

A meeting of the Open Space and Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, March 12, 2024. Those present were Greg Churach, Chuck Note, Sherry Paup, Gary Novack and Mark McKinnie. Also present, Township Manager Michelle Reddick and Planning & Zoning Administrative Assistant Sherri Griffith.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM February 13, 2024** – Motion by C. Note, second by S. Paup, and unanimously carried to approve the February 13, 2024 minutes as presented.

### **REPORTS**

#### **A. Green Allies ~**

##### **Coming Up:**

1. Electronics Recycling, Saturday March 16th at Hillside Aquatic Club.
2. Annual Forest Easter Egg Hunt for Families. Saturday, March 23d Come anytime between 10am and 1pm.
3. April 7th 8:30 am. Bird walk with Valley Forge Audubon Society president Vince Smith.

##### **Updates:**

1. On Saturday, March 2nd we hosted a high school student conference at Montgomery County Community College for high school students from across SE PA. We had 73 participants. It was a "zero waste event". One of the workshops focused on creating an outdoor space for the community using the Althouse Arboretum as a model.
2. Green Allies and the Althouse Arboretum have been selected as Pennsylvania's Outstanding Environmental Education Program. On Monday, March 18th we will be traveling to northeastern PA for an awards dinner with the Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Educators to accept the award.
3. Citizen's Science Project underway. Originally planned almost seven years ago, this project has visitors taking pictures at a specific location. After one year, a video will be made from the pictures showing how the Althouse Arboretum changes over time.

#### **B. PARRC ~ M. McKinnie provided report below.**

##### **PARRC Meeting:**

1. PARRC Reorganization: Treasurer: C. Paretto Approved as Volunteer & Non-Voting Member
2. Events Subcommittee: Spring Empower Your Park Event: E.g. Pigeon Creek Clean-Up. Discussion of America 250 Program
3. Montgomery County Planner: PMRPC Mini-Grants: All Grants Approved
4. Planner Report: Working on Numerous Grant Applications
5. Pottstown Area Health & Wellness Foundation: C. Colistra one of the committee members responsible for preparation of the following study: Growing Outdoor Recreation in Pennsylvania Report: See Attachment: The study concluded that the outdoor recreation sector accounted for \$17 billion of the GDP for Pennsylvania. Report created the vision for the new Pennsylvania Office of Outdoor Recreation.
6. Next Meeting Mar. 27, 2024

PARRC Foundation:

1. Reviewed Finances & Discussion on: On-Line Donations
2. Discussion of Level-Up Program Ran by TCN

Submitted by: Mark McKinnie Open Space & Recreation Board Member

**C. Chair ~**

1. Perkiomen Stream Cleanup by Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy at Sunset Park 4/13/2024 from 9 to 12.
2. Handicap painting complete on Schwenk Road Lot.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Discuss adding address signage to all Township Parks:** Office Guldin recommended installing address signs at the parks just in case someone should need medical assistance or fire department. C. Note asked if we had addresses for all the parks? G. Churach said all but 2 have addresses. S. Griffith is working on getting the addresses for the two we don't have. Motion by C. Note, second by S. Paup, and unanimously carried to approve to add addresses to the signs.
- B. Discuss plans for 2024 Community Day:** A motion by G. Novack, second by S. Paup and unanimously carried to approve the Heather Place Pavilion reservation application for Hopewell Community Church Community Day on September 28, 2024.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Discuss revisions to Prout Farm Garden sign by Tower Health:** The board discussed revisions to the signs. A motion by C. Note, second by S. Paup and unanimously carried to recommend to the BOC for approval.
- B. Discuss Green Allies plans for the Kehl Property:** Motion by C. Note, second by M. McKinnie, and unanimously carried to approve the current plan to BOC to approve the plan as it's presented.
- C. Note ~ No parking at all in meadow, and make sure when greenhouse is installed, it's done properly & has a stone foundation.
- G. Novack ~ wanted to confirm that plan doesn't include modified stone, it'll be left natural. K. Hamilton said yes, and it would only be a couple times a year.
- C. Note asked how it will be handled for mowing. G. Churach said once or twice a year unless needed otherwise. He also said if things need to be revisited later that can be done.
- K. Hamilton stated that it will need to be mowed soon due to summer camp starting.
- C. Discuss letter of support for Green Allies classroom building:** Agreed to submit a letter of support to the Township Manager.
- D. Discuss proposed revisions to Open Space signage in areas open to hunting:** The board discussed proposed revisions to open space signage in areas that are open to hunting.
- Motion by M. McKinnie, second by S. Paup, and unanimously carried to approve the sign as presented.

- E. Discuss Signage for Dogs off-leash concerns:** The board discussed new signage wording. Motion by C. Note, second by S. Paup, and unanimously carried to approve dog off leash signage.
- F. Discuss signage for the new Pine Ford Road parking area:** Discussed signage for the new Pineford Road parking area. Motion by G. Novack, second by M. McKinnie, and unanimously carried to approve verbiage on the new sign.

**BOARD COMMENTS** – C. Note walked another park & it had a small bicycle course on the basketball court. He saw kids riding the course with big wheels and bicycles following the trail.

S. Paup, stated she recently got her mail stolen and the police department told her that people are hitting mailboxes and looking for gift cards and cash.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** – None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – 7:55 pm to discuss real estate with no action to follow.

**ADJOURNMENT** – Meeting was adjourned at 8:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sherri Griffith  
Planning & Zoning Administrator