

A meeting of the Open Space Park and Recreation Board was held on Wednesday, March 17, 2021. Those present were Greg Churach, Chuck Note, Dennis Elliott, Sherry Paup, and Scott Wagner. Also present was Township Manager Michelle Reddick. Commissioner Cathy Paretto was also present in the audience. Guests were Gary DeRenzo & Steven Anspach from Pottsgrove School District.

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – None.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Minutes were unavailable for approval.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**DISCUSSION ON HOLLENBACH MASTER PLAN** – CMC had been presented with information the OS&RB has accumulated over the last 2 years. This includes the 2019 Open Space Plan update, 2019 resident survey, 2019 MCPC suggestions, and the OSRB wish list of general and park-specific amenities. The next step is acceptance of the base plan, which will be prepared by CMC within the next 45 days. Al Gryga from CMC Engineering was present to discuss his proposal for the Hollenbach Master Plan, using a “Wish List” which came from residents’ written input of what they wanted. Al suggested having workshops with the public to obtain additional feedback. Hollenbach Park is centrally located, and many residents can walk to it. There was a discussion about having a kick-off meeting separate from the public meeting.

A. Gryga said that a lot of steep slope areas may not need to be mowed. There needs to be a base plan before the kick-off meeting. A. Gryga mentioned an as-built survey. G. DeRenzo said there needs to be accessible for children to walk down and an enhanced picnic and playground area, as well as enhanced trails. G. DeRenzo and S. Anspach will collaborate and send a list of ideas and recommendations. A. Gryga said that PennDOT requires a site-distance plan for the crosswalk close to the entrance to the Middle School. D. Elliott said we set this up primarily for the kids and tried to work with Lower Pottsgrove Township and Brookside Family Restaurant, but the problem is you cannot get across Route 663. We have thought about a tunnel underneath the road. G. Churach suggested that A. Gryga looked at the tri-county trail network so that we can connect to where those trails come through. A. Gryga said that the base plan takes 30-45 days. G. Churach mentioned sledding and ice hockey. D. Elliott asked if there would be provisions for safety and first aid in the way of a pavilion. G. Churach asked A. Gryga to keep the OS&RB advised of how to work this in, in phases, and on how to obtain grant money. G. Churach said that we want to have shovel-ready projects at hand for when the grant money is available, and we can strike right away. The kick-off meeting can include staff and the Board of Commissioners and then open to the public. S. Wagner said that maybe Mocharniuk Meadows could become part of Hollenbach Park. S. Anspach said that the park and trail system is awesome and has seen a big impact over the last year and that it is important to connect the trails. G. Churach said that he is looking at a way to plow the trails. The Township must do things they can afford and maintain. C. Paretto said that there could be an area where leagues could have

tournaments and that the Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation is working on an agreement for shared-use facilities with Pottsgrove School District so as not to create redundancies. Also, she advised that the Pottstown Area Regional Recreation Committee will be conducting interviews for the available Regional Recreation Coordinator position on March 19.

**BOARD COMMENTS**

**SUNSET PARK** - G. Churach said that we thought that Sunset Park was complete, but then received a list from Michael Lane of items still needed. G. Churach will check to see if “Do Not Use” signs are posted on the Park’s fence.

**FOX HILL TRAIL** - G. Churach said that we may have to buy an easement for Fox Hill Trail and do this before any work gets done on the Trail.

**INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND** - C. Note reported that the playground committee will be able to accept donations soon. They are also reviewing a proposal from various consultants to create a master plan. C. Note said that we are 6-8 weeks away from going public with a press release on the inclusive playground.

**FUNDS** - D. Elliott asked if the OS&RB could work out some monies coming from estate planning and that Amazon/Smile.com identifies non-profits to receive funds.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**SUNSET PARK TREE CUTTING** – M. Reddick informed the OS&RB that she would be sending a warning letter to the resident who illegally cut trees at Sunset Park. The board then decided to delineate township property at the resident’s border with nylon rope on 4x4 posts and our standard “residential private property beyond” signs to eliminate any future conflict. The warning letter could include the property lines delineation. G Churach will investigate what materials we need and then we could put them on the Public Works list. He would like the police department there when Public Works does the job. “Catch & Release” signs will also be posted at the Sunset Pond.

**PROUT FARM LOOP TRAIL** - C. Note gave an update on Prout Farm Trail. M. Reddick said that the Board of Commissioners approved the OS&RB’s recommendation on the changes to the Trail. She also noted that it would not affect the straightening of Moyer Road. In reference to a recommendation of G. Churach, M. Reddick noted the contribution cannot be changed as the Board of Commissioners already approved a \$5,000 contribution.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – None.

**ADJOURNMENT** – Motion by D. Elliott, second by C. Note, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherri Griffith,  
Planning & Zoning Administrative Assistant