

A meeting of the Open Space and Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, November 14, 2023. Those present were Greg Churach, Chuck Note, Sherry Paup, Gary Novack and Mark McKinnie. Also present was Township Manager Michelle Reddick. There were no members of the public in the audience.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM October 10, 2023 – Motion by G. Novack, second by M. McKinnie, and unanimously carried to approve the October 10, 2023, minutes after correcting the spelling of Mark McKinnie’s last name.

REPORTS

A. Green Allies ~ Ken reported was unable to attend.

Haunted Woods: 213 people attended.

Family Night Hike: 830 people attended over two nights.

G. Churach was wondering if Parent Night was approved by the BOC and suggested that the Township Manager should have been notified.

B. PARRC ~ C. Paretti provided a report below.

PARRC Report for Open Space November 14, 2023

- The Sept. 27, 2023 meeting of PARRC was a truncated meeting due to a presentation by Deborah Veeren on DEi (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) best practices. There was a follow up session at the October 25th meeting.
- PARRC now officially has a non-profit, PARRC Foundation. This is a separate organization from PARRC. Now people can now make tax deductible donations to PARRC to be used to fund the organization outside of the municipal payment from the members. The board members of PARRC are the board members of the Foundation. There will be a press release in the near future for the Foundation.
- At the October meeting the resolution for PARRC was approved and Upper Pottsgrove is now in an agreement with PARRC from 2024 to 2028.
- There are plans to organize a spring event of Empower Your Parks. A date will be announced.
- If you are on Facebook, please look for Pottstown Area Regional Recreation Committee (PARRC) and like the page. Also go to the website - parrc.net - where you can look to see what is going on in the 8 municipalities that are PARRC members and sign up for the newsletter.
- Our next meeting is Nov. 15th where we will be discussing the park planner and assistant performance.
Submitted by Cathy Paretti

C. Chair ~ G. Churach presented a report below:

1. Public Works utilized labor from MCCF to install the stone shoulder on the paved section of the Sprogel's Run Trail. This was completed last week. The same crew was used to pick up trash along West Moyer Road visible after the annual grass cutting.
2. There have been many requests to join our Face Book page in the last few weeks.
3. We have signed the Agreement of Sale for the Kehl property. The house and all outbuildings need to be demolished before settlement, but the garage is allowed to stay.
4. It has been brought to my attention that a person is using bright headlights to walk their dogs through the Arboretum after dark.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Discuss naming of and signage for new parking area on Schwenk Property: G. Churach proposed Schwenk Woods & provide sketch of sign. G. Note expressed concern about proximity of sign to road. G. Churach, would like to get small signs for Sussell Park & Sprogel’s Run Trail. All agreed to table the naming & location of signs until the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Discuss proposed memorial bench policy:** C. Note made a motion, G. Novack second the motion and unanimously carried to recommend to the BOC for approval of bench policy with change to #3.
- B. Discuss/updates to wish list from 2020:** G. Churach provided updates & asked members to review over the next couple months with a possible decision in January 2024.
- C. Awaiting approval of Gilbertsville Road grant (12/30/2023).**

BOARD COMMENTS – None

PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Not Needed

ADJOURNMENT – Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sherri Griffith
Planning & Zoning Administrator