

**LOWER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP
PARKS & RECREATION
JANUARY 9, 2018 MEETING MINUTES**

1) Call to Order

A) Karl Lukens called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

2) Pledge of Allegiance

3) Roll Call:

A) The following Parks & Recreation board members were in attendance: Ms. Jean Akers, Mr. Joe Clement, Ms. Beth Ann Mazza and Student Representatives Mr. Dylan Pompe and Ms. Reilly Smith.

B) Also in attendance: Karl Lukens, Director of Parks & Recreation; and Patrick Duffy, Board of Supervisors Liaison.

4) Reorganization Meeting

A) Nominate and Elect Chairman and Vice-Chairman

i) Mr. Lukens called for a nomination for the position of Chairman

(1) **MOTION:** Mr. Clement made a motion to nominate Beth Ann Mazza as Chair of the Parks & Recreation Board. Ms. Akers seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.

(2) **MOTION:** Mr. Clement made a motion to defer the election of a vice-chair until all board members could be polled. Ms. Smith seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.

B) **MOTION:** Mr. Clement made a motion to adjourn the Reorganization Meeting. Mr. Pompe seconded the meeting. The motion *passed* 5-0

5) Meeting Minutes:

A) Review/Approve meeting minutes of December 12, 2017

i) **MOTION:** Mr. Clement made a motion to move the amended minutes of December 12, 2017 into record. Ms. Akers seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.

B) Chairwoman Mazza welcomed Mr. Clements and Ms. Akers to the Board and introduced members of Methacton High School who were in attendance for a school project.

6) Old Business

A) Redtail Field Update (MUSC)

i) Mr. Lukens was in contact with Mr. Navarete, who will be stepping down as President. Mr. Lukens said that Mr. Navarete will have a long transition but no new president has yet been selected. He said he does not feel anything will be done with the field until the new president is in place. Mr. Lukens said the club has been advised that three years are left on the five-year agreement for improvements to the field.

ii) Mr. Duffy asked what the Township would like to see done at the fields. Mr. Lukens said they are in the process of top-seeding and fill but they are undecided as to what size field they would like to create. Mr. Duffy said that he does not believe we have a regulation sized soccer field in the Township and he thinks that would be preferred. Laura Winslow, a resident in attendance who is involved in the Methacton United Soccer Club said that there is a greater need in the Township for a smaller sized field for younger players. Chairwoman Mazza asked if a larger field could be used for smaller games. Discussion was held regarding the marking of fields for game play.

7) New Business

A) Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday, March 17, 2018)

- i) Mr. Lukens said they have a few new ideas for the egg hunt since it is on St. Patrick's Day. He said to send any ideas to Karen Hegedus. Mr. Duffy suggested that a gold coin be placed in some eggs, which would allow a child to get a special prize from a "pot of gold".
- ii) Mr. Lukens announced that the 2 year-olds will begin at 10:15 a.m.; 3-4 year-olds will begin at 10:25 a.m.; 5-6 year-olds will begin at 10:35 a.m. and the 7-8 year-olds will begin at 10:45 a.m. Mr. Lukens said they are always looking for volunteers and told the Student Representatives if they have any suggestions for volunteers to direct them to the Township. Mr. Lukens said that Ms. Hegedus will be sending out emails soliciting help for that day. He also said they will need a volunteer to be the Easter Bunny. He said the pre-stuffed eggs have arrived and the eggs for the younger kids will be filled with stickers and temporary tattoos for safety purposes. Mr. Lukens announced that the Optimist Club will once again be providing refreshments and the 4H club has been invited to bring rabbits.

B) Upcoming Events

- i) Programs: Mr. Lukens distributed flyers for the new programs and said all programs have been posted at www.lptrec.com. He also announced that discount ski tickets are now available.
 - (1) Chairwoman Mazza asked if they are planning anything new for Fall Fest Mr. Lukens had no update. Chairwoman Mazza asked if anything else could be planned for late spring or early summer. Mr. Lukens said that Ms. Hegedus and Ms. Baker are working on programming but always open to new ideas. He said they are trying to pull together a father/daughter dance at the firehouse to be held in March/ April. Chairwoman Mazza suggested outdoor sunrise yoga or sunrise meditation to help showcase the parks. Mr. Lukens said that he feels the yoga programs will take off with two new instructors they are working with. Discussion was held as to where and how outdoor yoga programs could be utilized.
- ii) Bus Trips: Mr. Lukens said that all bus trips are almost finalized. He said there will be six trips this year all by Lower Providence Township. He said that should other Township's express interest in pairing trips with the Township they will try to accommodate. He announced that trips include Radio City; New York City On Your Own; Washington, D.C. Cherry Blossom Festival; and Inner Harbor with dates selected by Ms. Hegedus. Mr. Lukens reviewed the ticketing process. Chairwoman Mazza asked why there was a decrease in bus trips. Mr. Lukens said that they were spread too thin trying to fill multiple trips. He said that because residents tend to go on more than one trip by cutting back they hope to fill each bus rather than having scant attendance on more trips.

