

DOYLESTOWN TOWNSHIP PARK AND RECREATION BOARD

Meeting Notes: Tuesday, August 9th, 2016

The regular meeting of the Doylestown Township Park and Recreation Board was called to order at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 9th, 2016 at the Doylestown Township Administrative office.

- In attendance: John Bray, Jan Suessenguth, Paul DiNella, Barbara Kesselring, Susan Reichwein, Karen Sweeney, Director of Parks and Recreation, and Shawn Touhill, BOS Liaison, Vijay Balaji, Youth member
- Absent: Blythe Kelly, Robert Salanik
- Guests: Joe Salvati

Meeting Notes – July, 2016

The meeting notes were unanimously approved on a motion by Ms. Suessenguth and a second by Ms. Kesselring.

Correspondence:

The board recognizes the resignation of youth member Emily Rehmet and wishes her well in her future endeavors. An updated Official List of the Park and Rec Board was provided. The board officially recognizes the appointment of Vijay Balaji, our new Youth Member representative. The board thanked Ms. Susenguth for her submission of the newsletter article on the Performing Arts series. Ms. Sweeney, informed the P&R Board that we are in need of an additional article regarding the inaugural season of the Covenant Bank Amphitheater and renting the facilities for the next publication.

Plans:

Enclave at Town's Edge:

Mr. Touhill shared information regarding the Enclave at Town's Edge. Zaveta Construction, the builder, in planning to repurpose the old existing structures and build a single building of high-end condominiums with resident parking underneath the structure and additional guest parking in the rear. After discussion, it was determined that the board will recommend a memo to the Planning Commission as a "fee in lieu of" additional modifications to the existing plan.

Updates:

Performing Arts:

Ms. Sweeney shared an overwhelming positive response to the Performing Arts series concert, including performers as well as attendees, with attendance estimated between 550 and 700 persons. Mr. DiNella shared feedback regarding parking issues, utilizing the New Britain lot as well as the upper lot on Wells Road, indicating that there is no lighting on the paths leading to these lots. The board discussed 'handicapped' parking resolutions with signs mounted on top of cones as well as volunteers directing traffic flow to ease congestion and safety concerns for future planning purposes.

Ms. Sweeney reported that the Greaseband has been rescheduled for Wednesday, September 14th.

Ms. Sweeney also negotiated a mutually agreeable make-up date that may track into summer 2017.

Ms. Suessenguth asked about future plans for additional landscaping surrounding the amphitheater once the weather breaks. Mr. DiNella expressed concerns about the noticeable discoloration around the bottom of the amphitheater. The Board has decided to review additional options as we move forward, mindful of consulting with the EAC on additional plantings and landscape.

Ms. Sweeney indicated that the timeframe to review additional fundraising ideas begins in early October, referencing two meetings with John regarding other possibilities, including Jazzfest in the performing arts series, and/or spotlighting different performers.

Mr. Salvati sent Mr. Bray additional 'crowd-funding' links for future opportunities to bring in additional funds as well as opportunities to recognize our sponsors.

Updates:

Sensory Enrichment Trail:

Ms. Sweeney has informed the Board that all signs are completed and installed in and around the trail.

Updates:

Kids Castle:

Mr. Salvati informs the Board that a local Eagle Scout raised funds in excess of what was needed to completed a shaded seated area and donated \$313 to Kids Castle, to which an anonymous donor matched those funds, raising the donated total to \$627.00.

In addition, Mr. Salvati shared that he received a commitment to sponsor a slide for \$7500, with \$4k in hand and the second payment expected September 1st.

Mr. Salvati shared a photo of two completed sponsorship signs and their placement in the Castle area. The Friends of Kids Castle - large DCNR matching grant is pending, but expect to hear about their re-submission before December.

Mr. Salvati noted that while he focuses on all positive movement towards their goals, as a group, they feel they are not moving as quickly as they would like and asked the Board to continue spreading the word to keep momentum moving forward.

Updates:

Municipal Complex:

Ms. Sweeney has informed the P&R Board that there are no updates at this time regarding the proposed new Activity Center.

Other Business:

Comprehensive Plan Update:

Ms. Sweeney noted that the ten year mark of the Comprehensive Plan [2007] is upon us, up for review in order to meet the date for next year's budget. Ms. Sweeney reviewed the purpose of the Comprehensive Plan for our new members, indicating a set of recommendations for moving forward.

Ms. Sweeney reviewed options for next steps, indicating two next steps: [1] a full-blown review requiring CPRP outside professional hire, or [2] an update utilizing current staff and in-house resources to update key parts of the plan. Judy [Boucher and James] in-house estimated budgetary costs between \$12-15k to implement option [2].

The board makes a recommendation to request a formal proposal to utilize existing in-house professional services to provide updates to the Comprehensive Plan in 2017.

Other Business:

Social Media:

Mr. Bray expressed the opinion of tabling our discussion of the Park and Rec Board's needs in regards to social media until after the Board makes a determination of whether to hire for a township position.

It was determined by the board that we will revisit this issue before December.

*Adjournment: Being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:33 pm on a motion by Ms. Suessenguth, seconded by Mr. DiNella.

Respectfully submitted by:

Susan Reichwein

Doylestown Park and Recreation Board

Approved: _____