

# **Lower Paxton Township Community Engagement Committee**

## **Meeting Minutes**

July 21, 2021

### Members in Attendance

Jim Seidler  
Denise Hussar  
Pat Crawford  
Stan Smith

### 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**

Ms. Crawford made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2021 and May 19, 2021 meetings. Mr. Smith seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

## **5K RACE 2021 REVIEW**

### Budget 2021

Ms. Scott presented a copy of the draft budget, showing revenue from sponsors and participants. The expenses may still be updated as more invoices are submitted.

### Awards

Mr. Seidler stated he had enough material to make the awards this year but will need to buy some material next year.

### Traffic and Traffic Control

Mr. Seidler requested some sawhorses to use along Carolyn and Curvin Streets. He would like to attach a sign that there is a race in progress, so people don't ignore the cones. It seemed to be more traffic this year than in the past. Mr. Smith would like one at the first corner entering the YMCA. The cars do have to stop at a stop sign, but an additional sign would still be helpful there. Mr. Smith noted that the traffic coming from the shopping center should be rerouted behind the guitar store.

### Registration

Ms. Crawford stated that it went very well and was well organized. All of the walk-up registrants paid with cash and check, so we didn't need to use the computer. Other ideas were discussed including using a QR code that people can scan to get to the registration site, then we won't need to use the computers or handle people's credit cards. If there were three times the number of runners, we would have to spread the goodie bags out and organize lines, but the number of volunteers we had would be good.

### Participant Follow-Up

Ms. Crawford suggested sending an email to participants to thank them for coming and ask where they learned of the race, so we know where to focus the advertising. Another email can be sent at the beginning the year to remind them to sign up for the next race and let them know about the early bird discounts.

### Volunteer

Ms. Seidler noted the t-shirts for the volunteers worked out well; they were easily visible. Ms. Scott added that the runners commented how it was helpful when they could see the next checkpoint. Someone even commented that they felt safe enough to let their elementary aged child run ahead because of the number and visibility of the volunteers.

### Date

Mr. Seidler mentioned the date and questioned if it would be better to do it another time of the year, but he noted it is hard to guess since there are so many contributing factors. There are fewer competing events this time in July.

Mr. Seidler stated that some races are tied to a small festival, so maybe a summer fest could be the same day. Ms. Scott stated that national parks & rec day is the same day of the race (give or take a day) and it might be possible to tie the two together.

Ms. Scott noted it was also suggested that there could be a 5K the morning of the Fall Fest in October.

### Other Race Items

Mr. Seidler noted the pace car was fantastic. Ms. Hussar noted that when he was driving the course, he also circled back to pick up the next pack of runners.

The winning time was 17:02.

There were no virtual runners.

Ms. Crawford noted how great the paint pallet with the flowers was a great addition. She also noted she was disappointed that there wasn't a band, but she was glad to have the music that Second Wind played. Ms. Scott also had music ready to play.

The rep from Second Wind was great, he provided the runners their times as soon as they finished, and he sent their times to their email. He also emailed them a certificate later that night.

The clean-up was also easy with all the volunteers helping.

Mr. Seidler discovered a way to improve the signs on the cones. He noted that a sign on the cone is important because people will leave them alone-if the cone is just sitting out there, people are inclined to move them out of the way.

Ms. Hussar suggested putting flyers for our race in the goodie bags for earlier races.

Valerie Pritchett seemed to enjoy the morning, and it was her fifth year.

Mr. Smith noted that if the race were to be run the morning of fall fest, would there be sufficient area to run a course. Ms. Hussar noted that if it is in early October, the start time can be later since it won't be the heat of the summer.

Mr. Smith suggested doing a mini survey at Fall Fest to ask people what they think of a 5k in the fall. Mr. Seidler noted that the weekend of Fall Fest is the beginning of championship season. That may affect Mr. Seidler's availability, as well as volunteers and participants, since many are on cross country. He suggested there could still be a fun-run. Mr. Smith stated there is a kids fun run in Lancaster somewhere, and the kids are the runners with their parents following behind. The kids got t-shirts and awards just like an adult race.

Ms. Hussar stated a kids fun run would still be a great addition to fall fest, and it could also be a fun way to advertise the July race.

### **FUNDING REQUESTS**

Ms. Scott stated that the Brightbill Basketball League received a donation of \$500 to use to purchase a digital score board. The donor is Aegis Insurance.

There are three courts running at all times, so the department is requesting funding for two more. Right now, they use the plastic numbers on a flip card held together with rubber bands.

The desired score board would be on the table with the officials. Mr. Smith asked about the quality of the one they got, and Ms. Scott stated it is great, a standard score board used many places.

Mr. Smith asked if they could be used for other sports. Ms. Scott stated that volleyball doesn't have a table since the official is up in a stand, but if a pickleball league starts up, these could be used for that league.

Ms. Crawford made a motion to approve the grant request for two digital score boards for Brightbill Basketball. Ms. Hussar seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Ms. Scott noted that since Ms. Guarente was promoted to a full-time role, her time is dedicated to running various sports leagues, therefore we will be hiring a new part-time special event staff person. She asked the members to spread the word to anyone they think might do well.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting ended at 5:01 pm. The next meeting of the Community Engagement Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, August 25, 2021, at 4:00 pm in Room 174 of the Municipal Center.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Hiner  
Recording Secretary