considering a system called Huddly, which is being tested.

**VI. Old Business:**

**A. Library Improvements:**

- Ms. Peters commented that the plan is consistent with the Keystone Grant requirements and the application submission deadline is May 31, 2021.
- The Committee made suggestions for the railing and retaining wall area. Mr. Candland will contact Gilmore & Associates with the modifications.
- The Committee recommends the Board of Commissioners take action at the May 3, 2021 Regular Meeting.

**B. Trail Grant Discussion led by Anton Kuhner, Township Traffic Engineer:**

- Mr. Kuhner introduced Jamie Kouch, Regional Service Leader - Design, and reiterated action items that were implemented. Mr. Kouch discussed the design proposal.
- Mr. Stasio commented that he is awaiting a response from PECO expanding the agreement to include Maryland Road to Route 611.
- Commission McFatrige inquired about notifying property owners and if the Plan continues from Route 611. Mr. Stasio replied that three properties remain to be contacted before going forward with the agreement. The Master Trail Plan has identified some areas from Route 611 going forward and Montgomery County is holding a meeting on April 22, 2021.
- Commissioner Spearing inquired about corrugated metal piping between Maryland Road and Blair Mill Road, a signal crossing with a flashing device, and a buffer. Mr. Kuhner replied these items will be considered in the design once results from the topographic survey are reviewed. A buffer behind the apartments is proposed.
- Commissioner Valenza inquired about the County's Master Trail Plan regarding Route 63. Mr. Stasio explained there is a broad proposal for a trail from Dresher Road towards Sam's Club, to Maryland Road and then determine the direction from the Turnpike. Mr. Kuhner stated that alternative transportation funding becomes available every two to three years, which is applicable to this project.

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- The Committee agreed to authorize McMahon Associates create a trail design from Blair Mill Road to Maryland Road to be discussed at the May 24, 2021 Committees Meeting.
- C. Friends of Boileau Park Agreement/5-Year Plan (Tabled Item):
  - Commissioner Scull amended the agenda item title to read, "Farmstead Alliance Agreement..."
- D. Farmstead Park Springhouse Discussion:
  - Commissioner Scull explained that Gilmore & Associates provided a study on the Springhouse.
  - Mr. Stasio shared the recommendation by Paul Purtell, Director of Code Enforcement, to fence the area immediately until a decision is made on the building.
  - Commissioner Spearing inquired on alternatives to secure the building without a fence. Mr. Stasio explained that there are significant concerns about the foundation.
  - Commissioners Whiting and Valenza commented that the safety issues are the responsibility of the Township.
  - Alan Sentman, Farmstead Alliance President, stated that he supports temporary fencing and that a scope of work for bids and a budget is being developed, which will be presented at a future Committee meeting.
  - The Committee directed Mr. Candland to obtain a proposal for an appropriate fence.

**VII. New Business:**

- A. DCNR Grant Submission - Mr. Stasio provided the following updates:
  - The Township collaborated with Pennypack Ecological Trust, Farmstead Alliance, Environmental Advisory Council, along with other organizations and submitted a grant application in the amount of \$340,000. Award recipients will be announced in the Fall.
  - Pennypack Trust submitted a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant (NFWF) in the amount of \$340,000. Award recipients will be announced in August.
  - Grant matches will be provided through in-kind services and other cash commitments.
  - Environmental improvements planned at Farmstead Park include the parking lot, rain gardens, swale, natural plantings, and stormwater management.
  - Mr. Sentman expressed his appreciation for the grant submissions and is looking forward to the enhancements.
  - Thanked Chris Mendel at Pennypack Ecological Trust for his assistance with the grant applications.
- B. Montco Cross Country Trail - Mr. Stasio provided the following update:
  - Montgomery County will hold its first public meeting on April 22, 2021 at 7 p.m. via Zoom. Instructions to participate will be posted to the Township and Parks and Recreation websites.

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

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

**X. Commissioner Comments:**

- Commissioner Lockard reminded that the Earth Day Fair will be held April 24, 2021, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Masons Mill Park.

**XI. Adjournment:** There being no further business for this Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Kristire.