



UPPER UWCHLAN TOWNSHIP PARK AND RECREATION BOARD

January 18, 2018

Minutes

Board members Christopher Foster, Lou Lanzalotto, John McManus, Praveen Nadkarni, Sushila Subramanian, and Cathy Tomlinson were present. Also present was Assistant Township Manager Shanna Lodge.

Call to Order

Ms. Tomlinson called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm, then turned the meeting over to Ms. Lodge for the Board's reorganization.

Reorganization

Ms. Lodge recommended to the Board that the officers who served in 2017 continue in their roles for 2018, as the Park and Rec Board was operational for the second half of 2017 only. Mr. Nadkarni moved to re-appoint the following individuals: Ms. Tomlinson as Chair, Mr. McManus as Vice Chair, and Ms. Lodge as Secretary. Ms. Subramanian seconded the motion. There was no further comment or discussion and the motion passed.

Ms. Lodge turned the meeting back over to Ms. Tomlinson. Ms. Tomlinson introduced the opening for a representative to the Downingtown Area Recreation Consortium (DARC) Board. Mr. Lanzalotto noted that he had served in this capacity in past years and found their meetings unproductive. Ms. Lodge noted that one goal of re-establishing a connection to DARC was the possibility to serve as a location for DARC programming in the future. Ms. Tomlinson noted that Mr. Nadkarni had volunteered to fill the position of DARC representative. Mr. Nadkarni noted that his children had participated in DARC programming and that having programs within the Township would be more convenient. Mr. Nadkarni was appointed as DARC representative for 2018.

A discussion of committee roles followed. Ms. Lodge inquired whether the Board members were pleased to continue in their committee positions as established in August 2017. Ms. Tomlinson requested a change to the name of her committee. All other Board members were satisfied to keep with committee roles. The 2018 committees will be as follows:

Facilities – Lou Lanzalotto
Upland Farms – Sushila Subramanian
Trails – Patrick Dennin, Chris Foster
Events – John McManus
Regional Trail Planning – Cathy Tomlinson

Ms. Tomlinson requested that each Board member spearhead efforts in their area, possibly with the assistance of other residents. She offered an example from her own recent efforts: Ms. Tomlinson met

with personnel from Marsh Creek State Park to discuss connecting the Struble Trail to the Village of Eagle through the State Park. The meeting was productive, with the representatives from MCSP offering ideas of the best contacts for planning and funding the connection project.

Mr. Foster noted that it may benefit the group focus to have a mission statement. Ms. Lodge referred the group to the text of Chapter 27 of the Township Code as a foundation of their responsibilities.

Minutes

Ms. Tomlinson called for a motion to approve the minutes of November 16. Mr. Foster moved to approve the minutes of November 16, 2017. Ms. Subramanian seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as drafted without comment.

Old Business

Holiday Tree Lighting

Ms. Tomlinson added a section to the agenda and invited the Board to engage in a follow-up discussion of the Holiday Tree Lighting.

Mr. McManus offered the following comments: the tree should be in a roped off area; a better flow of people in and out of the barn needs to be designed; it would help to have a P.A. system outside; the lower level of the barn should be better secured; additional burn barrels could be added, as these were well-received; the music for the event should be moved to a different part of the barn for a better flow.

The group agreed that better lighting outdoors was needed. Ms. Lodge informed the group that parking lot lights were recently installed at Upland Farms.

A discussion of recruiting additional volunteers followed. Given the complications with vetting volunteers for an event aimed at families/children, Ms. Tomlinson suggested that elementary children or scouts could make good volunteers for the event.

It was the consensus of the group that the event should continue to be held on the Saturday following Thanksgiving. Ms. Tomlinson commended the great job Montesano's Brothers did in providing food for the event. Ms. Lodge will reach out to Montesano's to get on their schedule for this date in 2018.

New Business

Budget Review

Ms. Tomlinson invited the Board to review relevant pages of the 2018 Township Budget. Mr. Lanzaletto commended two Township employees in particular for their dedication to parks – Kyle Ripka of the Public Works facilities team and Public Works Director Mike Heckman. A brief discussion of budget line items followed.

Spring Event Planning

The group commenced a planning discussion for the upcoming spring event, an Easter Egg Hunt. The group selected Saturday, March 31st for the event, with no rain date. The event will be held at Upland Farms Park. Ms. Lodge will block off the date in the park reservation system.

Mr. McManus suggested providing different time slots for various age ranges. Mr. Foster suggested that activities such as crafts or a scavenger hunt be offered for the older children. Mr. Nadkarni suggested that the event could also serve as a food drive for a local pantry such as the Chester County Food Bank.

The group discussed how to limit to number of participants to ensure enough eggs were available. Offering a limited number of paper bracelets was discussed. Ms. Subramanian offered to contact those in charge of the egg hunt in Exton to get ideas. Mr. Lanzalotto offered to connect Mr. McManus with staff from the local Texas Roadhouse restaurant, which has in the past provided eggs for other Easter Egg Hunts.

Hickory Park Playground Planning

Mr. Lanzalotto suggested that safety be considered during the playground redesign; the playground is currently close to the driveway area, and could be shifted during the redesign. Mr. Nadkarni suggested crowd sourcing playground ideas from the public. Ms. Lodge noted that the Township website may have that capability; she will follow up. Mr. Lanzalotto, Mr. Foster, and Ms. Subramanian will meet at Hickory Park, possibly with a playground design consultant, to begin brainstorming.

Marsh Creek State Park connectivity

No further update.

Eagle Village “Pocket” Park naming

The Board of Supervisors requested the Park and Recreation Board’s input on a creative way to determine a name for the planned park to be located adjacent to the Township Building. Ms. Tomlinson expressed concern about the pocket park currently out for bid, particularly given its proximity to Pottstown Pike and other busy roadways. The group decided to brainstorm ideas for a good naming contest and/or strategy and revisit at their February meeting.

Committee Reports

Facilities - Mr. Lanzalotto reported an issue with the placement of the doors of the men’s restroom in the Fellowship Fields field house; when the door is open, the facilities may be visible to those waiting in line at the opposite gendered restroom. Ms. Lodge noted that Public Works has been informed, but that at this point, ADA requirements eliminate the possibility of adding a vanity wall inside the restroom. If another solution is identified, Ms. Lodge will inform the group.

Regarding Hickory Park, Mr. Lanzalotto was pleased to report that the installation of fencing/netting at Field 2 has commenced. Mr. Lanzalotto expressed the need for improvements to the trail entrance across from the tennis courts. Mr. Lanzalotto met with Township Manager Cary Vargo to discuss Hickory Park field lighting. A potential vision for the park is to light two ballfields as well as the tennis and basketball courts, but these are expensive upgrades that will need to be budgeted for over several years. Donations may also be required in order to complete this project. Mr. Lanzalotto noted that the representative from Musco Lighting is willing to do a presentation for the Park and Rec Board if requested.

Upland Farms – No further update.

Trails – No further update.

Events – No further update.

Connectivity – No further update.

Open Session

Mr. Lanzalotto expressed his enjoyment of the Township Holiday Party, which was held in December for all Township volunteers.

Ms. Tomlinson informed the Board that the annual Township Block Party will be held on June 16, 2018. The Board should plan on manning a table. Ideas for giveaway items included: maps of the Township Parks, refrigerator magnets advertising upcoming Park and Recreation events, and t-shirts.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Park and Recreation Board will be held on February 15, 2018.

Adjournment

Mr. McManus moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Subramanian seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,


Shanna Lodge
Park and Recreation Board Secretary