



UPPER UWCHLAN TOWNSHIP PARK AND RECREATION BOARD

February 21, 2019

Minutes

Board members Christopher Foster, 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 7:02 PM.

Minutes

Ms. Subramanian moved to approve the minutes of January 17. Mr. Foster seconded the motion. There was no further comment and the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Annual Report – Ms. Tomlinson stated that she believes all members who wish to submit comments for the report for the Board of Supervisors have done so. She will compile those comments into a report to be submitted to the Supervisors at the upcoming Joint Board and Commissions meeting to be held April 9, 2019. Ms. Lodge noted that this will be the last BOS meeting expected to be held at the Township building before the construction project relocation. Ms. Lodge further provided the Board with information regarding the temporary relocation.

In Mr. Lanzalotto's absence, Ms. Tomlinson reported to the Board his comments for the Supervisors' report. They included the following: At Fellowship Fields, emergency access for EMS providers should be improved, and lighting to the lower lot areas should be added or improved. Ms. Tomlinson noted that she spoke with Police Chief John DeMarco regarding EMS access and confirmed that there is stretcher access to all fields. Mr. Lanzalotto inquired as to the turf field replacement fund balance and scheduled replacement. Ms. Lodge will provide the Board with an update via email. At Hickory Park, expanded dugouts, improved or replaced backstops, and additional overhead guards to keep balls from going into the brush. He further requested that the funds allocated in the bond for lighting at Hickory Park be assigned to Fields 2 and 3, and the basketball, tennis, and volleyball courts.

Ms. Subramanian noted that the Park and Rec Board previously arrived at the conclusion that basketball and tennis were higher priorities than the ballfields. It was the consensus of those in attendance that parking lot lighting improvements are the highest priority for safety's sake.

Ms. Tomlinson and Mr. Foster agreed that having maps of each of the parks on the table at each meeting would help the group in their discussions. Ms. Lodge obliged that she will have such maps at all future meetings.

Upland Farms Trail Signage – Ms. Lodge inquired whether the Board had any comments regarding the maps prepared by Brandywine Conservancy of the trails at Upland Farms. Ms. Tomlinson said that she likes the map and that simple is preferable for ease of use. Mr. Nadkarni believes that the trails within the park look good but asked for the trails leading to the neighboring Reserve at Eagle. Ms. Lodge will follow up with staff to determine if there are any applicable HOA agreements or regulations. Mr.

Nadkarni suggested adding bathrooms, or planned bathroom facilities, to the map. It was the consensus of the group that distance markers should not be included on the map.

A discussion followed regarding which logo should appear on the map. The group agreed that the Upper Uwchlan Township crest logo is the most recognizable and should be prioritized over the Parks and Trails logo. Ms. Lodge suggested that the Parks and Trails logo could be reserved for handout maps, while sign posted maps could feature only the Township logo.

New Business

Spring Events – At the suggestion of Ms. Tomlinson, the Board agreed that the upcoming Easter Egg Hunt and Playground Ribbon Cutting could be a joint/single event held at Hickory Park. The group discussed locations around the park where the various age groups could hunt for eggs. The group discussed the temporary safety fencing that would be needed if parts of the event were to take place on opposite sides of the parking lots.

Regarding permanent fencing around the playground, Ms. Tomlinson suggested that safety and durability should be the primary considerations. Ms. Lodge will follow up with the group after permanent fencing solutions are further researched by the staff.

Ms. Lodge ran through the summary of the last year's Egg Hunt. The consensus of the group was to have the event in the morning again this year. Resident Praneil Balike noted that children may not want to get up early on a Saturday and thought 10 am was a good start time. The group agreed that the event would begin with the ribbon cutting with the Egg Hunt to follow immediately thereafter.

Mr. Foster offered the following suggestions that he gathered after attending an egg hunt in a neighboring municipality: favors to hand out to children upon arrival, higher quality candy, distinguishing age range by color of eggs, and specialty/prize eggs. Ms. Lodge will research filled egg options and report back to the Board via email.

Continued planning for the Easter Egg Hunt and Ribbon Cutting will take place at the Park and Recreation Board's March meeting.

Committee Reports

Facilities – No further discussion.

Upland Farms – Ms. Tomlinson and Ms. Subramanian met to review the adaptive reuse plan for the Upland Farms Barn which was developed in 2012. Ms. Tomlinson noted that progress toward the improvements is still in the planning stage. The project will be phased based on estimated construction costs.

Ms. Tomlinson and Ms. Subramanian concluded that the improvements on the lower level are the highest priority. These include conversion of the horse stall area into classrooms and bathrooms that would serve the entirety of the park. The classroom space would be useful for both local school visits and DARC programming. Ms. Tomlinson reported that she is very pleased with the adaptive reuse plan for the Barn. Ms. Subramanian's desire for sheltered "pavilion" space will be met by the planned patio space beneath the upstairs deck area. Ms. Tomlinson noted that the vision for the park is conducive to community events like Farmer's markets.

Suggested additions to the Master Plan for Upland Farms include the construction of a bandshell behind the farmhouse and an expansion of the parking lot.

Trails – Ms. Lodge reported that mobilization work for the Park Road Trail has begun.

Mr. Nadkarni reported that a petition is currently circulating in Windsor Ridge to advocate for a connection from that neighborhood to the trail system in the Township. He noted that the Windsor Ridge HOA believes this was meant to be added when the neighborhood was first developed.

Ms. Lodge noted that this connection was one of the priority trails identified by the Board at a past meeting. She agreed to review past meeting minutes to develop a list of priority connections to be included in the annual report for the Board of Supervisors.

Events – Ms. Tomlinson advocated for an event to highlight the trail system. Ms. Lodge noted that past discussions have included suggestions of a May event highlighting trails.

Regional Trail Planning – Ms. Tomlinson noted that regional trail groups are currently exploring the possibility of developing 20 miles of water trail along the Brandywine. She noted that conversations with consultants have also indicated that a trail around Marsh Creek Lake is a part of the Brandywine Greenway Plan.

DARC – Mr. Nadkarni was pleased to report that the DARC Board believes they have found a new executive director. He noted that at DARC meetings he continues to advocate for additional programs in the Upper Uwchlan area. The renovation of the Upland Barn into classroom space will provide for this. He has suggested DARC advertise at the community buildings for Upper Uwchlan neighborhoods. Ms. Lodge confirmed that an open house advertising summer DARC camps could be hosted by the Township at the barn or schoolhouse in March or April.

Open Session

Resident Praniel Balike requested bike racks be installed along trails, specifically the Struble Trail. Because the Struble is a County trail, Ms. Tomlinson noted that she will bring this up at an upcoming County meeting.

Mr. Nadkarni inquired whether the Board would be amenable to moving their meetings to 6 PM. Those in attendance supported the change. Ms. Lodge will follow up with absentees via email.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board will be held on March 21, 2019.

Adjournment

Mr. Nadkarni moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Subramanian seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 PM.

Respectfully submitted,


Shanna Lodge
Park and Recreation Board Secretary