

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 March 12, 2024** – Motion by C. Note, second by M. McKinnie, and unanimously carried to approve the March 12, 2024 minutes as presented.

## **REPORTS**

### **A. Green Allies** ~ Ken Hamilton, Executive Director, GreenAllies report

#### **Althouse Arboretum Event Update:**

#### **APRIL**

- 7 Bird Walk 8:30am
- 10 Tree Work w/crane near parking lot
- 11 Tree Planting 3-Spm
- 12 Creative Health Program w/ clients 1-3pm
- 12 Parents Night Out 5pm
- 14 Community Volunteer Day 12-3pm
- 16 Homeschool Group Program and Work 11am-3pm
- 19 Boyertown Senior High School Classes (All day)
- 20 Spring Fest Event 11am - 2pm
- 27 Trinity EC Church Serve Day

#### **MAY**

- 1 Alliance Schools volunteer day (AM: Farm, PM: Arboretum plants)
- 4 Community Planting Day at the Farm AM
- 10 Tower Health Planting Day at Farm (1pm)
- 11 Native Plant Sale 9- and Hiking Group 10AM

Also, every Monday and Tuesday morning we have the Delphi Group, an organization working with autistic adults, come in to help with a section of the arboretum.

**PERMISSION REQUEST:** We would like to request the use of the land for our Student Leadership Training Program. This is an overnight campout at the Althouse Arboretum. Students arrive 3pm on Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup> and leave by 11am on Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>.

Motion by G. Novack, second by M. McKinnie, and unanimously carried to recommend to the Board of Commissioners to grant permission for overnight campout on May 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **B. PARRC** ~ PARRC Meeting: Submitted by: Mark McKinnie ~ OS&R Board Member

1. Treasurer is preparing Municipal Invoices for 2025
2. Subcommittees: Mark McKinnie has joined the Financial Sustainability Subcommittee
3. Montgomery County Planner: 20 acres Renninger Farm was preserved in Douglass Twp. County is working on it's Vision Zero Plan to reduce pedestrian and cyclist deaths.
4. Chester County Planner: County hosting an HOA Sustainability Seminar April 30<sup>th</sup> at Intermediate Unit in Downingtown
5. Planner Report: Working on Numerous Grant Applications
6. Old Business: Adoption of revised PARRC Procedures – Approved

7. New Business: Group discussion on Trail Easements & Licenses
8. Next Meeting Apr. 24, 2024

**PARRC Foundation:**

1. Reviewed Finances & Discussion on a recent donation from Yeck Foundation – suggestion made to send “Thank you Letters” from the Townships
2. On-Line Donations are up and running on PARRC.net
3. Discussion on fundraising event

**C. Chair ~ G. Churach submitted report below.**

1. The amount of DCNR grant application is \$ 62,000. Preliminary results of the survey allow us to eliminate a bridge on the walking trail and use a culvert instead.
2. The Schwenk family was approached and informed we would like a “family history” of the property we purchased from them. We also let them know we would be naming the property after their family, and that other families have contributed towards the costs of the signage for land we purchased from them. We have not received a response.
2. Green Allies and PAARC are sponsoring a cleanup on the Kehl property on April 14 from noon to 3 pm. Please bring work gloves. Light refreshments will be provided. All are welcome. I will be attending.
3. Volunteers from MCCF have been removing litter from route 100 over the past few weeks. They have completed the entire length of the road from the border with Douglass Twp to the north, and Pottstown Borough in the South. Their next project will be helping to paint the structures at Kulp Field, in conjunction with the PGLL. Thanks to Chad for coordinating this endeavor.
4. UPT closed on the Gilbertsville Road property on April 2. A contractor was hired to fix the leaking in the roof. Further evaluation of the property will happen over the coming months.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Discuss signage for the Kehl Property:** All members agreed to naming it Kehl Meadow.
- B. Discuss sending a thank you letter to David Yeck for his \$10,000 donation:**  
Motion by M. McKinnie, second by C. Note, and unanimously carried to recommend to the Board of Commissioners to send the letter to Mr. Yeck.
- C. Discuss parks rules signage:** All members agreed to keep all the signs the same throughout all the parks. C. Note recommends looking for a small grant for all the signs. G. Churach said he would work with Trish to look into grants.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Discuss pursuing a new grant opportunity for the Gilbertsville Road crosswalk:**  
Motion by S. Paup, second by C. Note, and unanimously carried to recommend to the Board of Commissioners to apply for the DCED Grant.

**Minutes of the Upper Pottsgrove Township  
Open Space and Recreation Board**

**April 9, 2024**

**BOARD COMMENTS** – G. Novack asked about the hunting areas. G. Churach stated he will be adding that to next month’s agenda to discuss.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** – None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – The Board convened in Execution Session at 7:49 pm to discuss real estate. The Board reconvened at 7:59 pm and took no action.

**ADJOURNMENT** – Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sherri Griffith  
Planning & Zoning Administrator