

Parks and Recreation Board (PRB) Minutes

11 July 2016

1. Attendance

PRB Members Present: Sue Ziegler (Chairperson), Doug Litzenberger (Vice Chairperson), Frank Hollenbach (Recording Secretary), Bill Ryker, Sandy Rice.

Also present: Michael Brown (Township Manager).

2. Call to Order - Chairperson Ziegler called the meeting to order.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Minutes

Ms. Rice had provided the approved minutes for the 5/8/16 PRB meeting to the Township.

Mr. Hollenbach reported he is working on the April and June minutes.

5. Financial Report

Ms. Ziegler reported there would be some funds required to close out the NPDES permit. Mr. Brown provided a hardcopy of the PRB spending to date from General funds (\$25 2016 County Recreation Council, \$32.85 PA system, \$350 rental tent, \$100 madrigals, \$50 4H, \$130 portable sanitation, -\$10 4H donation) and Open Space funds (\$1,745 for sign).

6. Township Manager Report

Mr. Brown reported that he is getting closer to closing out the NPDES permits. He noted that hay yield at the park was double last year and deferred discussion since the farmer, Anthony Renner was present.

7. PRB Chair Updates

Ms. Ziegler mentioned that Community Day participation by the PRB is expected and that she is working with Ms. Rice on a sign for the PRB booth.

Ms. Ziegler questioned tracks in the park over the 4th of July weekend. Mr. Litzenberger reported the tracks were related to EAC volunteer activity on the 4th.

Ms. Ziegler mentioned there was an update email on the County plans for the rail trail. How would the County address maintenance? Ms. Bedics had reported the state was going to do mitigation for runoff at the Springfield Street bridge project.

Mr. Brown had provided an email that reported there was a joint conference call with Richland, Richland Solicitor, SEPTA and Springfield. SEPTA provided a letter with a framework for the lease. Solicitor reported there was nothing alarming in the lease wording. SEPTA was asking the municipality for maintenance of the entire Right of Way (RoW) vs. just the

walk able trail portion. There was discussion that the topic would be an item on the 7/26/16 BoS meeting. The County is committing to funding the construction costs.

8. Public Comments

The Hay Farmer, Anthony Renner, was in attendance. He mentioned that the yield was doubled. Last year, the field provided 60 bales in one cutting. This year, the field provided 119 bales in one cutting. He mentioned he needs to apply potash and is asking about his weeks notice. He also would like to apply herbicide again. He mentioned using "Banvel" in addition to 24-D between the hay cuttings. He provided an MSDS sheet on Banvel to the PRB. It was clarified that the MSDS would reside with the township and Mr. Brown would add the QRC code on a posted sign at the park. There was discussion of a need for a 2 week window to be posted to allow ample public notice and flexibility for the farmer to apply product.

Mr. Nilsen mentioned that while he was cutting, an active wild turkey nest was found on the hilltop. He raised the blade level so that a patch of tall grass remains surrounding the nest. Mr. Nilsen mentioned he is looking to get USA and Penn State Extension participation in Community Day.

9. Eagle Project in the Park

Mr. Zack Boyd made a presentation on his BSA Eagle project in the park. He provided before and after photo sheets for the PRB to review. He talked about his project and provided a hardcopy of the write up for his final proposal. He mentioned that the effort included 199.5 volunteer hours. He presented a writeup on the signs in the woodlot indentifying the type of wood used, the font, etc. Mr. Ryker asked Mr. Boyd for suggestions on how the PRB could improve working with volunteers. The PRB approved the project and thanked Mr. Boyd for his dedication and efforts. Mr. Brown provided official approval on the Project application form.

10. PRB Budget Presentation

Mr. Litzenberger led discussion on items for the budget including park benches, a rail trail head, signage, etc. The PRB noted that a fair amount of next year's approach may depend on the OSC direction. Discussion over the Fuller preserve, the Lime Kiln property, and interaction with the Historical Society. Mr. Hollenbach mentioned he would speak with Tom Cline, Historic Society president about Lime Kiln photos.

11. Park Benches

Ms. Rice led discussion on park benches. She had spoken with vendor Patterson Williams who quoted ~\$1,400 for an 8foot bench. Mr. Brown will see if Patterson Williams is a PA COSTARS registered state supplier. There was discussion about possible placement of benches including one at the top of the hill, two on the paved path loop, and possibly another two spots midway along the hill trail. PRB will check out benches at Southern Lehigh park and the Rail Trail. Another item to look out and consider will be the installation of the benches.

12. Branding

Mr. Ryker led discussion on branding and how thee should be a larger vision for the Township. PRB is to take an best effort example back to the BoS. Discussion over items that might be candidates including: town watch signs, park signs, township signs, road signs, website, etc. Identify if the item is expected to change in the near future or not to

understand opportunities for converging on a brand. The example would provide a vision to address including colors, fonts, etc. Additionally, address a materials list for the park for current and future items to allow a common theme.

13. Trail Updates

Mr. Hollenbach mentioned that Mr. Brown had sent out an email with discussion of the telecom with Richland and SEPTA and that PRB had discussed earlier in the meeting. Mr. Hollenbach provided a high level summary of meeting notes from the most recent PHTN meeting including: the Ringing Rocks trail and progress on a County parking lot; Quakertown trail and signage; the Tohickon (Upper Bucks) Rail Trail status; Tollgate Landing portion of trail, a video by Quakertown High School students concerning the trail network.

The student discussion led to discussion of status of the Palisades Volunteer Agency application by the township. Mr. Ryker will work with Mr. Brown on the application.

The next PHTN meeting will be on 8/29/16 at Springfield Township.

14. PRB Comment

Mr. Ryker mentioned 4H Club volunteer efforts at Passer Community Center.

Mr. Litzenberger discussed park maintenance. Areas along Peppermint and Rowland are slated for a single mowing in spring. Mr. Brown committed that the township would do the mowing once a year. There was discussion that the area around the sign needed an approach to eliminate the need for weed-eating where the volunteer mower cannot easily reach. There was discussion that the bank on the right of the park entrance is steep and difficult for the volunteer mower to cut easily.

Mr. Litzenberger reported that on 7/4/16, the EAC took native seedlings (from seed gathered last fall) and planted plots in the meadow. Four volunteers performed the plantings.

Mr. Nilsen commented he is considering staying on the OSC beyond his term that is ending this year.

Mr. Hollenbach suggested that the PRB start considering a permit process. With the rail trail coming, he mentioned that the Saucon Rail Trail (SRT) oversight committee meetings address permit applications. He suggested that PRB members also look at Saucon Township website for permit examples to address items such as Township 501c3 organizations, way of posting usage, etc.

Mr. Hollenbach led discussion about the pending Art in the Park program. The PRB generally agreed that being the first year, the program should start small and grow with experience and participation.

15. Adjournment

Mr. Hollenbach motioned for adjournment. Mr. Litzenberger seconded. Motion passed unopposed.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Hollenbach

PRB Recording Secretary

Next meeting: 7:30 PM, 8 August 2016

Minutes Approved: Monday, 8 August 2016