

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

March 10, 2020

A meeting of the Open Space Park and Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, March 10, 2020. Those present were Dennis Elliott, Chuck Note, Sherry Paup, Greg Churach and Scott Wagner. Also present was Township Manager Michelle Reddick.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Those assembled pledged allegiance to the flag.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – M. Reddick advised the February minutes would be available for approval at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

SHONTZ TRAIL EASEMENT – M. Reddick advised the Township will need to have a survey completed for the trail easement and questioned whether the Board was comfortable with utilizing the matching grant funds included in the budget for the trail easement since we did not receive the grant. In response to a question from D. Elliott, M. Reddick advised the prior appraisal was for the entire property and not just an easement. She further advised a new appraisal would probably be necessary. In response to another question from D. Elliott, M. Reddick advised she is not certain what the costs for an appraisal and a survey would be. However, she agreed to obtain an estimate of the costs. D. Elliott also noted that the Shontz's may have a survey. This matter was tabled until further research can be conducted.

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECTS – M. Reddick presented ideas for Eagle Scout projects recommended by Michael Lane which include two bridges across the stream in Chestnut Grove Park. The one bridge still exists but has fallen off its foundation, and another bridge but longer and positioned at the top of the stone slabs on each side of the stream. Another suggestion was adding a set of steps down the steep slope from the playing field of Chestnut Grove Park. The Board agreed these were good ideas for Eagle Scout projects. G. Churach suggested adding the table and lectern to the open space maintenance schedule. D. Elliott suggested moving the pavilion from Sunset Park to Hollenbach Park. C. Note suggested rather than moving the pavilion to Hollenbach Park, move it to the pond and do a bigger plan at Hollenbach Park.

USE AGREEMENT WITH POTTS GROVE BASEBALL ORGANIZATION FOR KULP FIELDS – M. Reddick provided an Agreement for review and discussion. The Board suggested increasing the deposit from \$100 to \$200. There were concerns expressed regarding maintenance of the structures on the property. M. Reddick agreed to research the matter to determine if the structures are owned by the Township or the League. There were some minor revisions necessary to the Agreement related to name of the fields, location of the fields and who is responsible for general mowing of the common areas. M. Reddick suggested the motion to recommend approval to the Board of Commissioners should be subject to review by the Township Solicitor since he did not initially draft the Agreement. Motion by C. Note, second by S. Wagner and unanimously carried to recommend to the Board of Commissioners approval of the use agreement with Pottsgrove Baseball Organization for use of Kulp Fields subject to

increasing the deposit to \$200, making the necessary revisions discussed including responsibility for the structures in Section 3.b and review of the Agreement by the Township Solicitor.

USE AGREEMENT WITH POTTSBROVE LITTLE LEAGUE FOR KULP FIELDS –

Michael Coxe was present to represent Pottsgrove Little League. M. Reddick noted the draft Agreement was provided for review and discussion. The Board suggested increasing the deposit from \$100 to \$200. There were concerns expressed regarding maintenance of the structures on the property. M. Reddick agreed to research the matter to determine if the structures are owned by the Township or the League. There were some minor revisions necessary to the Agreement related to name of the fields, location of the fields and who is responsible for general mowing of the common areas. M. Reddick suggested the motion to recommend approval to the Board of Commissioners should be subject to review by the Township Solicitor since he did not initially draft the Agreement. Motion by C. Note, second by S. Wagner and unanimously carried to recommend to the Board of Commissioners approval of the use agreement with Pottsgrove Little League for use of Kulp Fields subject to increasing the deposit to \$200, making the necessary revisions discussed including responsibility for the structures in Section 3.b and review of the Agreement by the Township Solicitor.

The Board discussed the costs of mowing the open space areas and parks and reiterated the need to outsource this work to reduce the costs.

OLD BUSINESS

ADA ACCESSIBLE PLAYGROUND – C. Note advised work is being completed on a memorandum of understanding related to ongoing operation and maintenance of the ADA accessible playground.

REPORTS/PROJECT UPDATES

Green Ailes – No update.

PARRC Committee Updates – A draft of the Implementation Agreement for PARRC was presented for discussion along with a list of changes recommended by the Solicitor. Motion by C. Note, second by S. Paup and unanimously carried to recommend to the Board of Commissioners approval of the Agreement subject to the changes recommended by the Township Solicitor.

NEW BUSIENSS

GRANTS – M. Reddick advised the Township did receive the grant from Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation for the repairs to Sunset Park trail and the grant from Pottstown Metropolitan Regional Planning Commission for the repairs to Fox Hill trail.

VETERAN’S MEMORIAL – D. Elliot advised he will be meeting with Township resident Tony Butler who will render a drawing of the finished product which can then be used to solicit donations.

PRIORITIZE PROJECTS – Hollenbach Park – S. Wagner presented ideas for Hollenbach Park which include (1) moving the pavilion from Sunset Park to Hollenbach Park; (2) combining Mocharniuk Meadows into Hollenbach Park and closing the dangerous parking access on N. Hanover Street and use the upper parking lot at Hollenbach for the trail access; (3) possibly re-routing the short section of Mocharniuk trail so it doesn't butt up against the residential property; and (4) install pedestrian crossing signage where Fox Run crosses N. Hanover Street into Hollenbach Park. He also suggested cleaning up the trash that has been dumped in the woods across from the lower parking lot and to the right of the detention pond, and noted this could be a project for the Comcast Cares Day. Members agreed to move forward with the moving of the pavilion and then attempt to work on a master plan for Hollenbach Park. Motion by C. Note, second by S. Wagner and unanimously carried to recommend to the Board of Commissioners the pavilion at Sunset Park be moved to Hollenbach Park at a cost not to exceed \$650.00 with the Township installing the stone pad.

GRIM ESTATE SIGN – A drawing of the new sign installed at the Grim Estate was presented and members expressed concern with the language on the sign and the fact that the sign was changed without notifying the Township. Members agreed the language on the sign needs to be revised to state, "funding provided by Upper Pottsgrove Township and Natural Lands Trust in cooperation with the Grims". Motion by G. Churach, second by C. Note and unanimously carried to direct the Township Manager to send a letter to Natural Lands Trust that the Township was not notified, once again, regarding changes to the property.

BOARD COMMENT – In response to a question from C. Note, M. Reddick advised the developer for the Kummerer parcel only has conditional approval for the 144 lots on the Kummerer parcel.

PUBLIC COMMENT – J. Bealer, 1521 Farmington Avenue, advised that he was able to recycle a television through Green Allies appliance recycling event held this past weekend.

M. Reddick advised members that the RFP for farming would not be completed in time for the 2020 season so it would be sent out for 2021. She further advised that Arlen Moser has been notified he is okay to use the Smola property for this year. She also advised that Mr. Fleck, the new owner of the Smola farm, is interested in using the open space at Smola for a farm or possibly buying back some of the property.

ADJOURNMENT – Motion by C. Note, second by G. Churach and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle L. Reddick, Township Manager