

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

August 14, 2018

A meeting of the Open Space Park and Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, August 14, 2018. Those present were Dennis Elliott, Michelle Reddick, Chuck Note, Sherry Paup, and Nancy Toothaker. Also present were County Planner Lauren Van Dyk, Circuit Rider Michael Lane, Althouse Arboretum Coordinator Ken Hamilton, Intern Julia Bebout and Intern Dewi Henry. Also present was County Planner Patty Guttenplan and Township Manager Carol R. Lewis.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

HOLLENBACH PARK TREE SCREEN – P. Guttenplan presented the concept for Hollenbach Park tree screening. There are crossings of Sprogel’s Run so she is proposing a natural trail connection with a bio swale, wild flower mixture with trees. Appropriate species would have to be chosen to take into consideration deer and other pests. There would be upfront costs but could save on maintenance in the long run. C. Lewis also pointed out that it could be phased with grants. They discussed how close the trail and plantings would be to private property.

GREEN ALLIES PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS – PRESENTATION FOR SUSSELL AND PROUT FARM PARKS

- J. Bebout presented a report and plan for Sussell Park. She reported that the ponds have signs of nitrification and dead ash trees. C. Note suggested that the Board consider installing bubblers, some of which are solar. The pond appears to be stream fed. Having the stream close to the pond can be a great comparison for students as they compare pond and stream habitats and ecosystems. The plan included expanded parking and a wetland educational component. P. Guttenplan suggested that the County has a 2040 grant that could be used to pay for the parking area. M. Lane asked why the meadow gets mowed. Next Dewi Henry presented a plan for Prout Farm Park. They suggested one to two acres of land between Route 100 and Moyer Road be used as a community garden with edible forest on the edge of the current forest. It would include a storage area for tools. C. Note asked what the CSA cost would be. He was advised that most of them are \$700 to \$900 per year but theirs would be closer to \$200 or \$300. The plan would include drilling a well on site for a water source. A group called Triskless would manage the community garden. Kids would come from this area to participate. They would be getting a grant from the Pew Foundation for the set up of the community garden. There would be no impact to the trails. The Board liked both presentations and ideas. They decided to wait until after the Community meeting to make any decisions on it.

PUBLIC COMMENT

KAREN STOUFFER STEINER, was present at the meeting along with Greg Churach to talk about a sign for the Stouffer Park. She advised that she would be willing to pay for the sign. They discussed the material of the sign and the layout. Motion by N. Toothaker second by C. Note and unanimously carried to approve the concept of the sign. G. Churach and K. Stouffer Steiner would design something for approval by the Board before installing.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Motion by N. Toothaker second by C. Note and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of July 10, 2018 as presented. M. Reddick and D. Elliott abstained as they were not present.

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PARRC COMMITTEE UPDATES – M. Lane and Craig Colistra will be presenting to the Board of Commissioners on Monday about extending the contract for the Park Coordinator. More communities may be joining. East Coventry is a definite possibility for this coming year and New Hanover is possible in the future. They discussed how this will affect the funding. Motion by C. Note second by M. Reddick and unanimously carried to recommend to the Board of Commissioners that they extend the contract and offset the cost from the Open Space fund 50/50.

PROGRAMS

COMMUNITY DAY – M. Reddick reported that they have \$1350 in monetary donations, not including the grant from PECO. They asked for \$1,000 this year. They are getting donations, sponsors and bundles. They discussed the participants.

ARCHERY HUNT – Ron Kasper, who coordinated the hunt last year, is going to run it again this year. There will be a mandatory meeting and D. Elliott will take them to the site where to hunt and where to park.

GRANTS – C. Lewis and M. Lane are working on the Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Mini Grant for trail cameras. G. Churach suggested that a DCNR grant might be good for the Sussell project.

MAINTENANCE – C. Note advised that trails are washing out. C. Lewis responded that late fall into the winter we would be doing major trail maintenance.

VETERAN'S MEMORIAL – D. Elliott reported that they have not moved on this due to the Elks Club not getting back to them whether they can partner with their 501c3. G. Churach commented that Lower Frederick started a Friends of Frederick LLC to raise money for things they wanted that were not in the budget and it took a long time to get their 501c3 status.

OPEN SPACE PLAN – Lauren Van Dyk, County Planner, advised that she is leaving the Montgomery County Planning Commission. Marley Bice will be filling in for her to finish it. They reviewed Chapter 9. There is not much to change or comment on. D. Elliott asked how Lower Pottsgrove and New Hanover are looking to implement their plans. M. Lane advised that New Hanover has a lot of Agricultural security land and they have been buying more land for parks. D. Elliott asked if they should meet with their Board to exchange ideas. C. Note asked if there was anything coming in the next ten (10) years. M. Lane replied that DCNR and Pottstown Health and Wellness goals are to see a diversity of offerings in parks and trails are still very big. L. Van Dyk advised that she reached out to the other communities to make sure that they have the most up to date information.

The Board next talked about the workshop to be held on Thursday, September 27th from 5:30 to 7:30pm. The survey is not live on the website yet but will be shortly. Once it is up they will put a blast out to get people to take it. Michael Lane and Marley Bice will process the responses to the survey and publicize the workshop. The goal is to present it to the Board by the end of the year.

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NEW BUSINESS

PICNIC PAVILION – D. Elliott suggested a picnic pavilion at Hollenbach Park big enough to hold 40 to 50 people with electric. C. Note agreed that it was something that is needed as the pavilion we currently have is constantly reserved. They asked P. Guttenplan to overlay a pavilion in the park on her design. N. Toothaker suggested it might be a place to hold Community Days.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – The Board adjourned into Executive Session at 9:10 p.m. for the purpose of property acquisition. They reconvened at 9:33 p.m. Motion by N. Toothaker second by C. Note and unanimously carried to recommend to the Board of Commissioners to acquire a property.

ADJOURNMENT – Motion by M. Reddick seconded by S. Paup and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting a 9:34p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol R. Lewis, Township Manager/Treasurer