

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, Commissioner Lockard, and Pat Stasio, Director of Parks and Recreation. Absent: Commissioner McFatrige. Also present were Matthew H. Candland, Township Manager, Randall K. Schaible, Assistant Township Manager/Director of Finance and Sean Kilkenny, Township Solicitor.
- III. **Presentations/Announcements** - Nothing to report.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes - September 27, 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 September** - Mr. Stasio provided the following updates:
 - Participated in a Zoom meeting with County representatives and discussed public feedback regarding locations and constraints of the cross-county trail. The County will announce a Zoom meeting for the public in early November.
 - Contractors and the maintenance crew replaced the safety surface of the playground at Masons Mill Park.
 - Geese control and droppings clean-up have been implemented at Fair Oaks Park.
 - Fall recreation programs have started in partnership with the School District as well as community organizations to offer classroom and after-school activities.
 - A Fall inspection and storm preparation was conducted at parks with removal of items and additional upkeep.
 - A meeting was held at the Fire Hall updating residents on park planning and feedback process of the former Woodlawn School. A request will be sent out to various design firms to submit a proposal with costs to perform the scope of work. A final design plan will be used to submit grant applications.
 - Commissioner Spearing commented concerns and the Committee held a lengthy discussion regarding priorities, funding, and a list of other comprehensive project plans that are languishing.
 - The Committee will continue a discussion at a future Parks and Recreation Committee meeting.
 - B. **Library Board of Trustees Report** - Jay Silverman, Facilities Committee Chairman, provided the following updates:
 - Planning to request funds from the American Recovery Plan for cleaning duct work and also replace the existing water fountain with a contactless water bottle refilling station.

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- Hours of operation have increased to 56 hours per week and are posted to the website.
- A new brochure advertising the Library's services will be mailed out to new residents this month.
- The third quarter Keystone Grant has been submitted and a pre-construction meeting will be held on October 20, 2021.
- An adult STEAM Lab instruction on the 3D printer was held October 12, 2021 and, the next STEAM Lab program will be held on November 9, 2021.

VI. Old Business:

A. Farmstead Alliance Agreement:

- The Committee will continue a discussion at the November 22, 2021 Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting.

B. Farmstead Alliance 5-Year Plan Presentation:

- Allen Sentman presented an outline of the architectural conservation projects planned for the site and potential uses that will generate revenue for operations and maintenance. A capital funding approach was also discussed.
- Commissioner Lockard recommended that the next step is to contact a consultant.
- Mr. Sentman suggested that an ad hoc committee be formed through the Township consisting of community members who provide feedback on adaptable uses and coordinate a potential tenant. Meanwhile, the Alliance would work on a budget and secure an architect and engineer.
- Commissioner Scull commented that the Alliance welcomes the Township's assistance with creating a business plan, contacting consultants and submitting grant applications.
- Commissioner Spearing requested more information on the National Registry tax credits, commented on the 25-year lease timeline, and suggested including the expansion of use into the lease to be ready for New Year's Eve 2026.
- Commissioners Spearing and Prousi suggested that fundraising events for capital improvements continue to take place at the site in its current condition and, as soon as the fence is removed, the site will be more attractive.
- Kathy Eberz, President of the Historical Association, commented on the success of The Highlands in Fort Washington, PA, suggested hiring an intern to write grants, and encouraged the Alliance and Township to work together and achieve results.
- Commissioner Prousi suggested that creating architectural renderings and a priority list would help to advance outside interests in the site.
- Commissioner Scull commented on the need for a park that appeals to historical interests of the adult community.
- Mr. Sentman thanked Damian House Questers for providing a donation during their October 13, 2021 meeting at the Farmhouse.
- Mr. Sentman suggested adding an addendum to the Plan regarding adaptive reuse of the buildings.
- Commissioner Scull inquired about the Lease and Mr. Stasio discussed that minor edits were made and that the 25-year timeline does not have an extension. He recommended that the Committee review and determine the level of involvement for the Township.
- Commissioner Scull commented concerns about terminology in the lease regarding the Alliance's sole responsibility and Commissioner Spearing stated that the Alliance and the

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Township will work together.

- Mr. Stasio recommends that the Committee review and amend the Large Events Policy to include Farmstead Park.
- The Committee will continue a discussion on the 5-Year Plan and the Large Events Policy at the November 22, 2021 Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting.

C. Tree City USA:

- The Committee will review the draft Shade Tree ordinance and continue a discussion at the November 22, 2021 Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting.

VII. New Business:

A. PECO Agreement Extension

- Mr. Stasio recommends this agreement, which includes Blair Mill to Easton Roads, at a cost per year of \$500 for 25 years, which is an important opportunity to meet up with the Cross-County Trail.
- Commissioner Lockard inquired about the mention of an eight-foot-wide trail instead of a 10-foot-wide trail and Mr. Stasio replied that amendments can be accommodated.
- The Committee recommends the Board of Commissioners take action at the November 8, 2021 Regular Meeting.

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

A. Annual Pumpkins on Parade Event Review:

- Kate Kollar, Recreation Coordinator, Page Durflinger, Recreation Assistant, volunteers, and the maintenance crew were thanked for a modified and successful event.

IX. Visitor Comments - Nothing to report.

X. Commissioner Comments:

- Commissioner Scull inquired about the status of fencing the Spring House at Farmstead Park.
- Mr. Stasio replied that the original contractor was unable to complete the work due to labor shortages and health issues. Therefore, the best quote currently obtained is for \$7,768 and requested the Committee's approval. The Committee discussed the cost differences.
 - The Committee recommends the Board of Commissioners take action at the November 8, 2021 Regular Meeting.
- Commissioner Spearing requested a discussion at the November 15, 2021 Community Development Committee Meeting to install a shade tree at the outdoor educational hydrological cycle sign at the Middle School.

XI. Adjournment: There being no further business for this Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Kristire.