

**LOWER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP
PARKS & RECREATION
AUGUST 14, 2018 MEETING MINUTES**

1) Call to Order

- A) Chairwoman Mazza called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2) Pledge of Allegiance

3) Roll Call:

- A) The following Parks & Recreation board members were in attendance: Ms. Beth Ann Mazza, Ms. Jean Akers, Ms. Erin DiPaolo, John Nielson, Jr. Student Representatives Ms. Katherine McGrath, Ms. Kendall Ozorowski and Ms. Reilly Smith.
- B) Also in attendance: Karl Lukens, Director of Parks & Recreation and Mr. Patrick Duffy, Board of Supervisor Liaison.

4) Presentations

- A) Eagle Scout Candidate – Sean Doran
 - i) Mr. Doran presented his Eagle Scout Project to build a pathway in Sherwood Park.
 - ii) Ms. Akers suggested that a tamper be used to tamp the stone down to create a stone surface.
 - iii) Chairwoman Mazza asked for a time frame for construction. Mr. Doran said late August- Early September.
 - iv) Ms. DiPaolo asked for clarification of the location of the pathway in Sherwood Park. Mr. Doran said it was from the sidewalk to the playground.
 - v) **MOTION:** Ms. Smith made a motion to approve the Eagle Scout project of installing a pathway in Sherwood Park. Ms. DiPaolo seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 6-0.

5) Meeting Minutes:

- A) Review/Approve meeting minutes of June 12, 2018.
 - i) **MOTION:** Ms. Akers made a motion to move minutes of May 8, 2018 into the record. Ms. DiPaolo seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 6-0.

6) Old Business

- A) Redtail Field Update (MUSC)
 - i) There is no update at this time.
- B) Open Mic Night – “Lyrics on the Lawn”
 - i) Chairwoman Mazza reported that the event was a success for a first-time event.
 - ii) Ms. Ozorowski said that that questionnaires were tricky to get completed. She said the pretzels and water sold well but the buttons were not big sellers.
 - iii) Chairwoman Mazza said that she would time it earlier for future events. Ms. Smith noted that there was a larger community turnout than expected and agreed with the earlier time, suggesting better advertising and additional food choices for future events.
 - iv) Discussion was held regarding pricing vs. donations for refreshments. Ms. DiPaolo suggested duel stages to keep the acts moving. Mr. Bopst suggested doing an indoor and said Arnolds would be available. Mr. Neilson said that it would be a good activity for January/February.
 - v) Mr. Lukens suggested cutting the acts in half, from 11 to 5 or 6 and let them play a bit longer. It was determined that this was an event that they would like to continue.
- C) Review Capital Plan Updates
 - i) Mr. Lukens reviewed the Parks & Recreation 5-Year Capital Plan

- (1) Discussion was held regarding the accessibility of playgrounds and the benefit of poured in place surfaces.
- (2) Discussion was held regarding the placement of a seating wall in Eagleville Park and the safety issues involved. Mr. Nielson said he would like to look at other options that would be safer for small children who may fall off a wall.
- (3) Mr. Lukens discussed the cost of re-grading the hill as opposed to installing a wall.
- (4) Discussion was held regarding the pricing/design of the proposed play structures. Mr. Lukens said that play structures typically last 10 – 15 years and the one in Eagleville Park is currently approximately 15 years old.
- (5) Mr. Lukens said that it was recommended that the re-grading of Gauger Field be done in the fall to take advantage of favorable growing conditions for new sod that will be needed.
- (6) Mr. Nielson asked if there were any projects scheduled for 2020 that could be moved to 2019 to take advantage of the budget surplus. Mr. Lukens reviewed the 2020 projects. Discussion was held regarding the spray pole and if that could be added to the playground work or if an additional feature could be added.
- (7) Ms. DiPaolo suggested shifting some of the Hoyt Park surplus to 2022 for future repairs.
- (8) **MOTION:** Mr. Neilson made a motion to recommend Capital Plan to the Board of Supervisors for approval. Ms. DiPaolo seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 6-0.

7) New Business

A) Review Independence Day Celebration

- i) As a result of the weather, discussion was held regarding how weather-related issues were handled by the Township and if another type of event can be held that is not weather-dependent. Mr. Lukens said the event costs the Township \$22,000 not including staff overtime. Mr. Neilson said that he would not discard the event all together as once you stop it is difficult to bring back. Ms. Smith asked about attendance. Mr. Lukens said between 2-3 thousand in attendance, but many others watch off-site.
- ii) Discussion was held regarding alternate events/times for fireworks. Mr. Lukens said that they book the fireworks in January, so a decision must be made by then. Mr. Duffy said that he would discuss this with the Supervisors at the Executive Session.

B) Open Space Committee Update

- i) Ms. Akers discussed the method that the group used to gather the inventory of open space in the Township and how this information will be used once compiled. She explained how an RFP will be created to submit for a grant.

C) Upcoming Events

- i) Programs: Mr. Lukens reviewed upcoming programming
 - (1) Mr. Lukens reported that Summer Camp wrapped up and it was a successful season. He complimented the staff. Mr. Lukens said that they are working on Fall programming which will be up on website within the next two weeks. He said that bus trips include The 9/11 museum, Culinary Institute of American and Radio City Music Hall in December. Mr. Lukens confirmed that they are doing fewer trips as they are only being offered by Lower Providence Township rather than in conjunction with another Township. He said that fewer trips are more sustainable.
 - (2) Mr. Lukens reported that registrations are coming in for Fall Fest
 - (3) Chairwoman Mazza encouraged all board members to brainstorm new ideas for events and programs and present them to the Board.

D) Comments from the Board

- i) Discussion was held regarding re-appointment of Student Representatives.
- ii) **MOTION:** Ms. Akers made a motion to appoint Kendall Ozorowski and Reilly Smith as Voting Members; Dylan Pompe as Alternate and Katherine McGrath as Non-Voting Member to the Parks & Recreation Board. Ms. DiPaolo seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 6-0.

8) Supervisor Liaison

- A) Supervisor Duffy reported that the budget process is underway. He also said that they are in discussions with the Methacton School District regarding the use of Audubon Elementary school. Supervisor Duffy said that they should have an answer on this by the end of the year.

9) Comments from residents

- A) Mr. Bopst said that the summer camp bike safety program worked very well with the Police Officers and they received good feedback from campers. He said that the photo contest was also a success.
- B) Resident Ryan Biel asked for a Cranberry Park update. Mr. Lukens said that it has been a challenge due to the weather. Ms. Akers discussed the watershed conservancy's interest in Cranberry Park regarding in and out access.

10) Motion to Adjourn

- A) **MOTION:** Ms. Akers made a motion to adjourn. Ms. DiPaolo seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Next Meeting: September 11, 2018