

DRAFT

Friends of Kids Castle - Meeting Minutes

Monday, July 27, 2020 - 12:30pm

In Attendance: Joe Salvati, Chairman; Jon Biedermann, Member; Dave Tomko, Director of Operations; Karen Sweeney, Director of Parks and Recreations; Geoffrey Attanasio; Township Engineer and Stephanie Mason, Township Manager.

Welcome: Meeting called to order at 12:30 P.M. by Mr. Salvati. All attendees were welcomed.

Minutes: On motion of Mr. Biedermann, seconded by Mr. Salvati, the minutes of the January 27, 2020 meeting were approved.

Chairman Report: Mr. Salvati indicated that he presented an update on Friends of Kids Castle improvement project to the Board of Supervisors at their meeting on July 17, 2020. During this update, he thanked all the Volunteers who helped make the December 2019 'Santa Visits Kids Castle' event a huge success. Mr. Salvati then showed a short video that recapped the Kids Castle accomplishments achieved on the improvement project to date. He then thanked Mr. Tomko and all his crew, the Township Staff and Administration, the Supervisors, all the volunteers, sponsors and donors for making the ongoing improvements at Kids Castle possible.

Correspondence: Mr. Salvati updated the Committee that the Friends of Kids Castle often receives thank-you emails from parents for all the ongoing improvement at Kids Castle. He read one recent email from a parent who was born in Doylestown and grew up in the area but now lives out of State. On a recent visit back here to her hometown she expressed great appreciation for the 3-Bay Swing set sponsored by the Relles family. She said that her "older son has a sensory integration problem, so finding swings are essential, especially when traveling." She was very thankful.

The Next Improvement Projects:

Mr. Salvati indicated that the next two Kids Castle improvement projects are part of the overall approved Build the Kingdom project at Kids Castle. They include the '2 to 5 years of age play area' and the '3-Bay Swing area'.

Project One – The 2 to 5 years of age play area

This project includes purchasing the New Tot Structure and installing it, moving the existing Tot Swing within the 2 to 5 play area, installing a new fence around the entire 2 to 5 play area for child safety and if possible, purchasing and installing Poured-in-Place Safety Surfacing for that entire fenced in area.

Mr. Salvati indicated that the existing Ely & Associates engineered plan shows the fence accommodating all the necessary fall zone requirements for all of the play pieces in that area including the new Tot Structure and the Tot Swing when moved within that area.

The purchase of the new Tot Structure would occur once the final monies are received from the open Grant. Mr. Tomko assured the Committee that he would follow up this week to get the status on receiving the final Grant monies due.

A conversation occurred regarding the open space that is adjacent to the 2 to 5 play area. This open space is to the right of the front seating area and it wraps behind that seating toward the front entrance. The discussing was to either keep it open or fence it off to help keep children safe from wondering toward the entrance area by themselves. If the open space is fenced off for safety, the option would remain to either continue the Poured-in-Place within that area or have that area remain filled with engineered wood fiber. More discussion will occur.

Mr. Tomko presented an engineered plan of the 2 to 5 play area. He indicated that this fenced area encompasses a total of 2,100 square feet including the adjacent open space.

Mr. Attanasio provided a rough estimated cost for the improvements to the Kids Castle 2 to 5 play area and the 3-Bay Swing area. He based these estimates on a bid he worked on for the proposed improvements to the Township's Turk Park III Playground.

The Turk Park III Poured-in-Place price came in at \$15.44 per square foot while the Kids Castle recent job came in at \$13.65 per square foot. Mr. Salvati indicated that the FKC Committee has been able to negotiate aggressive pricing directly with vendors due to the Volunteer nature of all the Kids Castle projects and Vendors wanting to help improve the playground for children of all abilities.

After some discussion about what may be needed for the two Kids Castle projects, Mr. Attanasio indicated that he would be happy to prepare a detailed quote for both Kids Castle projects. Mr. Salvati and Mr. Biedermann both requested that all pricing be itemized so each part of the proposal could be compared to previous Kid Castle proposals received for other projects. Mr. Attanasio agreed and asked when the Committee would need the proposal by and Mr. Biedermann said two weeks would be fine. Mr. Attanasio agreed to the two-week timeline.

There were further discussions about adding a concrete perimeter around the 2 to 5 play area as was installed along the outer edge of the most recent Kids Castle project. Mr. Salvati brought up potential safety concerns with having an exposed hard concrete boarder inside the play area. He suggested the possibility of creating an independent boarder using a playground approved composite wood base that would serve the same purpose while helping to avoid trip and fall concerns against a hard concrete surface.

Mr. Tomko said regardless the boarder material used, it would need to be independent of the fencing so ongoing maintenance on the fencing could occur without disrupting the Poured-in-Place.

Mr. Attanasio indicated that a border is needed and would get an estimate for both containment options.

Project Two – Three Bay Swing Area

This project includes the potential of purchasing new parts to raise the height of the existing 3-Bay Swings from 8 feet to 12 feet and having that play piece removed, adjusted and reinstalled. There are play advantages that come along with the increased height which benefit children of all abilities. Mr. Salvati will inquire about the pricing and reinstallation costs for this play piece.

Additionally, the Committee would like to continue the Poured-in-Place safety surfacing in this area if the cost of it is presently feasible with fundraising dollars.

Mr. Attanasio indicated that he would also get a detailed estimate for this area within the two-weeks. Mr. Tomko's engineered plan for this area totals 2,575 square feet.

Fall zones were also discussed for this area and all safety requirements will be met and approved before any work is considered.

Closing out the DCNR Grant:

Mr. Tomko restated that he will follow up again with Ms. Lynch from DCNR on her approval of Grant improvement area. She rescheduled that inspection to occur this week. Mr. Tomko said he would follow up with her again on Friday, July 31st if nothing is heard from her before then.

New Business:

Mr. Salvati requested that if possible, could the Township add the weeding and general upkeep of the Commemorative Brick Walkway to the ongoing Township maintenance schedule. Mr. Salvati indicated that people who've purchased Commemorative Bricks for their loved ones often visit them along the Walkway and that the upkeep of this area is important. He also explained that Commemorative Bricks continued to be sold and the donations received from their purchase help with the ongoing Kids Castle improvements. A clean presentation of that area is helpful for fundraising.

He also indicated that one of the two benches donated to Kids Castle by Home Depot is missing from the playground. He asked if someone can relocate it and have it returned so more seating at Kids Castle can be provided for those in need.

Mr. Tomko indicated that he would ask Public Works to look for the bench so it can be relocated back at Kids Castle in the new seating area and that he'd also add weeding for the Commemorative Brick Walkway to the Township's Kids Castle maintenances schedule.

A discussion occurred regarding the purchase of fabric Shade Sails for this new seating area and other play areas. Mr. Tomko mentioned the importance of deep footers to secure the posts for the Shade Sails to ensure wind load compliance and safety. He also mentioned taking the fabric Shade Sails down during the winter months to help preserve them. Measurements by the Township will be needed.

Mr. Salvati indicated that fundraising challenges during these trying times are totally understandable and that the Committee will continue to adapt its plans and move forward as best possible.

Mr. Salvati thanked Mr. Tomko and the staff again for their time and assistance.

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:55pm.