

Lower Paxton Township Community Engagement Committee

Meeting Minutes
February 15, 2023

Members in Attendance

Jim Seidler
Pat Crawford
Stan Smith
Denise Hussar

Members Absent

Bob MacIntyre

Also in Attendance

Rachelle Scott, Staff Liaison

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Seidler called the meeting to order at 4:07 pm on the above date in Room 174 of the Lower Paxton Township Municipal Center, 425 Prince Street, Harrisburg.

MINUTES

The minutes of the January 18, 2023 meeting were approved with a motion by Mr. Smith, a second from Ms. Hussar, and a unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

9th ANNUAL ARTS & PARKS 5K 2023

2023 Sponsor Solicitation

Ms. Scott distributed a trifold sponsor brochure, a single sheet flyer, and a letter for potential sponsors. Members reviewed and noted some edits. The t-shirt sponsors do not get images on the trifold, and there are several missing.

Flyer

The flyer can be used for soliciting donations and information for runners.

Registration Website

Ms. Scott stated that Second Wind Timing has a new website through “Race Sign Up” and she displayed the website on the screen. It has two main components: register or donate. She would like to direct the sponsors here to for their payments, keeping all the funds flowing through the same place. It appears to be very user friendly.

Runner Fees

She added that the fee per runner is up which isn't a big surprise but Mr. Seidler noted that is another good reason for us to keep the race registration fee the same.

The early bird discount is set to June 28, and Ms. Scott noted it could go as late as July 1st to still get the t-shirts in time. Mr. Seidler suggested the early bird date cut off earlier around the end of May, then the regular rate can start after that, and then the race day fee is only for that day.

Ms. Scott would like to add a course description to go with the map. Mr. Seidler wants to highlight the course as new and faster, Ms. Hussar agreed its important to draw attention to the new location.

Lamplight Park and George Park are divided by a row of scrub trees and vegetation, except where the cut-through is. Ms. Scott noted that there are a lot of dead Ash trees that need to be removed, so Public Works will remove all of it between the parks including the fence. The paving proposed in this area also needs to be evaluated to make sure it can meet ADA requirements, because currently it is too steep.

Paving in Lamplight

The proposed paving includes three sections: the connection between the parks, and two halves of a loop that encircles the park. The west half of the loop is the one that people use when going from George Park to the neighborhood, and eastern half goes from the connection past the playground, portojohn, and pavilion, and down to the sidewalk along Mayfair Drive. There is no curb cut to get down to the street at that location.

Ms. Scott and Public Works are currently evaluating which half is more of a priority, because a large portion of the funds will be consumed by the unexpected grading. People already walk from Mayfair Drive up to the left of the court and along the perimeter towards George Park. There are two sections on the western half of the loop between Mayfair Drive and the basketball court that are too steep to meet ADA requirements. Public Works is suggesting that the path start at the curb cut and lean to the right so it can be more gradual, instead of to the left of the court. It is important that as changes are made to the parks that noncompliant walkways are improved to be compliant.

The connection between parks will be cleared and graded, and the parking lot will get a curb cut and two Handicap parking spaces, which will make accessing Lamplight easier.

2023 Fees

Ms. Scott reviewed the rates from 2022, and noted she would like to firm the registration fees up so the website can be updated. Mr. Seidler suggested keeping the registration fees the same as last year, noting that they are in line with other small races in the region. The primary source of revenue is sponsorships not the registrations, so it will not have a negative impact on the bottom line. Ms. Hussar noted that there isn't much senior aged participation and asked if a discount would have any impact on that. Mr. Seidler stated that this age doesn't have as many participants normally. Mr. Smith noted that the course for the race up till now was difficult, so it may be beneficial to describe the difference this year. Ms. Hussar suggested describing the terrain might also be helpful. Mr. Seidler will add something about the course terrain.

Sound Garden at Brightbill Park

Ms. Scott noted that the grant was originally for the playground and for the trail around the park. It has been approved to use the entire amount on the playground and not the half-mile paved path. There should be a design available soon. The main focal point is to be "music in the park" and the rest of the playground should be designed around that. There will be significant site work because of how wet it is. She is hoping to get the pour-in-place play surface so that it is boundless and people of any ability can use it.

The overall park master plan suggested that Brightbill Park have its own master plan because of the complexity of the site, and putting off the trail until that is done is in line with that and will be better planning.

FUNDING REQUESTS

There were no requests to review this month.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Kite Fest

Ms. Scott stated that this is the third annual kite festival and asked that members consider helping out. The event takes place at Lingle Park on April 30th from 12 noon to 2:00 pm. There will be four food trucks and about eight additional vendors.

OTHER BUSINESS

Canned Jam

Ms. Scott announced that the scout that hosted a concert to collect canned food and donations, was able to raise \$2,696 to donate to the sound garden project. Members would like to recognize him at a meeting and in the publications to thank him for his effort.

Public Engagement Specialist

The Township hopes to hire a full-time person to do special events for the whole Township not just Parks and Recreation events. They would take on the tasks that our part-time special events coordinator had been doing, in addition to all events for all other departments.

Communications Consultant

The Township did contract with someone to do the public relations and communications to the general public. That person does the maintenance to the website and social media work.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting ended at 5:08 pm. The next meeting of the Community Engagement Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, March 22, 2023, at 4:00 pm in Room 174 of the Municipal Center.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Hiner,
Recording Secretary