



UPPER UWCHLAN TOWNSHIP PARK AND RECREATION BOARD

November 19, 2020
Meeting was held virtually.

Board members Patrick Dennin, Lou Lanzalotto, Sushila Subramanian, Praveen Nadkarni, and Cathy Tomlinson were present. Also present was Assistant Township Manager Shanna Lodge.

The meeting was called to order at 6:05.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Subramanian moved to approve the minutes of October 15, 2020. Mr. Nadkarni seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

Old Business

Halloween Event – Ms. Lodge offered a summary of the event, noting that low turnout may have been impacted by low temperatures. Also of note: the goodie bags, which were well received and the water ice donation, which was less popular. Ms. Tomlinson suggested that some of the families which has signed up may have opted to trick-or-treat instead.

New Business

Tree Lighting and Light Up Upper Uwchlan – Ms. Lodge offered a summary of the planning. There will be no in-person gathering this year, but the Tree at Upland will be lit at dusk on November 28. Residents have begun to sign up to decorate their homes and be included on the Light up Upper Uwchlan map. Residents will be encouraged to drive around the Township to view the displays. The event will be publicized on the electronic variable message sign boards. The Police Department has finalized the fireworks – they will be set off at 6 pm in the Village of Eagle.

Committee Reports

Facilities – Mr. Lanzalotto reported that he met with Kyle of the Public Works department and commended the department's efforts to make the fields at Fellowship and Hickory look fantastic.

Mr. Lanzalotto requested that Park and Rec Board would like input on the style and appearance of the replacement pavilion. Regarding other potential capital upgrades or purchases, Ms. Tomlinson inquired about the dugouts and backstops. Mr. Lanzalotto reported that he thinks the dugouts and backstops are in decent shape for the next several years. The group discussed the idea putting a small tot lot at Fellowship Fields. Mr. Lanzalotto noted that firming up the rock wall at Fellowship, as planned in the budget, is also a good idea.

Mr. Lanzalotto and Mr. Dennin provided an update on their efforts to begin planning for a basketball league. They advised that GEYA would like to organize this. Mr. Lanzalotto estimated that the group would need two weeknights throughout the summer for the league. Mr. Dennin reported that the infrastructure that GEYA has in place would make things feasible. Ms. Lodge noted that this would be

fairly simple to implement under the current reservation model, as GEYA is already a user. Ms. Lodge noted that a partnership with DARC would be another option.

Mr. Dennin inquired about earmarking basketball court reservation fees toward upgrades of the basketball area. Ms. Lodge noted that the fees would have to be quite high to make this worthwhile, like the fees at the artificial turf. The group discussed establishing a seasonal rate for the basketball courts.

Ms. Subramanian expressed concern that for community kids playing pickup, wanting to ensure they are not excluded by leagues taking time. She further explained that her son is forced to rent pickup space with his friends in Downingtown because the courts at Hickory are always full.

Ms. Tomlinson advised that these suggestions will need to be run by the Supervisors. Mr. Dennin and Mr. Lanzalotto suggested considerations on the rent for the first year to get them up and running, specifically, offering the courts at a reduced rate. Mr. Nadkarni noted that there are other organizations that could offer this sort of thing, but agreed that offering GEYA a break for a season could help get things up and running. Ms. Subramanian agreed, as long as the residents have time to play.

Ms. Tomlinson made a motion to recommend that the Board establish a fee for the basketball courts, but offer one summer season of basketball at no charge to GEYA to encourage the league to get started, on a limit of two nights/six hours per week. Mr. Dennin suggested the motion be tabled until GEYA had more information about the time they needed. Until then, he recommended that the Park and Recreation Board move forward with supporting the league as feasible.

Ms. Tomlinson asked if there was any way to monitor how many local kids would be displaced by the establishment of the league, noting that Upper Uwchlan kids should come first.

Mr. Lanazlotto exited the meeting. As there was no longer a quorum, no motion was seconded or brought to the floor.

Upland Farms – Ms. Subramanian inquired regarding the picnic tables, and whether any scouts have anything planned. Ms. Lodge will follow up.

Trails – Ms. Tomlinson noted that the feasibility study for Windsor has been approved. Ms. Lodge will follow up on the progress.

Regional Trail Planning – Ms. Lodge reported that the Board of Supervisors voted to contribute to Natural Lands Trust for the purchase of land to extend the Struble Trail and had predicated the donation on a signage acknowledgement of Upper Uwchlan Township residents.

DARC – Mr. Nadkarni provided a report. The organization is promoting fundraiser efforts given the decreased programming and continuing to consider staff layoff options. The board is actively working on 2021 summer camps. Mr. Nadkarni has been pushing for virtual summer camps as well.

Open Session

Mr. Nadkarni suggested that COVID guidelines be added to the event description for Light Up Upper Uwchlan. Ms. Lodge will add these to the event language.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Park and Recreation Board will be held in the new year. Ms. Lodge will get the Park and Recreation Board the calendar when approved by the Supervisors.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 PM

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shanna Lodge". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Shanna" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Lodge".

Shanna Lodge

Park and Recreation Board Secretary