

## **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, Commissioner Lockard and Pat Stasio, Director of Parks and Recreation. Absent: Commissioner McFatrige. Also present were Matthew H. Candland, Township Manager, and Alex Baumler, Township Solicitor.
- III. **Presentations/Announcements:**
  - Mr. Candland announced that the Township was awarded the Montco 2040 Implementation Grant in the amount of \$100,000, which will be used for improvements to the historic buildings at Farmstead Park.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes - April 19, 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:
    - An application was submitted to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Grant for the parking lot, stormwater management and environmental improvements at Farmstead Park.
    - Art students are being hired to repaint the buildings of Safety Town from June 21 to July 2, 2021.
    - The Golden Age Club is planning a Fall picnic at Masons Mill Park as well as a few trips. The Executive Board will make a decision on in-person meetings. Currently, communication to the group continues through email updates and phone calls.
    - Partnering with the School District to offer students Summer classes to catch up from the recent school year, which will run Monday through Thursday for four weeks.
    - The pavilion at Masons Mill Park has been replaced and will open the first weekend in June. New safety surface has been installed under the playground equipment.
    - There are five full-time maintenance crew and the Department is looking to hire a few additional seasonal workers.
    - Commissioner Spearing inquired on requests for athletic fields as activities resume. Mr. Stasio replied that there are not enough fields available and 75-80% of requests are filled. Pavilion requests are full for the month of June.
  - B. **Library Board of Trustees Report** - Moureen Wenik, Vice President, provided the following updates:
    - A registration table was set up at the Environmental Advisory Council's (EAC) Earth Day Event on April 24, 2021, which received 137 visitors. Thanks was given to the EAC for organizing the event.
    - Wearing masks continues to be a requirement in the building for staff and the public.

- Quarantining of materials will be eliminated as of June 1, 2021.
- Virtual and outdoor programs continue with dates and times listed on the website and posted inside the building.
- A community survey was mailed, posted to the website, and is available at the lobby kiosk asking for preferred open hours, post-pandemic. The survey ends June 30, 2021. A fund-raising brochure for the Friends of Upper Moreland Free Public Library was included in the mailing.
- A Juneteenth Event, 1-6 p.m., is being organized by Sharia Wallace, and the Library will have an area set up offering a children's activity, educational materials, and registration for user cards.
- Commissioner Scull inquired about AV equipment for virtual meetings in the Community Room. Margie Peters, Director, explained that there is a delay, which was caused by the projector in need of repair.
- Ms. Peters commented that hours and restrictions will be determined at the July Trustees meeting.

**VI. Old Business:**

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

- Mr. Stasio summarized that McMahon Associates is preparing a grant application for a trail from Blair Mill Road, across Computer Avenue to Maryland Road, behind Jamestown Village and out to Route 611, which will connect with the Cross-County Trail. The Township is awaiting a response from PECO to extend its agreement and to include Maryland Road to Route 611. The Master Trail Plan has identified this section as a high-priority that would lead beyond Route 202.
- Mr. Kuhner explained that Phase I is from Blair Mill Road, across Computer Avenue to Maryland Road, costs approximately \$1 million and would be suitable for the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) Grant.
- Mr. Stasio asked the Committee if they want to move forward with the cost proposal for engineering that is associated with applying to all of the grants.
- Commissioner Spearing strongly recommends going forward with planning and inquired about a bridge structure on the trail between Blair Mill Road and Commerce Avenue. Mr. Kuhner replied that the type of bridge will be determined once the survey assessment is completed.
- Commissioner Lockard inquired about the TASA Grant and Mr. Kuhner explained that it was formerly called the Transportation Incentive Program (TIP) Grant, the submission will open in the Fall, and funding will be awarded from the County and the State.
- The Committee recommends the Board of Commissioners take action at the June 7, 2021 Regular Meeting.

**B. Friends of Boileau Park Agreement/5-Year Plan (Tabled Item) - Nothing to report.**

**C. Farmstead Park Springhouse Discussion:**

- Mr. Stasio stated that a structural report was received from Gilmore & Associates and the best estimate received for fencing the Springhouse is \$3,600.
- Commissioner Lockard commented that a long-term plan is needed in addition to fencing the area. Alan Sentman, Chair, Farmstead Alliance, replied that grants are being received for roofing; however, it is taking some time to obtain cost estimates to repair structural deficiencies.

- Commissioner Spearing inquired on sustainable use of the Springhouse. Mr. Sentman replied that it is 951 square feet of alternative usable space, which can be leased for classrooms or workspace.
- The Committee commended Farmstead Alliance for their work on obtaining grants.
- The Committee directed Farmstead Alliance to identify acceptable business uses for the buildings as part of their planning process.
- Mr. Stasio recognized Kate Kollar, Program Coordinator, who worked with Mr. Sentman to submit the Montco 2040 Implementation Grant.
- Commissioner Prousi congratulated the Farmstead Alliance on their Montco 2040 Grant award. He recommended reviewing the intention for designation of historical preservation, the necessity to preserve the building, and providing an option to create something that reflects an image of what it was at one point.
- The Committee recommends the Board of Commissioners take action at the June 7, 2021 Regular Meeting to purchase and install fencing.

**D. Fair Oaks Park Basin Construction Update** - Mr. Stasio discussed the following:

- Carton Street parking lot is 90% installed, walking trail and landscaping completed, and playground safety surface will be installed shortly. Soils and plantings will be installed in the basin once the area is dry.
- Mr. Sentman, a resident, commended the work and inquired on the Park's reopening. Mr. Stasio replied that the Park will reopen mid-June.
- Commissioner Prousi inquired about plugging of the spring that could be rerouted because it was creating higher groundwater. Mr. Stasio explained that water was seeping through the banks of the basin, but installation of extra drains to catch the excess is working well. The addition of soil and plant materials will help to manage stagnant water, and the drainage flow will be evaluated throughout the Fall.

**E. Montco Cross County Trail** - Mr. Stasio provided the following updates:

- One public meeting was held discussing feedback received by the County. More information can be found at: <https://www.montcopa.org/1579/Montco-2040-Comprehensive-Plan>.
- The Master Trail Plan design is expected to be completed late Fall or early Winter of 2022. The goal is to connect to the Pennypack Trail on the eastern side and Upper Dublin on the western side.
- Commissioner Spearing suggested that there is an opportunity to partner with the Upper Moreland School District to build a trail from the High School to the YMCA.

**F. Masons Mill Park Hardcourt Bid** - Mr. Stasio provide the following update:

- Bids posted to PennBid and will be opened on May 26, 2021 and a recommendation will be made to the Board of Commissioners for action at a future Regular Meeting.

**VII. New Business:**

**A. Recreation Assistant Position** - Mr. Stasio provide the following update:

- A candidate has been selected, who is a seasoned professional, and he is awaiting their acceptance of the position.

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

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

X. **Commissioner Comments:**

- Commissioner Scull shared a request from an Upper Moreland Equity Alliance member to hold a one-year anniversary event at Farmstead Park on June 26, 2021. Mr. Stasio replied that since the event is a meet-and-greet with less than 100 people, the Alliance can make their request directly to his office in the Parks and Recreation Department.
- Commissioner Spearing commended Commissioners Scull and Whiting for appearing in person at tonight's meeting and for practicing safety during the pandemic.

XI. **Adjournment:** There being no further business for this Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Kristire.