

A meeting of the Open Space and Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, August 13, 2024. Those present were Greg Churach, Sherry Paup, Gary Novack and Mark McKinnie. Also present, Township Manager Michelle Reddick.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM June 11, 2024** – Motion by M. McKinnie, second by S. Paup and unanimously carried to approve the June 11, 2024, minutes as presented.

## **REPORTS**

**A. Green Allies** ~ K. Hamilton wasn't present but gave a report.

### **UPDATES**

1. Summer Camps end August 9th. Eight weeks of camp and one week of C2 (Community Camp) at the Althouse Arboretum. Over 300 kids.
2. Greenhouse built on edge of Kehl meadow. Will be ready for use next spring. Solar powered generator purchased and ready for connection. Panels are 2ft by 4ft.
3. Buses on Kehl property have been cleaned and primed (brown primer to blend in). Waiting for National Art Honor Society from Pottsgrove HS to submit plans for painting.

### **APPROVALS:**

There are no special programs throughout the month of August.

### **UPCOMING:**

September

1. **PA Fig Festival**. We would like to host this event on September 7th. Vendors, food and workshops are part of this first-ever event.
2. **Youth Empowerment Day** September 19th 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM Students from across the region come together with 12-20 local nonprofits to learn about volunteer opportunities and programs.
3. **TriCounty Chamber of Commerce** annual visit by the Leadership Team for "Teambuilding Program", September 20th
4. **Leadership Training Campout** (Postponed from May) Will be rescheduled for mid-late September. TBD. It will take place starting on a Saturday afternoon and end Sunday morning.

**B. PARRC** ~ Report submitted by Mark McKinnie:

### **June's PARRC Meeting:**

1. Treasurer Report: Reviewed Report
2. Subcommittees:
  - a. Events: Discussion of Mini Golf Tournament in fall.
  - b. Financial Sustainability: Working on cost Projections for Part-time Recreation Planner position into a Full-time position
3. Montgomery County Planner: Discussion of Open Grants - PMRPC survey to update the regional comprehensive plan.
4. Chester County Planner: 2024 Towns & Villages Tour Program: Aug. 8<sup>th</sup> Coventry Woods Preserve
5. Planner Report: Reviewed Grants in Process – Working on Story Map is underway.
6. Old Business: Continued Discussion on E-Bike Policies
7. New Business: We Conserve PA – Healthy Outdoors for All Program (HOAP). One-time injection of between \$80 to \$100 million dollars into the state budget for park, trail and recreation improvements

projects into the 2024-2025 state budget. Discussion of form letter to be sent to each municipality's state legislators supporting this budget item.

8. Next Meeting: July 24, 2024

**PARRC Foundation:**

1. Reviewed Finances
2. Old Business: On-line Donations-subaccount with Diamond Credit Union
3. New Business: North End Swim Club Request

**July's PARRC Meeting:**

9. Treasurer Report: Reviewed Report – All Municipalities have paid their share PARRC
10. Subcommittees:
  - a. Events: Mini Golf Tournament potential date is October 12, 2024.
  - b. Financial Sustainability: To be discussed at next meeting: Cost Projections for Full-time position Planner Assistant, currently Part-time
11. Montgomery County Planner: MontCo 2050 Comprehensive Plan update is underway
12. Chester County Planner: Discussion of Mini Grants available for Townships within Chester Co.
13. Planner Report: Reviewed Quarterly Report: \$116,533 funding received and \$865,388 was requested. Planer's time working on UPT related items totaled: 8.3% for the quarter
14. Old Business: None
15. New Business:
  - a. Nature Based Placemaking Project will be underway soon. This project identifies ways to increase economic development based on a place's major recreation assets.
  - b. Discussion on updating the PARRC logo and developing a logo for the Foundation. Project is underway
16. Next Meeting: Aug. 28, 2024

**PARRC Foundation:**

4. Reviewed Finances
5. Old Business: Approval was given to set up a On-line Donations account with Diamond Credit Union
6. New Business: Funding request status of Yeck funds

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

1. The Kehl Meadows sign has been installed.
2. The BOC approved an agreement to allow rent free farming on several properties in exchange for mowing maintenance.
3. There is a nice article on the Parrc website highlighting the Kehl property and the new Sussell parking lot.
4. Our PW department demolished the garage at 2290 Gilbertsville Road. Several large bushes and a dilapidated wood fence were also removed.
5. The plan to resubmit the denied Foundation grant for the trail connection study has been derailed due to the fall round being cancelled for lack of funds. I will meet with Tricia, Al Gryga, and the Foundation to describe the importance of this study, and hopefully secure funding for spring 2025. We will also discuss the possibility of a retroactive reimbursement so we could start the study sooner.

6. I encountered my first E-Bike on the paved portion of the SR trail. It was going much faster than a regular bike.
7. The portion of the Falcon trail on PGSD property has been installed. UPT will install signage when the connection is made to Hollenbach Park.
8. We have a signed agreement of sale for the Stuart property. There will be a public hearing regarding the purchase at the BOC meeting on August 19.
9. The fence at Kulp field was damaged by a falling tree during the storm over the weekend.
10. Old Mickletz road will be widened and repaved this week.
11. Chad's last day will be August 23.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Discuss replacing faded “Residential Private Property” signs:** All the board members agreed to sticking with the maroon signs.
- B. Discuss projects that qualify for the fall DCED Grant round:** This grant would best be used for larger projects of park infrastructure, and they would need to be shovel ready. Projects that would qualify are installation of bridges over Sprogel's Run at trail crossings in 5 locations and dredging and lining of Sussell Park pond.
- C. Discuss closing the existing Sussell Park Parking lot:** Discussed closing the lot but keeping the trash can there. Access would be maintained for maintenance vehicles. The Board agreed to close it, subject to the Board of Commissioners review.
- D. Discuss proposal to research the deed for 2290 Gilbertsville Rd:** Table for future review & resume discussion next month.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**A. None**

**BOARD COMMENTS** – G. Churach, re: Green Allies report mentioned Leadership Training Campout, it's already been approved. S. Paup asked if they were having the Gala and G. Churach said yes, at the Carousel on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. The tickets are \$40.00.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** – None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – None

**ADJOURNMENT** – Meeting was adjourned at 7:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sherri Griffith  
Planning & Zoning Administrator