

**LOWER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP  
PARKS & RECREATION  
NOVEMBER 15, 2016 MEETING MINUTES**

**1) Call to Order**

A) Chairwoman Mazza called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

**2) Pledge of Allegiance**

**3) Roll Call:**

- A) The following Parks & Recreation board members were in attendance: Ms. Mazza, Mr. Wurtz, Ms. DiPaolo, Ms. Mandracchia and Student Representatives Mr. Beil, Ms. Hallman and Ms. Tse.  
B) Also in attendance: Karl Lukens, Director, Parks & Recreation Department and Peter MacFarland, Board of Supervisors Liaison.

**4) Meeting Minutes:**

- A) Review/Approve meeting minutes of September 13, 2016  
i) **MOTION:** Ms. DiPaolo made a motion to move the minutes of September 13, 2016 into record. Ms. Mandracchia seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 6-0.

**5) Old Business**

A) Redtail Field Update (MUSC)

i) Mr. Lukens reported that he had no new information on the Redtail Field.

B) 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Fall Festival – Saturday, October 1, 2016 (11 a.m. – 4 p.m.)

i) Chairwoman Mazza opened discussion on the successes of the Fall Festival and suggestions for improving the 2017 event. She said that she spoke to vendors, requesting them to contact Ms. Hegedus if they had suggestions for future years. She did note that they ran out of pumpkins and clothing for scarecrows later in the day. Ms. DiPaolo said there were a lot of requests to paint pumpkins. Mr. Lukens said they stopped the painting since they had to leave them for drying and it caused issues. Suggestions included giving them out in conjunction with a hayride ticket.

ii) Fun Zone: Ms. Hallman said in the beginning there was a bit of confusion but otherwise it went well.

iii) Optimist Club: Chairwoman Mazza said it did well and they sold out of all food. They also did raffle baskets and were pleased with the results. Mr. Lukens said that as part of their sponsorship they fed volunteers, which was appreciated.

iv) Attendance: Mr. Lukens said the morning was a little slow but by 1:30-2 p.m. cars were being sent to Eagleville Elementary. He said the totals were down slightly but the event was a success.

v) Trash: Ms. DiPaolo said she felt there could be more trashcans near picnic area.

vi) Chairwoman Mazza said if anyone has ideas for future events at the Festival to let her know.

C) Park Signs/Parks Trash & Recycling

i) Mr. Lukens said that this item is on next year's capital budget so he is looking for ideas/suggestions as to what they like or see in other parks as to signs and recycling bins. He reminded the board of the plastic sample he showed at a previous meeting. Mr. Lukens requested Board members take photos of good trash systems in other parks or public areas that they both like and dislike.

D) Listing for Eagle project: Chairwoman Mazza asked for status. Mr. Lukens said this needed to be updated. He asked Board members to look at the current list and forward ideas. Chairwoman Mazza said that if anyone has any ideas, within financial reason, to let her or Mr. Lukens know.

## 6) New Business

A) 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Tree Lighting and Winter Wonderland (December 2: Tree lighting ceremony at 6:30 p.m.

i) He reminded Board members to respond to Ms. Hegedus' email for volunteers.

ii) Mr. Lukens reviewed the vendors and characters who will be on site.

iii) Changes for 2016:

(1) The chorus will be placed in front of bandwagon from 6:30-7. Chairwoman Mazza said that volume was an issue in the past but Mr. Lukens said that was because of a speaker issue that has been dealt with.

(2) Set up carnival games will be Christmas themes and set up around snack bar. Free to play with minor prizes to help keep the children entertained while waiting for the program to begin. Chairwoman Mazza asked if there was anything they could do to increase the volume of canned goods. Mr. Lukens said they could put extra posts online beforehand but that they do collect a decent amount. Chairwoman Mazza said that all Board members can post on their individual social media accounts. Ms. DiPaolo asked about crowd flow and suggested putting a scavenger hunt-type game in place with hidden elves or something similar, to help keep the children occupied. Mr. Lukens that this was a good idea and will put together.

B) Upcoming Events

i) Programs: Mr. Lukens reported that Fall/winter Programs are on the website and highlights include a babysitting course and holiday programs. He stated they are working on spring programs that will be posted in March.

ii) Bus Trips: Bus trips have been advertised and have been doing very well. Chairwoman Mazza asked about the status of the Culinary Tour. Mr. Lukens said that it was sold out, along with one of the Radio City trips. The remaining Radio City trip has only very limited seating remaining.

iii) Mr. Lukens stated that they are in the process of updating employment emails for summer camps to determine who will be invited back. He said that the information for summer camps will come out in January. Registration will open on February 1<sup>st</sup> for residents and March 1<sup>st</sup> for non-residents.

iv) Chairwoman Mazza asked for bus trip suggestions: Board suggestions included the Lancaster Christmas Show "Sight and Sound" and a Longwood Garden trip.

C) Walking/Bike Trails/Other Projects

i) Mr. Lukens stated that Supervisor MacFarland asked the Board to look into finding connections to the Perkiomen trail and that resident would like to come in at the January meeting do a presentation on the request and to discuss possible connections.

ii) Supervisor MacFarland stated that he had met with group of residents who live near the old Yerkes Road bridge who would like to create a bicycle/pedestrian bridge to the trails. Mr. Lukens pulled the area up on Google maps and discussed where a pedestrian bridge would reasonably be placed. Discussion was held as to what land is privately, township or county held.

iii) Supervisor MacFarland said that there will be some construction in the area by the sewer authority within the next 5 years. He discussed options of location, costs, right of way and

grant funding. Mr. Lukens said this is a great project for DCNR. Mr. Beil brought up the challenge of differing elevations on both sides of the river. Supervisor MacFarland said the Township will be looked upon favorably for trying to do anything, even if the project takes several years. Mr. Lukens said he feels there is money for this type of project. Supervisor MacFarland said the first step is to find land that is potentially useful, then have the resident group to have an architect form a rendering. Mr. Lukens said he will look into requirements which include a feasibility study.

- iv) Supervisor MacFarland said there have also been abstract conversations about looking for a site for a soccer complex with multiple fields, noting how many Lower Providence children belong to the Methacton United Soccer Club. He described the benefits to the community to bring this to the township. Ms. DiPaolo said it would be helpful to put this on the Township's strategic plan. Supervisor MacFarland said these types of projects are good to have a buy-in from private resident with Parks & Recreation offering guidance.
- v) Mr. Wurtz asked for an update on the Mascaro field. Mr. Lukens reported that ground has been broken and reviewed the scope of the project.

**7) Comments from Supervisor**

- A) Supervisor MacFarland reported that we have hired a new Township manager to start on November 21<sup>st</sup>.
- B) He also reported that new commercial development is in place for the former Norristown Ford and Collegeville Inn. He discussed the Ridge Pike West Business District rezoning and its goals for more walkability and business redevelopment. Supervisor MacFarland stated a consultant had been hired to help encourage this type of development.

**8) Comments from board:**

- A) Ms. DiPaolo asked if sport groups who use Lower Providence Township fields are required to show proof of insurance or non-profit status. Mr. Lukens said they are required to follow insurance requirements and are required to provide that to the Township.

**9) Motion to Adjourn**

- A) Ms. Mandracchia made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Hallman seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** December 13, 2016