

**LOWER PAXTON TOWNSHIP
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
MAY 5, 2021**

Members in Attendance

Neal Johnson
Jim Seidler
Stan Smith
Kirby Lentz
Bob MacIntyre

Also in Attendance

Rachelle Scott, P/R Manager
Cynthia Kirkpatrick

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Neil Johnson called the May 5, 2021 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board to order at 7:16 pm in Room 174 of the Lower Paxton Township Municipal Center, 425 Prince Street, Harrisburg, PA.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR APRIL 7, 2021

Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the April 7, 2021 meeting minutes. Mr. MacIntyre seconded the motion, and it was followed by a unanimous vote of approval.

INTERVIEW CYNTHIA KIRKPATRICK

Ms. Scott stated Ms. Kirkpatrick was interested in serving on the Community Engagement Committee. She noted that Ms. Kirkpatrick would be required to serve on another committee in order to be able to serve on the Community Engagement Committee. Ms. Kirkpatrick is interested in the Greenway Committee opening and would then be able to serve on the CEC also. Mr. MacIntyre made a motion to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that Ms. Kirkpatrick serve on the Greenway Committee and the Community Engagement Committee. Mr. Lentz seconded the motion and it was followed by a unanimous vote of approval.

YOUNG LUNGS AT PLAY

Ms. Scott stated the Park and Recreation Board voted two years ago to “not allow smoking in the parks.” The Friendship YMCA has requested to place “Young

Lungs at Play” no smoking signs at (Friendship Y) Brightbill Park. There would be no cost to the Township. Mr. Seidler asked if there were “no smoking” signs located in the parks. Ms. Scott replied there are not. Ms. Scott noted the YMCA, through a grant, has offered to provide additional signs for the other parks at no cost. Ms. Scott suggested that the signs be placed at each of the playground areas. Discussion followed, and it was suggested to place signs at the pavilions also. Mr. Smith suggested placing one of the signs at the park entrance. Mr. Smith asked if the pavilion reservation request form states that there is no smoking allowed in the parks. Ms. Scott replied it is not on the form, but the form could be updated to include it. Mr. MacIntyre suggested taking the appropriate steps to add “No smoking in the Parks” to the pavilion request application and to change the park rules signs to reflect the “No Smoking” ordinance.

COMMUNITY SURVEY UPDATE

Ms. Scott stated the survey response time is being extended to May 21. She reviewed comments received thus far with the Board. Mr. Lentz stated the comment regarding having more bike routes in the Township. He noted the Township previously had bike routes and signs were posted. The signs were later taken down due to liability reasons. Ms. Scott stated the survey also contains a lot of comments about walking trails and will be a good resource for the Greenway Committee to showcase a need for a walkable community. Discussion followed regarding the percentage of age groups that submitted responses. The survey seemed to indicate that the older population provided more responses because responses reflected the need for more open space park area rather than ballfields and courts. Mr. Seidler noted there were quite a few comments and responses. Ms. Scott replied there were more responses than expected regarding the need for a dog park in Linglestown.

PARK UPDATES

Ms. Scott provided an update as follows:

Work at Heroes Grove is making progress. Light training will take place next week. Work is scheduled to be completed by May 20, in time for the Police Awards Ceremony.

Half of the parks were visited on the park tour. Kings Crossing, Meadowbrook, Hodges Heights, Kohl and Lingle parks were not able to be included in the tour.

Mr. Lentz stated a lot of concerns have been posted on the Facebook Neighborhood page regarding problems with unwanted behavior at Koons Park. Ms. Scott stated she will contact the police to be more present at Koons Park.

ARTS COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Mr. Smith stated there was no quorum, but members in attendance held discussion regarding being more proactive with the promotion of arts. They discussed getting engaged in helping to mobilize the community to help fund the inclusion of musical instruments in the playgrounds.

Ms. Scott stated one of the items included in the Capital Investment plan was to update Brightbill playground. She noted she would like to see a larger playground that provides a sight and sound feeling for children, which would include musical instruments. Musical instruments would cost approximately \$18,000. Mr. Smith stated the Arts Council discussed what they might be able to do to help raise funds for that portion of the proposed playground.

GREENWAY COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Mr. Seidler provided the following update:

Northern portion of Oak Park Trail – Planned out a preliminary route with buffer zones to appease neighboring property owners. The trail is more of a nature trail, not ADA accessible.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Mr. Seidler provided the following update:

Participated in P & R Kite Festival. Handed out flyers and slap bracelets. The event was well attended.

Participated in Earth Day (Arbor Day).

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Seidler stated a student from Central Dauphin High School is interested painting the Possibility Place mural. Ms. Scott suggested the student contact her, Ms. Scott noted she would also take the student to an Arts Council Committee meeting because they have been advocating to have the new mural done.

Ms. Kirkpatrick asked if the park playground upgrades will be accommodating to the autistic population. Mr. MacIntyre replied that regarding the musical instruments, a pledge could probably not be made to accommodate everyone because the range is so unique. He noted when Possibility Place was constructed, a lot of discussion took place regarding making the ride equipment accessible. There has been discussion regarding this at other parks, but cost is an issue. Ms. Scott stated she is meeting with an Eagle

Scout who is interested in making communication boards to place at various parks. Ms. Scott stated she is cognizant of it but does not have the background. Ms. Kirkpatrick stated she can do some research to share. She noted the autistic population is now on the forefront. Mr. MacIntyre stated we would like to accommodate everyone, but we are not able to do everything everywhere. She noted there are grants available regarding the autistic population. Mr. Lentz asked if she could look into it. Mr. Smith suggested having parents of autistic individuals work as a group with the Parks and Recreation Board.

Ms. Scott stated she will update Board members when the date is set for the meeting with the Supervisors.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn A. Sawyer
Recording Secretary