

**Minutes of the Open Space Park and Recreation Board
Upper Pottsgrove Township**

April 11, 2017

A meeting of the Open Space Park and Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, April 11, 2017, at 6:30 p.m. at Heather Place Park, 1420 Heather Place. Those present were Dennis Elliot, Chuck Note, Nancy Toothaker and Michelle Reddick. Also present was Carol R. Lewis, Township Manager, Elwood Taylor, President Board of Commissioners, Abigail Heisler, Executive Director of the Police Athletic League in Pottstown and Jim Crawford, Upper Pottsgrove Township Police Department. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Dennis Elliott.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Those present pledged their allegiance to the flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES –The approval of the minutes of the February 14, 2017, meeting was tabled until the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

SAVE ALLIANCE FOUNDATION PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS E. Taylor explained that he is attending the meeting on behalf of Herb Miller who is currently very sick. He told the Board that over 600 families attended the Easter Egg Hunt over the weekend which was up from 200 last year. Next year they will be having a shuttle bus for the event. He sees dozens of people walking the trails every day. Ken Hamilton works with people across the country with Green Allies and their initiatives. People love having the Arboretum to practice their theses and projects on. There is a group of students from Cornell University studying what can be done at the Arboretum to make it an education center for the nature, flora and fauna. They're identifying the plants, soils, etc. in the region for this study. They are looking to take the project beyond the bounds of the Arboretum to Prout Farm and Sussell Ponds. This would allow for aquatic studies and the development of community gardens. E. Taylor feels in order to actuate the theses the Township needs to legislate it and expand the agreement to include these areas so that we have something in writing. D. Elliott asked if the public access would be restricted in these areas. He was told that no that is part of the agreement currently. D. Elliott asked if this initiative would help with cleaning up Sprogel's Run. E. Taylor responded that it depends on what is in the agreement. At this point there is nothing for the Open Space Park and Rec Board to decide on but he wanted to let them know that a plan would be coming at some time in the future. The Board expressed their support as always with these initiatives.

PROGRAMS

ARCHERY HUNT 2017 – D. Elliott advised the Board that he spoke with Ray Madden, who is the Game Warden. He advised him since the hunt is on township property the Game Wardens have nothing to say about it unless something illegal is going on. The Board is proposing to have three (3) hunters at a time. The Game Warden did suggest that the area be posted "No Hunting, Written Permission Only" and he does think it is a good program that helps the environment quite a bit. D. Elliott, C. Note and C. Delp will not apply to hunt these areas as they are Board members. This is a public safety matter to help cut down on road kills.

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DATE FOR COMMUNITY DAY – M. Reddick advised the Board that the Fire Company has been unable to attend activities during Fire Prevention Week due to Community Day. Therefore they are changing the date to September 23rd at Heather Place Park unless it rains and then it will be at the Middle School. M. Reddick has emailed all the participants from last year so they are aware of the change.

FISHING RODEO – June 17th is the Opening Day of Bass season and the date for the Fishing Rodeo. D. Elliott reported that they were approached by the Stowe's Lion Club to help with the Rodeo. They have dogs, chips and drinks and have free age appropriate books for the children. D. Elliott asked to have it advertised on the billboard, the website and Facebook. He will approach Burger King about getting tickets; Michelle Reddick will go to Rita's Water Ice and C. Delp will contact Tractor Supply and ask for a donation again.

GRANTS – C. Lewis advised that she is in the process of closing out most of the projects. Chestnut Grove Park has to be over seeded and this is scheduled for the spring.

ATHLETIC FIELDS – Abigail Heisler, the Executive Director for Pottstown Area PAL was present at the meeting. She advised the Board that they are looking to develop more fields and H & K has volunteered to level more areas for this. She asked if they could partner with the Township to develop the Boerner tract into new fields. The Board expressed concern with the volume of traffic if there were more fields as there is already a lot of traffic when there are tournaments. She was also advised that if they do develop more fields they will need to do a Land Development Plan before they do anything.

MAINTENANCE

VETERAN'S MEMORIAL – D. Elliott advised the Board that the American Legion will supply poles and flags for the project. Jim Crawford, a member of the Township's Police Department and a Navy veteran was present to discuss the Memorial. C. Lewis advised that there are many options and passed out pictures of different Memorial Parks around the country. They can do anything from monuments or bricks in the ground or flags or things like that. Concern was raised that flags are very maintenance heavy and some of the other ideas they were concerned about things being stolen. C. Note felt that the Memorial should be at Heather Place Park and the Board agreed. The Board discussed the different options that were raised. C. Lewis advised the Board that she contacted Gofus Memorial who will be having a business in the Township and if the Board goes with a monument they will provide it at a deeply discounted price. He is getting some prices and options together for monuments just so they can see what the projects might cost. J. Crawford recommended doing something with the pavilion. The underside of the roof is separated into six (6) portions already and would be perfect if you allocated each section for a different branch of the military. Again there are many options. He explained a process that the Orthodox Church uses for their ceilings whereby an artist paints a canvas and then it is attached to the ceiling. Something like that could be done here. Also, technology today they can do colored laser etching on metal.

The Board loved that idea and will explore some options. It was discussed opening up the project to

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the community for ideas and drawings. E. Taylor cautioned if they do that they will need specific parameters to put out there beforehand. The Board will come back with some ideas for the following meeting.

FOX HILL TRAIL – At the last meeting, C. Lewis had passed out pictures of the mud pit that the parking area has become. A quote was received for \$7,100 to dig out, add eight (8) inches of stone and pave. This price also includes removing the septic tank that is in the ground. This was the cheaper of the two (2) quotes; the second was \$8,150. C. Note did not think that they should spend money on blacktop this year. He feels that they should just put down stone even though it will cost more in the long run. They discussed the maintenance budget. E. Taylor asked if the present lot will serve future uses? The Board agreed that if a dog park is put in there the parking lot would need to expand. C. Note asked if we could get a requote with woven fabric under the stone.

PAINTING OF SIGN POSTS – C. Lewis will send out a schedule of sign posts that need to be painted. The supplies are available at the Township building.

NEXT MEETING – The Board likes the idea of meeting at a different park as long as the weather is nice. The next meeting will be held at Sussell Park.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Michelle Reddick advised the Board that we are converting to a new financial system which is not quite up and running yet so that is why there was no Financial Report this evening.

Dennis Elliott reported that he attended a meeting at the Valley Forge Visitors Bureau.

ADJOURNMENT – Motion by C. Note seconded by M. Reddick and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol R. Lewis, Township Manager