

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

June 11, 2019

A meeting of the Open Space Park and Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, June 11, 2019 at the Upper Administrative Office, 1409 Farmington Avenue, Pottstown, with Dennis Elliott, Greg Churach and Sherry Paup present. Also present were Commissioner Renee Spaide, Pottstown Regional Recreation Coordinator Michael Lane, County Planner John Miklos and Green Allies Executive Director Ken Hamilton. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Elliott at 7:00 p.m.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – D. Elliott noted that the March 12, 2019 minutes were already approved at the April 9, 2019 meeting. He further noted the April 9th and May 14th minutes will be available for approval at the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

GREEN ALLIES PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS – K. Hamilton reported there were several folks who volunteered assistance during the month of May. Some volunteers assisted with plantings which included 20 different varieties of plants. He further reported C & S Garber & Sons is assisting with the installation of a drip irrigation system to supply water for the farm at Prout Farm Park. There will also be a solar powered pump for electric which will be located behind the shed. There were sunflowers planted around the farm to provide screening, and the area was sprayed by farmers. **Farmers Market** – Ken reported there was a huge turnout for the farmers market and some vendors sold out. The next one is scheduled for June 28th. **Althouse Arboretum Anniversary Celebration** – Ken reported the arboretum will hold their 5th anniversary celebration on Saturday, October 5, 2019 which will include a walk-through of the property, a history and review of deeds of the property along with some diaries and stories regarding the history of the property.

PARRC COMMITTEE UPDATES – G. Churach reported the PARRC Committee is currently under the umbrella of the Pottstown Metropolitan Regional Planning Commission. He further reported that PARRC will become independent and its own non-profit entity for 2020 and they are working on an Agreement which will need to be approved by all townships participating in PARRC.

HOLLENBACK PARK TREE SCREEN – Mr. Lane provided a phased plan for the tree screening at Hollenbach Park and discussed potential grants which could possibly fund the project. Members present agreed to table approval of this project due to the absence of Chuck Note.

DISC GOLF PRESENTATION – Steven Braud, President of the Disc Golf Association was present to discuss the possibility of a disc golf course in our Township. He advised there are 5,000 courses across the country, and the first course was established in 1973 in Philadelphia. He noted Prout Farm Park west of the community farm could be a potential spot for a course. He explained safety is the number one concern and there cannot be any blind corners. However, springs and runoff from Route 100 may make the area at Prout Farm Park too wet for a course. D. Elliott noted there may also be issues with parking and bathrooms at this location. In response to a question from S. Paup, Mr. Braud provided an explanation as to how disc golf is played. Another potential area could be Hollenbach Park near Mocharniuk Meadows where you could install a nine-hole course at the top and a nine-hole course at the bottom with parking in the middle. Mr. Braud explained volunteers would be needed to maintain the disc golf courses. He further explained the courses could be done by a company, but if not an install company, then he would need to be present to make sure the installation is done correctly. Commissioner Spaide suggested moving forward if Michael Lane is on board with the idea and seeking out potential grant funding. She further suggested the passive land behind Dennis Elliott's property. Mr. Braud advised he is looking at land with obstacles. In response to a question from G. Churach, S. Braud explained it is free to play unless privatized. He further explained some people pay to play.

NEW BUSINESS

MALFARO EASEMENT – D. Elliott advised there is a potential to obtain an easement on the Malfaro property for a trail connection to the Schwenk property. He further advised the grandson is interested in purchasing the property and approached Dennis about the potential for a trail easement. He explained an appraisal would be needed in order to purchase the trail easement and potential monies could come from the PECO green region grant or Natural Lands Trust. He further explained this matter would need to be presented to the Board of Commissioners to authorize an appraisal if there is an interest in a trail easement.

OLD BUSINESS (cont'd.)

ATHLETIC FIELDS – There is no discussion needed at this time.

REQUIRED TRAIL MAINTENANCE – D. Elliott reported there are repairs needed at both the Sunset Park Trail and Fox Hill Trail and suggested requesting M. Reddick obtain pricing on having the necessary repairs completed. G. Churach advised a scope of work would be needed in order to obtain pricing and noted the Township may need to get its engineer involved with the repairs at Sunset Park.

VETERAN'S MEMORIAL – D. Elliott reported the electric and concrete foundation is completed for the memorial. G. Churach suggested waiting until the fall to install grass or sod. He further reported Cathy Paretti will assist with collecting donations which will be accepted under the 501.C.3 for the Veterans Island project in Pottstown.

OPEN SPACE PLAN UPDATE – The Board reviewed Chapters 9 which includes maps and the greenway study which was added. It is an evaluation of County, Regional and Abutting Municipal Plans. There was also a review Chapter 10 which provides recommendations for the protection of public open space through acquisition and other means and a review of Chapter 11 which addresses the optional plan recommendations, focusing on the development of connected greenways and trail and the conservation of heritage resources.

BOARD COMMENTS – **G. Churach** reported the Stauffer sign would be installed on June 12, 2019 according to Herb Miller.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

ADJOURNMENT – Motion by G. Churach, second by S. Paup and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle L. Reddick
Township Manager/Treasurer