

Parks and Recreation Board (PRB) MINUTES

13 July 2015

1. Attendance

PRB Members Present: Sue Ziegler (Chairperson), Doug Litzenberger (Vice Chairperson), Bill Ryker, Frank Hollenbach (Recording Secretary). Not Present: Megan Fox

Also present: Michael Brown (Township Manager), Karen Bedics (Supervisor)

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

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Minutes

Mr. Hollenbach had prepared minutes for the 5/11 and 6/8 meetings. Mr. Litzenberger motioned to approve the 5/11 and 6/8 minutes. Ms. Zeigler seconded. Motion passed unopposed.

5. Township Manager Report

Mr. Brown discussed items pertaining to the park. The sediment trap is expected to be converted this week. When this work is completed, Barwis will come off the NPDES when complete. There is a punchlist of items that Barwis needs to address before the construction is completed. The PRB requirement to complete the buffer zone/screening has been extended to June 2016 (as part of the grant extension) in order to get grant match. Mr. Brown will check if Barwis is required to mow prior to tree planting since there is a note on the construction documents.

Richland Township has the lead with their solicitor negotiating with SEPTA. No change in status.

6. Business

A. Eagle Project

Mr. Zack Boyd discussed status of his ongoing Eagle Scout project in the Park. He is looking to make contact with someone about getting a wood chipper in the park. Mr. Boyd will not be at the August PRB meeting. He has had discussion with Mr. Nilsen about the silt socks and making use of them for wood chips for the woodlot trail. The EAC is also interested in the wood chips for another project. The silt socks can get removed after the sediment control and rain garden is approved.

B. 2016 PRB Initiatives & Budget

The PRB will present to the Board of Supervisors (BoS) in August – dates are 8/11 or 8/25. Discussion over items to include:

- Funds to finish the park construction
- Operating and Maintenance (O&M) for the park
- Capture all tasks needed, even ones performed by volunteers

- Rail Trail budget – in 2016 proportion of legal fees for negotiations with SEPTA (Richland Solicitor is leading). The engineering and design fees will be covered by the County. Trail head budget for acquisition/easement. In 2017, possibility of construction fees.
- Hickon Road and PPL settlement. Property has not been turned over. EAC recommended against accepting the property outright – not without concessions.
- Passer Community Center – PRB not looking at grants for support in 2016. Not recommending purchase. Discussion about possibly establishing a nursery. Discussion about a possible farmers cooperative on Saturdays.
- Limekiln on Township owned property on Woodbyne Road. Springfield Historical Society is pursuing an estimate on structural preservation. SHS is considering taking over maintenance/management to maintain as a historical amenity.
- Township property by municipal building and parcel by maintenance building.
- Zion Hill Church – Ms. Bedics suggested approaching the Church and asking about incorporating a basketball hoop.
- Reforestation project at the Park
- Programs put on by the PRB as part of the PRB goals (Parks, Trails, Programs, Fiscal prudence).
- Signage for the Park
- Benches for the Park

Mr. Litzenberger will work the list and circulate to the PRB in preparation for 8/11 BoS meeting.

There was discussion about PRB positions and what skills may be needed in the coming years. Mr. Brown discussed that for reappointments, he would discuss with the person if they were interested, approach the Board / Group chair, then the BoS, then person may be offered reappointment.

#### C. EAC Reforestation Proposal

Mr. Hans Reiman, EAC, discussed a written proposal supplied to the PRB. Discussion was about a part of the Park between the woodlot and Deer Trail Road. This portion would require one deer fencing kit. Further discussion about extending the area up to the neighboring woods along Deer Trail, as well as outward to the mowed path. Proposal cites average of 10-15 years for polypropylene fencing. Discussion about access from Deer Trail Road.

Discussion about Rowland Drive properties and possibility of deer fencing. PRB is not pursuing that at this time. Discussion about buffer zone of 100ft from neighboring properties along this side of the park. Planting evergreens at 25 ft or 35 ft and letting the grass from 35ft to the mowed path remain – possibly cutting annually or every other year.

#### D. Park Rules

Mr. Hollenbach presented a draft of Park Rules and read to the meeting. Deer Trail Road access is not considered a neighboring property. Discussion over longer term process of permitting. Mr. Brown suggested a discussion with the BoS over longer term process. Discussion of mountain bikes – Mr. Hollenbach will look at Saucon Rail Trail rule wording for “maintaining control”. Add a rule for “Stay on maintained paths”. Mr. Hollenbach will update the rules and provide to the PRB.

#### E. Signage

Mr. Ryker provided discussion of Ms. Fox’s research into signs. Different types of signs include aluminum, PVC. Mr. Jay Fuggiti suggested that the sign be more natural since it will be between two barns on neighboring properties.

#### F. Benches

Ms. Zeigler mentioned she has been researching what other townships (Upper Saucon, Cranberry) are doing for benches. Discussion over locally made wooden benches, and recycled benches. Discussion over pursuing a bench donor approach. Ms. Zeigler will gather more information and return to the PRB.

#### G. Tree / Shrub Update

Mr. Litzenberger spoke with Springfield Tree Farm owner. He would like to meet at the park to see the area the trees would be planted. Suggested a meeting Thursday at 7PM. Probably not plant the trees until September due to finishing the erosion controls and favorable planting weather. Ms. Bedics suggested community service support to help with planting. The Palisades School District has a community service aspect for students.

#### H. Rail Trail

Mr. Hollenbach mentioned there was a 6/30 meeting of the Quakertown Regional Steering Committee. Mr. Paul Gordon from Bucks County Planning was there and reported that 46 groups attended an informational industry day for the Engineering and Design proposal. 15 companies submitted proposals that Mr. Gordon's group reviewed. The group recommended 3 submittals as a short list to the County Commissioners. Expected the contract will be awarded before the fall elections. Bucks County wants a recognizable name on the Rail Trail, so it will most probably not be named the Saucon Rail Trail.

#### I. Other Items

Ms. Zeigler mentioned that Mr. Zeigler would like to discuss changes to the mowed path now that construction is nearing completion. Mr. Hollenbach will meet with Mr. Zeigler to discuss changes to the mowed path near the paved path, and other areas around the construction site.

Community Day is 9/26. Mr. Ryker suggested making a video of walking around the mowed trail. PRB is looking to have a booth and pursuing volunteer recruitment, bench donations, and provide information to the public. Ms. Fox to make arrangements for the booth.

#### 7. Public Comment

There was no additional discussion.

#### 8. PRB Comment

Need to research the specific DCED wording required for the Park sign.

#### 9. Adjournment

Mr. Litzenberger motioned to adjourn. Mr. Ryker seconded. Motion passed unopposed.

Respectfully submitted,

*Frank Hollenbach*

PRB Recording Secretary

Next meeting: 7:30 PM, 10 August 2015

Minutes Approved: TBD Monday, 10 August 2015

