

A meeting of the Open Space Park and Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, May 4, 2021. Those present were Greg Churach, Charles Note, Sherry Paup, Dennis Elliot, and Scott Wagner. Also present were Tricia McCloskey and Township Manager Michelle Reddick. Commissioner Cathy Paretti was also present in the audience.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS – None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Motion by C. Note, second by D. Elliot and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of March 2, 2021 as presented. S. Wagner abstained as he was not present at that meeting. Motion by C. Note, second by D. Elliot and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of March 17, 2021, as amended. Motion by S. Wagner, second by D. Elliot and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the April 6, 2021 as presented.

GREEN ALLIES – K. Hamilton provided members with a copy of the report below.

Update:

1. Publicly want to thank Upper Pottsgrove Fire Police for their amazing work at our Community Recycling Day on April 10th. at the Pottsgrove Middle School. We had over 600 cars attend. Collected approximately 37,000 lbs of electronics and 10,200 lbs of metal. We also had to cut the line off for paper shredding because we filled the truck early!
2. We repaired, widened, and created better drainage (to reduce further washout) of the trail leading from the parking area to Sprogels Run Trail. We also fixed (and slightly expanded) the parking lot. Thank you, Greg Churach, for your assistance in getting this project done.
3. Volunteers planted 40 more trees in areas cleared from the removal of Ash Trees. We are in the process of completing our spring repair of all our trails. Map is delayed but will be coming soon.

Coming Up:

1. Native Plant Sale Saturday, May 8th 9am to 1pm We have prepared over 1,000 plants for the sale.
2. Wellness Week: A week of activities to promote health and wellness (most all FREE) for the community to get outside. See poster for the list of events.
3. Farmers Market begins the 4th Friday in May from 4-7pm. It will continue every 2nd and 4th Friday of the month through the end of September. We are planning to add some events/activities for visitors.

Requests for approval: None at this time.

PARRC - C. Paretti provided members with the information below.

**PARRC Report to Open Space Committee
May 4, 2021**

1. Meetings

PARRC has been meeting via Zoom and continues working on our reorganization.

2. Sub-Committees

- a. There will be a need for subcommittees, and we will draw upon our alternates along with other volunteers to help..

3. Grant Announcements

- a. Grants will be opening for PMRPC, PAHWF, and Schuylkill Highlands.
- b. LOI will be needed for each grant.
- c. Some of these grants will need shovel-ready projects.
- d. The issue with PMRPC is at our PARRC meeting when Marley Bice found out that Fox Hill not only has not been started but does not have a start date set, she was a bit taken aback because this grant was awarded in 2019. This does not look good for us when asking for another grant. This work needs to be scheduled and finished in a timely manner.

4. PARRC Letter of support

- a. When we apply for a grant we can ask PARRC for a letter of support for the project. We just agreed to sign a letter for Pottstown Borough seeking funds for the replacement of the bridge in Memorial Park that was taken out by the storm in July 2019. This is a DCED grant.

5. Patricia McCloskey

- a. Patricia started her coordinator position in April and just spent 2 weeks with Michael Lane getting the lay of the land. She intends to attend our OSR meeting to meet with all the board members and intends to meet with commissioners.
- b. One of her initiatives is to get more information out to the public with the PARRC website and on the PARRC Facebook page. She is open to any suggestions that we may have to promote our open space and trails.

I have attached an outline of the grants that all the 7 townships have ongoing and completed.

Submitted by Cathy Paretti

C. Paretti provided information from Sen. Mensch's office regarding Greenways Grant Program. D. Elliot questioned why the Sussell Park grant was denied. K. Hamilton submitted the paperwork, but they never received it. He has proof he sent it in. He will make it a priority to reach back out regarding the grant.

