

A meeting of the Open Space and Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, March 1, 2022. Those present were Greg Churach, Charles Note, Dennis Elliot, Sherry Paup, and Gary Novack. Also present was Commissioner Cathy Paretti in the audience.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM January 4 & February 1, 2022 – Motion by D. Elliot, second by C. Note, for approval on January 4th minutes. Motion by C. Note, second by D. Elliot for approval on February 1st minutes, and unanimously carried to approve the minutes as presented. All ayes.

REPORTS

A. Green Allies ~ Ken Hamilton's Report:

Update:

Two large Ash Trees were cut and removed. Still have large sections in parking lot
Starting week of March 14th, we will have a part-time intern who will begin wood chipping the trails. Also, we begin farm prep and planting at the farm.

Volunteer Coffee: Saturday, March 19th 10am

- For community members
- Introduction to GreenAllies and the Althouse Arboretum
- Provide information about volunteering opportunities and other ways to get involved.

Volunteer Website: GreenAllies has developed a volunteer website for community members to learn about volunteer opportunities and to sign up to help. It is an entire volunteer management site and free to any organization in the Pottstown region. (greenallies.galaxydigital.com)

Electronics and More Recycling Day: April 2nd 9am to 1pm at Pottsgrove Middle School for collecting all electronics, air conditioners/dehumidifiers, all types of metal and adding Paper Shredding.

Forest Easter Egg Hunt (A community favorite!) Saturday, April 9th 10am to 2pm Come anytime. Hike the trails to find eggs and prizes, games, crafts and food.

Also coming up in April: Bird walk with past Audubon president (16th) and Bee Keeping for Beginners Workshop (23rd)

For Your Consideration:

Students began planning for First Friday Community Days this Summer. Dates: June 3, July 1, Aug 5, Sept 2

Theme: Healthy and Sustainable Families: June: Growing gardens/plants July: Cooking and eating Aug: Pets Sept: Healthy Harvest.

Summer Camp Registration opened up on February 2nd and sold out by February 6th.

B. PAARC ~ Cathy Paretti's Report:

PARRC Report to Open Space Committee

1. Greg attended the Feb 23rd meeting with me.
2. We will be updating the PARRC agreement with the 7 municipalities for renewal for year starting 2024. Of course, now we will have to increase the yearly obligation. It is important that our Open Space Board advocates for this to be renewed. A list and presentation of all the benefits that is received from this organization to be presented to the BOC would be best.
3. Events committee for PARRC is wanting to plan clean up events in all 7 townships to promote PARRC and what we do. These events would not happen on the same day but scattered throughout the spring, summer and fall. To add interest some sort of activity could be scheduled along with it. Greg suggested that a Fish Rodeo might be a **good idea** at Sunset Park.

4. Please send Tricia any "news and Pies" about our parks and open space to her so she can include it in newsletter or post on Facebook.

I am a board member of the Pottsgrove Recreation Board. This board provides recreation activities for Upper, Lower, and West Pottsgrove for adults and children. Some activities are adult volleyball and bowling, adult sewing classes, children swimming, summer playground and we have a community band that will be resuming practice and performances this year. The website is www.pottsgroverec.com and they also have a Facebook page.

C. Inclusive Playground ~ C. Note mentioned the 1st fundraiser was a success. They are in the process of bringing on a volunteer to assist with more fundraisers who has been doing it for many years, it's all she does and has a heart for it.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Discuss use of PSD student volunteers (15 to 20) on May 17, from 12pm to 5pm:** M. Reddick suggested using them at the playground, repaint park signposts and spread mulch. C. Note recommended cutting back on trails.
- B. Discuss expanding archery hunt area:** D. Elliot would like to expand the area and add Mocharniuk Meadows (next to Hollenbach). The Open Space Board all agreed to add that area to the archery hunting area map.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Status of Gilbertsville Road Trail Crossing:** S. Griffith stated she is waiting for Pete from LTL Consultants to gather a couple different price scenarios to approach the Board of Commissioners with.
- B. Discuss Sure Catch Pond cleanup:** G. Churach recommends waiting till it gets nicer out. He asked M. Reddick to schedule the Public Works crew to start sometime in April.
- C. Discuss report of conditions at Kulp Field:** Representatives of PPL & PBO were present and discussed conditions & responsibilities at the field. It was decided UPT owns the press box and dugouts and will perform structural repairs as required. Baseball groups will perform normal "wear and tear" maintenance on the fields and structures. G. Churach asked to be notified when their down there so he can check out what's in the shed and look into the electric. M. Reddick requested them to send the signed agreement for this year and then send over the markup copy of any changes for next year.

CHAIR REPORT –

Sussell Park was awarded PECO Green region grant of \$5500.00.
Trees have been cut along Pine Ford Road for installation of powerlines for Kummerer.
Started logging complaints of dead ash trees on UPT property for removal.
Montgomery County has implemented website to disperse Pandemic Recovery Funds.

BOARD COMMENTS – D. Elliot made a comment on a good job on getting grant. G. Churach said we can thank Tricia from PARRC for working hard on getting the grant.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Mark & Eric Clayton, president of Pottsgrove Future Falcons expressed their need for more football fields. They have about 350 children from K to 6th grade

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interested in playing and have outgrown the PGSD Fields. Minimum requirement would be 1.3 acres per field plus parking for 150-200 cars. The board agreed to include the space requirements to the list of possible improvements in the Hollenbach Park Master Plan.

ADJOURNMENT – Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sherri Griffith
Planning & Zoning Administrator