

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 Lockard, at the request of Committee Chair Nicolas O. Scull, called the meeting to order.
- II. **Roll Call:** Committee Chair Scull, Commissioners Lockard and McFatrige, and Pat Stasio, Director of Parks and Recreation. Also present were Matthew H. Candland, Township Manager, Randall K. Schaible, Assistant Township Manager/Director of Finance and Alex Baumler, Township Solicitor.
- III. **Presentations/Announcements** - Nothing to report.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes - July 26, 2021:**
 - The Committee approved the meeting minutes as submitted.
- V. **Acceptance and approval of the following monthly reports:**
 - A. **Parks and Recreation Monthly Reports for July and August** - Mr. Stasio provided the following updates:
 - Over the summer months, a group of artists repainted almost all the buildings in Safety Town at Masons Mill Park with assistance from the maintenance crew. Everyone is invited to view the completed project.
 - Summer concerts were attended by several hundred people and positive feedback was received from the survey.
 - The Fall Newsletter has been mailed out to residents and posted to the website.
 - Modified Summer camps were successful despite the ongoing pandemic.
 - Commissioner Lockard commended the Department for all their services and especially enjoyed attending one of the summer concerts.
 - Commissioner Lockard inquired on the status of the Cross-County Trail. Mr. Stasio replied that another public meeting is planned and all County stakeholders have been contacted. Feedback is being incorporated into an interactive trail map, which will be presented to the public. The effected landowners have been contacted for their comments.
 - B. **Library Board of Trustees Report** - David Hakes, Treasurer, provided the following updates:
 - As a result of the community survey, Library hours will be extended starting October 1, 2021 to: Monday/Wednesday 10 am -9 pm; Tuesday/Thursday 1 pm – 9pm; Friday/Saturday 10 am -5 pm; Sunday 1pm-5pm.
 - The 3Q Keystone Grant status report is due to the Office of Commonwealth Libraries by October 15, 2021.
 - In-person and virtual recording options are being investigated for Fall programs.
 - Mr. Stasio was thanked for assistance with posting Library information.
 - Outdoor and some indoor programs will be held this Fall at Masons Mill Park with COVID-19 safeguards in place.
 - In partnership with Upper Moreland School District, the program, "GOAL" (Grade One At The Library), will be launched to enable first graders to receive a Library card.
 - Check the website for a full list of additional programs.

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- Commissioner Scull inquired on the status of the Keystone Grant. Margie Peters, Director, replied that it is on schedule and expects reimbursement after the project is complete.
- Commissioner Lockard inquired on the status of ADA improvements to the entrances. Ms. Peters explained once bids are received, the contractor is given three weeks' notice to set a start date, and the project could be completed in either October or November.

VI. Old Business:

A. Farmstead Alliance Agreement/5-Year Plan:

- Mr. Stasio explained that the existing agreement was amended.
- Alan Sentman, President, thanked the Committee for their consideration and discussed the agreement.
- The Committee commented on a \$5,000 increase for utilities as added insurance.
- Commissioner Lockard suggested waiting to execute the plan, because there may be issues relating to the Township's 5-Year Plan. Mr. Sentman replied that the goal is to get to 2026 for the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.
- Commissioner Valenza requested a comparison of costs and the 990 Form.
- The Committee held a lengthy discussion about the insurance policy.
- The Committee commented concerns and requested to incorporate specific uses for the buildings, which can generate revenue.
- The Committee will continue a discussion at the October 18, 2021 Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting.

B. Tree City USA:

- Mr. Stasio discussed guidelines and provided examples of ordinances for review.
- Mr. Candland explained reasoning for a regulatory-based ordinance.
- The Committee commented preference for an advisory-based ordinance.
- Dr. Lynnette Saunders, Environmental Advisory Council, commented on including protection for large wooded areas and advising on private property.
- Commissioner Valenza shared issues from residents concerned about neighboring trees.
- Commissioner Spearing commented favor for preservation of wooded lots, heritage trees regenerating areas damaged by storms, and engaging the community with education.
- The Committee will continue a discussion at the October 18, 2021 Parks and Recreation Meeting.

VII. New Business:

A. Upper Moreland Middle School Home School Association Request:

- Sharin Ford discussed a proposal on behalf of the Association to hold a family mini photo shoot at Mason Mill Park as a fundraiser for students' materials, events, rewards, and teacher grants.
- The Committee recommends the Board of Commissioners take action at the October 4, 2021 Regular Meeting.

B. Bat House Request:

- Mr. Stasio explained a request from a resident who is seeking permission to install bat houses at Woodlawn Park.
- The Committee agreed to bat houses at Woodlawn Park.

C. Green Region Grant:

- Mr. Stasio explained the application offered by PECO, which will be used for seed and planting materials at Fair Oaks Basin.

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- The Committee recommends the Board of Commissioners take action on a resolution at the October 4, 2021 Regular Meeting.

D. **Masons Mill Hardcourt Progress:**

- Mr. Stasio remarked that work is progressing and explained details of the improvements that have been completed.

VIII. **Other Parks and Recreation Items** - Mr. Stasio reported the following:

A. **Annual Pumpkins on Parade Event Modifications due to COVID19:**

- Mr. Stasio explained the modified version of the parade with activities for a limited number of resident families only. Additional information and registration can be found at: uppermorelandrec.com.

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

X. **Commissioner Comments** - Nothing to report.

XI. **Adjournment:** There being no further business for this Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Kristire.