T. McCloskey spoke about getting more information out to the public as mentioned above in the PARRC Report. She also mentioned posting events & photos on accomplishments & things happening. G. Churach wasn't sure if there was a link on the park website to Open Space. Cathy thinks there is one. T. McCloskey would love to see photographs of trails being built and park improvements for the public to see. G. Churach said he would add the PARRC link to the Facebook page. G. Churach questioned about the Greenways, Trails & Recreation Program (GTRP) and wondered if it had a list like Michael Lane's tentative grant calendar. C. Paretti will email everyone that information. D. Elliot questioned if we are part of the Schuylkill Highlands Watershed. K. Hamilton said the entire Township is. D. Elliot asked what effects it would have

on future development. K. Hamilton said none, the watershed is just land with common drainage that ends up in the river.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Discuss moving trail sensors to new locations suggested by M. Lane.** The Board agreed to have the sensors moved. P. McCloskey mentioned that M. Lane recommended capturing the data one more time before removing them. She plans to do this in June, before the June Park meeting.
- B. **Discuss “Please catch & Release” signs at Sunset & Sussell Park ponds.** All agreed to have signed installed.
- C. **Discuss Heather Place Park repairs** ~ Trash cans need lids & bags, nets need to be replaced on the hoops, support poles need to be painted, the crack in court needs to be sealed, 2 charcoal grills are unusable. There are broken cover plates on the receptacles in the pavilion. Weeds in the play area, vines growing in the Evergreen Trees near the Memorial and 3 dead trees need to be removed. With the Boards permission, this will be the Public Works list-to-do for next month.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. **Status of Prout Farm Loop Trail** ~ M. Reddick sent a draft email for Mr. Mingey to the solicitor for review.
- B. **Status of Gilbertsville Road Trail Crossing** ~ No update
- C. **Status of Sunset park punch list repairs** ~ Public Works handled final repairs this week; need to add stone & trench.
- D. **Status of requested PW repairs from April** ~ All completed
- E. **Update on Pottsgrove Inclusive Playground** ~ C. Note said this is moving quickly & meeting every week with lawyer (pro bono) to do a 501.C.3. Hope this will be completed by June. There was a discussion about co-stars (or public) bids for structures. M. Reddick is to inquire with the solicitor & send an email to C. Note with a response. There was a discussion about putting a sign at the field once we go public with the bid. Landscape Structures, Inc., is to complete the design. The Open Space & Rec board invited T. McCloskey to the next meeting with the designer. The final conceptual plan is to be presented in a few months. G. Churach said the playground is only part of the overall master plan. S. Wagner questioned if funding is only for the playground, would they be able to move forward with other improvements? C. Note said the township would need to move forward with improvements if there are not any extra funds.
- F. **Discuss Sunset Pond cleanup** ~ This cannot be completed without Public Works. G. Churach advised that it cannot be on a weekend due to OT for Public Works. G. Churach, D. Elliot, and S. Wagner agreed to a tentative date of May 21, 2021, with J. Bean and J. Alessi.
- G. **Discussed revised mowing classification document** ~ G. Churach revised the mowing plan. M. Reddick & G. Churach decided to notify Publics Work not to mow the triangular piece at Hollenbach Park.

S. Wagner said the strip along the road and the adjoining property need to be mowed. Motion by C. Note, second by S. Wagner and unanimously carried to recommend to the BOC for approval of the revised mowing plan.

BOARD COMMENTS – S. Wagner applauded Public Works for completing the list of repairs. We should be more proactive when it comes to open space maintenance in the future.

G. Churach said that the Eagle Scout Project for the bridge over Goose Run is no longer a go. Public Works fixed the existing bridge. 3 bridges need fixing. 1 at Goose Run & 2 at Sussell Park (over the creek). No open space has been weed-whacked. It was suggested that it be done every other time or as needed.

Trail Ambassador Program ~ G. Churach will ask Linda to send him all information, so he can solicit volunteers. T. McCloskey suggested putting this on the Facebook page for PARRC for volunteers. C. Note came across a commercial being filmed in our park. S. Paup suggested using wood chips from trees from Heather Place Park for the Goose Run Trail.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – The Board convened in Execution Session at 8:20 pm to discuss real estate. The Board reconvened at 8:25 pm with no decisions being made.

ADJOURNMENT – Motion by C. Note, second by S. Paup, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sherri Griffith
Planning & Zoning Administration Assistant