

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

February 13, 2018

A meeting of the Open Space Park and Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, February 13, 2018. Those present were Dennis Elliot, Michelle Reddick, Chuck Note and Nancy Toothaker. Also present was Carol R. Lewis, Township Manager and Commissioner Renee Spaide.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

GREG CHURACH - Snyder Road – Reported that a four wheeler got on the Snyder Road Trail and suggested that this be monitored. Carol Lewis reported that they were also on Fox Hill Trail.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Motion by N. Toothaker second by M. Reddick and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of January 9, 2018 as amended with changes to Michelle Reddick's comments under Board Comments, changing Program Committee to Community Day Committee and adding a discussion that the event be held at Hillside.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Land Acquisition – The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 7:04 pm and reconvened at 7:13 pm.

OLD BUSINESS:

PROGRAMS – M. Reddick reported that the Community Day Committee had their kick off for Community Day to be held on September 22, 2018. They did this to solicit donations from companies that need them early and have already gotten some from Godiva and Dorney Park. There were some concerns about having the event at Hillside because of parking and handicap access. They talked about having it at the Middle School or at Hopewell Community Church where there is plenty of parking and area for vendors; although the access out may be a problem. C. Note expressed concern regarding separation of Church and State and that it might affect the attending crowd. They discussed electricity usage and port a potties if it is held at the Middle School. Motion by C. Note second by N. Toothaker and unanimously carried to recommend that the event be held at the Middle School.

GRANTS - The Board discussed possible usages for grants. It was agreed that we should have kiosks at every trail head parking area.

MAINTENANCE – C. Lewis reported that she had a phone call of Gary Heights requesting that they be allowed to have a community garden on an open space parcel owned by the Township adjoining Fox Hill Trail. There is an old well there that could be utilized for watering. C. Note reported that he had met with them in the past. The Board discussed tilling and animal pests. The Board agreed that it was a good idea but that a proposal was needed with details as to what exactly they want to do. Greg Churach volunteered to be an official Trail Ambassador for the section of Snyder Trail to Mimosa. M. Reddick reported that H. Miller asked if every Board member would take a park to maintain. C. Note recommended that they solicit for Trail Ambassadors at each Trail Head. D. Elliott reminded everyone to watch for ticks.

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VETERAN'S MEMORIAL – Russ Gofus met with the Committee at Heather Place to get an idea of the space. He proposed/suggested that towers be installed that have slanted tops that could contain mementoes that would be opened twice a year. He also showed steel benches with porcelain coating that would be more durable. M. Reddick reported that they have received emails and calls about the project. Greg Churach advised that he is a licensed electric contractor and would donate that portion of the project. D. Elliott talked about whether the Veteran's Committee should become their own entity for fund raising purposes. They discussed bidding requirements and maintenance of the monument.

PLAN FOR PROJECTS AND OPEN SPACE PLAN – The Board discussed the northeast side of the Township; the Malfaro parcel on Snyder and the Ott parcel on Maugers Mill. They also discussed the Kehl property next to the Arboretum, Lefever, Shontz, Waste Management Easement for Tri County Trail, Schwenk property, Sitko property and Yarnall. They identified that Mahlberg and Boerner should remain totally passive. They discussed projects such as nature preserves including bat houses which do not need any maintenance and bird houses which need to have a dedicated group of people to take care of them. They also discussed the need for uniform signage and emergency markers throughout the parks and trails, rain shelters along the trails, adequate parking to access the trails and active open space areas, electricity to Sunset Park, utilities at trail heads, and trail connections. Also they are opening to the possibility of community gardens in various areas. It was discussed how to solicit community input and projects for development. The Board will also send the information out to the Commissioners to solicit their input.

BOARD COMMENT

D. ELLIOTT - Asked about a Family Day at the Hillside Swim Club. C. Lewis will follow up.

C. NOTE - Commented that he thought it was a good idea to attach townhomes to trails.

PUBLIC COMMENT

SHERRY PAUP said she would accept a position on the Open Space and Recreation Board. Motion by C. Note second by M. Reddick and unanimously carried to recommend to the Commissioners that they appoint Sherry Paup to the Open Space and Recreation Board.

ADJOURNMENT – Motion by N. Toothaker second by C. Note and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol R. Lewis, Manager/Secretary/Treasurer