8) Comments from Supervisor:

- A) Supervisor Duffy said there are no reports from the Board of Supervisors but they are looking forward to a productive year and steps they can take to improve the parks. He advised the Board to reach out to the Supervisors with any needs. Supervisor Duffy said they are looking into the possibility of using the Audubon School as a recreation center. He said that the Township's debt will be paid off in 2024 and they are looking ahead to a five-year plan. He said they have sent a letter to the School District regarding the school and have hired a consultant to look at the Township building to make sure needs are being met for the police department.

9) Comments from the Residents

- A) Laura Winslow and Jan Veck, officers for Indian Head Watershed Organization, a community organization formed to save the Indian Head Dam, presented a request to hold a fishing derby. Ms. Winslow said the dam was originally saved through a fishing derby and community support

and they would like to revive the derby as a community event. She said they have approached the Tony Creek Anglers who will provide fishing gear for up to 60 children and have reached out to the Optimist Club who has pledged their support. Ms. Winslow also said that they've reached out to local schools to help advertise and to provide volunteers for the event. She requested permission to use Hoy Park on June 16 from 8 a.m. to noon for an event for ages 5-14, rain or shine. Ms. Veck said that the event would be limited to 60-75 children who must attend with adult. In response to parking concerns, Ms. Winslow said that she lives at Hoy House, across from the park, and attendees can park on her property. She said they will also rent port-a-pots and that the Optimists will help manage parking. Ms. Winslow said that they have spoken to homeowners on both sides of creek who will allow them to spread out to where they want to fish with Hoy Park being used for registration, prize distribution and games. Discussion was held regarding parking for the event. Mr. Lukens said he will need to discuss the event with Police Chief Turtle and the Township Manager. Ms. Winslow said the Optimist Club has offered to be hosts and provide a certificate of insurance. Mr. Lukens said that they will have to defer approvals until the Police Chief has a chance to review the plan and sign off on the parking.

- i) Mr. Pompe asked if there would be room for games at the park if there will also be parking on site. Ms. Winslow and Ms. Veck said that they felt the picnic area would be a good stage for the games. They said that the fishing will be held on both sides of the creek with families spreading out. Discussion was held regarding the prizes and the aim of the derby, which is for families to become familiar with the creek and learn to appreciate the resource. Ms. Winslow said the sooner the event can be scheduled the sooner they can begin advertising.
 - ii) Ms. Winslow also expressed a desire to see a dock put in at the park to be allow for kayak or canoe launching. Ms. Akers said that the Watershed Conservancy is currently conducting a navigation study of the creek and charting existing put-ins and put-outs as well as looking to see where additional access can be made. She said the plan will develop recommendations for towns and boroughs in along the creek. Mr. Lukens asked if this information will be shared with all townships. Ms. Akers said that it has been presented at the regional level but not yet to the individual municipalities but that it would be in the future. Discussion was held as to the dam's portage and trespassing issues.
 - iii) Mr. Lukens said he will set up a meeting with the Chief of Police and the Township Manager to make sure everyone is on board so approvals can be issued.
 - iv) **MOTION:** Ms. Akers made a motion to support the fishing derby. Mr. Pompe seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.
 - v) Ms. Winslow said that they are keeping costs low, \$5-10, which will include a t-shirt and prize. Chairwoman Mazza suggested reaching out to local scouting organizations for promotion as well as the school district. Once concerns, if any, are resolved, Mr. Lukens said he will issue the permit.
- B) Chairwoman Mazza explained the workings of the board to the student attendees and said their opinions are always welcome and valued. One student made a suggestion for a tech center to help older residents with technology or residents with tech issues. Mr. Clements said that this is something that would be ideal for the library. Chairwoman Mazza suggested they put together a proposal.

10) Motion to Adjourn

- A) Mr. Clements made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Akers seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

Next Meeting: February 13, 2018