

Parks and Recreation Board (PRB) Minutes

14 March 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. Ziegler introduced Sandy Rice as the PRB member recently appointed by the Board of Supervisors (BoS).

Mr. Hollenbach reported the approved 1/11/16 minutes were provided to the Township. He had prepared minutes for the 2/8/16 meeting. Mr. Hollenbach noted he received feedback from Mr. Brown providing additional information about application of Hatgro that should be noted. Mr. Ryker motioned to approve the 2/8 minutes with the annotation. Mr. Litzenberger seconded. Motion passed unopposed.

5. Youth Projects

Mr. Hollenbach summarized a 2/20 meeting at the Park with the Girl Scouts. Present were Mr. Litzenberger, Mr. Hollenbach, 3 adult leaders, and 2 cadette girl scouts. There was discussion of the four projects that have been proposed and approved in concept by the PRB.

Ms. Joy Scott, 3406 Route 212 Riegelsville discussed the girl scout projects. Two of the scouts, Emma and Arden were in attendance. Katelyn's proposal is to create an interactive map of the vista from the hilltop including identification of landmarks. She has interest in creating a sustainable website and has resources with photography and web development available to assist her.

Mr. Luke Passerini, a boy scout with Troop #81, provided a presentation on a proposed Eagle Scout project in the park. He would like to build a kiosk for the park and presented a set of draft drawings to the PRB. Size is approximately 6ft by 7ft overall. Considering a wooden structure that would have posts that could be cemented into the ground. He provided some samples of different types of wood he was investigating to use for the structure. Regarding treated wooden products he identified PT-ACQ which has more toxins and can warp as a less expensive product. PRB did not prefer this option. He also presented a Thermally Treated pine which is more expensive, but does not have toxin concerns and won't warp. It is more resistant to weather and is about 25% more expensive. There was discussion over use of Plexiglas and display boards so that notices can be locked on the kiosk. Luke will look at options and come back with proposals for the displays.

Mr. Zack Boyd provided an update on his Eagle Scout project. He provided an example sign on cedar for a "Red Oak" tree. He offered that the sign could have a finish coat if desired. He planned on making about five signs for the woodlot trail. He might also provide signs for the trail entrances. He mentioned that the downed evergreens by Peppermint Road had been chipped by Mr. Ryan Scheetz of the weekend for an estimated donation value over \$1,150. His next

workday will rake out the branches and chips that were left after the chipping. The PRB will cut and remove the pile of stumps near the corner of the property. Ms. Ziegler said she would provide coordination with Mr. Boyd of any additional PRB work days. Mr. Passerini offered aluminum balusters as a donation for use for the tree signs.

6. Township Manager Report

Mr. Brown reported that the engineer needs confirmation of vegetation viability. The EAC consultant will confirm viability and get back to Mr. Brown.

Mr. Brown reported that he had spoken with Julie of Horizon sign. There has been no scheduled installation date at this time. Mr. Brown reported that he had received no word on the PA grant reimbursement.

7. Business

A. Park Dedication

Ms. Ziegler presented a final draft of the invitation. A copy of the invite will be sent to the ABC's via email. Mr. Brown is arranging for an ADA compliant porta-john. Ms. Ziegler is looking at arranging a tent in case of rain. On the agenda, the PRB will speak on the history of the park area.

B. Updates

Ms. Kim Kruchinski (EAC) mentioned she is procuring an Audubon Birdtown sign for the park. There was discussion of what that entails. Ms. Kruchinski will forward the information on the registry for the PRB's consideration. There was discussion on display of the sign and use of similar posts to other materials in the park.

C. Workday

There was discussion of upcoming workdays. Plan is for the next workday to be Saturday, 3/19 and a list of possible tasks including: address silt in the forebay, remove the plastic pots from the rain garden, add five 4ft buffer shrubs, add one cedar, police the meadow for rocks at request of the volunteer mower, and address ruts by the parking lot.

D. Open Space Committee (OSC) and PRB

There was continuation of the discussion about pros / cons of merging the OSC and PRB. OSC members include: Jim Nilsen, Hans Reimann, Dave Long, and Pete Sleeman. There was discussion of the open space programs. One negative is that if OSC members do not transition, PRB is responsible for the work. The Open Space plan 2010 allowed for park acquisition, but priorities were for other activities. Bucks County recently provided ~\$600K in funds for municipal open space to Springfield Township. Jim Nilsen is the Agriculture specialist on OSC that works with the County. The OSC has little to do with this. Taxes are frozen for Ag work. The Township has funded open space via the EIT. There are open space projects that are donations and include: easement, building envelopes, soft costs for legal and engineering. Suggested that any board should have an odd number of members. Suggested that the boards should provide a recommendation to the BOS concerning a possible merge. OSC has not met as a board since December and will meet the first Tuesday of April (5th) at 7:30PM. The Heritage Conservancy is a consultant to OSC. Last year, the OSC asked for a referendum and the BoS pushed back and did not fund the referendum. OSC talked about a bond of \$2M as a target. Mr. Brown suggested that a decision is needed before August to get the referendum on the November ballot. Since this is a presidential election year, if there is no referendum this year, it will wait four years until the next presidential election as a general guideline.

Ms. Ziegler requested that PRB members provide Pros and Cons to her. The PRB members would then review at the next meeting.

E. Trail Update

Mr. Hollenbach provided an update on the Rail Trail effort. He had provided an email summary of the 2/29/16 Regional Trail Steering Committee meeting at Richland Township to the PRB earlier. He summarized for the PRB/public to indicate a County representative, Mr. Brahler, attended the meeting and said the County will fund the construction of the trail once designed. There are two areas of concern: Water near the Springfield Street overpass and the private easement from California Road to Veterans Park. Under Springfield Street, there has been erosion, silt, and water. They are considering whether the area needs to be treated as wetlands. DEP is involved with the contractor (Boucher and James) and B&J is working to delineate any possible wetland areas. There was suggestion that the simple clean up of the swales would allow the water to drain as it had been designed. Concerning public meetings, there will be one per municipality and will probably be the BoS meeting. Regarding escrow for maintenance, SEPTA will not provide the recycled rail funds to the townships because of federal FTA concerns. Mr. Brahler stated he had Township Manager verbal commitment to maintain the trail after it is built. It was suggested to Mr. Brahler to not consider that as current since a number of things had changed – water areas and lack of escrow. There was discussion that a boardwalk might be required in the wet area. The group also discussed the suggestion of the Tohickon Rail Trail that would align with the watershed.

F. Public Comment

Mr. Hollenbach reported that an email communication went out on 1/21 to volunteers who have expressed interest in Parks and Recreation in the past. The email mentioned progress in the park, rail trail design contract, and the upcoming park dedication on 4/23.

Mr. Jay Fuggitti asked the PRB to consider additional dog waste signs for the park. He also mentioned he has a concern over Lyme ticks and suggested that warnings be posted. Mr. Brown will investigate possible treatments for deer tick control. PRB discussed that a future kiosk would be a good place to post warnings such as Lyme ticks.

Ms. Karen Bedics (BoS) asked the PRB to consider there is a dump on a neighboring property and to restrict the Girl Scout projects for scavenger hunt and geocache to avoid the area.

Mr. Hollenbach noted there was an outstanding request to use the park for wedding parking and the need to develop a permit process. He also noted there is a Watershed clean up day on 4/2.

8. Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Hollenbach

PRB Recording Secretary

Next meeting: 7:30 PM, 11 April 2016

Minutes Approved: Monday, 11 April 2016 TBD