

Minutes of the Open Space Park and Recreation Board November 12, 2019 Upper Pottsgrove Township

A meeting of the Open Space Park and Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, November 12, 2019 at the Upper Pottsgrove Administrative Office, 1409 Farmington Avenue, Pottstown with Greg Churach, Chuck Note and Sherry Paup present. Chairman Dennis Elliott was absent. Also present were Pottstown Regional Recreation Coordinator Michael Lane, County Planner John Miklos and Township Secretary Jeannie DiSante. Manager Michelle Reddick was absent. The meeting was called to order by Chuck Note at 7:00 p.m.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Motion by G. Churach, second by S. Paup and unanimously carried to approve the September 10, 2019 minutes as written. M. Reddick sent apologies and said the October 8, 2019 minutes will be available at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

2020 DRAFT BUDGET UPDATE & DISCUSSION - J. DiSante informed the Board this is an updated draft for their review and any questions can be forwarded to M. Reddick. This is not for public review at this time.

CONSIDER RFP FOR FARMING OF OPEN SPACE PROPERTIES - There was little discussion at this time. The Board agreed to table the issue until the next meeting when Chairman Elliott is available to further discuss and make a decision to move forward with the RFP.

OLD BUSINESS

GREEN ALLIES - K. Hamilton introduced two student representatives, Patrick Rieker and Sydney Smith. They gave the October highlights report noting a community night hike, four high school lessons/programs and a haunted woods event with the Pottsgrove Fire Police. They will be holding a food drive for the Coventry Food Pantry and asked that posters be added to the Township website and posted in the building.

K. Hamilton reported on the Sussell Park pond remediation project, reforestation within the arboretum replacing trees where ash trees were removed, trail repair and asked permission to extend the “outer loop” trail. The Board concurred to table the trail extension discussion until the next meeting. He also noted Christmas tree recycling will be held January 11th and 12th and asked if the Township will chip the trees. There was a motion by C. Note, seconded by S. Paul and unanimously carried to recommend the Township public works staff use their equipment and chip the trees.

PARRC COMMITTEE UPDATES - The agenda from the October 23rd meeting was presented to the Board. M. Lane noted discussions on proposals for a PARRC consultant for strategic planning. G. Churach provided a list of mowing prices for open space and suggested hiring a part-time person to use Township equipment which would free up time for public work to handle all the necessary road repairs and paving. An intern, Karleigh Cimorelli is doing park evaluations and is developing a report for PARRC. There was PARRC assistance with the Shontz property conservation easement, trail sensors, Kummerer Tract review and attendance at OSRB meetings.

C. Note asked that added to the agenda, under Old Business each month should be “ADA Playground Report”. As the Township’s Pottsgrove Recreation Board representative on the sub-committee for the inclusive playground program he reported they are putting together an MOU and by 2021 should be shovel ready. He asked to get M. Lane involved in the program.

GRANTS

PECO GREEN REGION 15TH ANNIVERSARY BONUS ROUND GRANT - M. Lane submitted the 2019 PECO grant application for discussion, noting there is no resolution needed. After reviewing the options there was a motion by G. Churach, seconded by C. Note and unanimously carried to recommend to the Board of Commissioners applying for a \$14,642.77 grant for Hollenbach Park tree planting in the Upper Trail, Hillside and parking lot plantings. The Board asked for this to be added to the Commissioners November 18th meeting agenda. M. Lane stressed the importance of the Open Space and Rec Board to begin to prioritize their plans for trails and projects and future grants.

OPEN SPACE PLAN UPDATE – J. Miklos provided bound copies of the draft for review asking the Board to check all 12 chapters for page sequence and figure numbers. He provided a list of changes in each chapter and asked that final suggestions and comments be provided to him within two weeks so a clean copy can be provided to the Board of Commissioners at their December meeting.

BOARD COMMENTS – C. Note asked that M. Reddick consider using Google Docs for Open Space communications. He feels the flow of information is much easier to share and to provide comments with Board Members between meetings. G. Churach suggested the need to require surveyors to place iron rebar at property corners for all future Township land purchases. Wooden stakes do not last over the years.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

ADJOURNMENT – Motion by G. Churach, second by S. Paup and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Jeannie DiSante, Township Secretary