

Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting

Parks and Recreation Committee Members: Commissioner and Committee Chair Nicholas O. Scull, Commissioner Kip McFatrige, Commissioner Cheryl Lockard, Patrick T. Stasio, Director of Parks & Recreation Department

- I. **Call to Order:** Commissioner and Committee Chair Scull called the meeting to order following the conclusion of the Finance & Administrative Committee Meeting.
- II. **Roll Call:** Commissioner and Committee Chair Scull, Commissioners McFatrige and Lockard and Patrick T. Stasio, Director, Parks & Recreation Department. Also present: David A. Dodies, Township Manager, and Jennifer Prior, Township Solicitor.
- III. **Presentations/Announcements** - nothing to report.
- III. **Approval of Minutes** - May 28, 2019: An amendment was made to: *B. Library Board of Trustees Report:* second bullet, to read: *"The main circulation desk..."*. The meeting minutes were unanimously approved as amended.
- IV. **Acceptance and approval of the following monthly reports** - May 2019:
 - A. Parks & Recreation Monthly Report - Mr. Stasio provided the following updates:
 - The Department assisted with maintenance and layout issues at the Farmstead Park Celebration and a 5K Freedom Run.
 - Rain has delayed softball league play and construction at Masons Mill Park.
 - Woodies Fishin' Hole, a catch and release pond at Masons Mill Park, was stocked with 125 fish.
 - Discount amusement park and movie tickets are available at the office for cash purchase.
 - Kate Kollar, Program Coordinator, serves as a volunteer organizer for the Montgomery County Senior Games.
 - Landscape beds, located throughout many areas of the Township and parks, were attended to and refreshed.
 - A tree was planted "In Memory" at Masons Mill Park with a plaque and the family is considering installing a bench as well.
 - Commissioner McFatrige inquired on the status of visitor issues at Masons Mill Park. Mr. Stasio stated that the Police presence has decreased the amount of visitor incidents to nearly non-existent.
 - Commissioner Scull commented that Boileau Festival was successful and the signs looked great.
 - B. Library Board of Trustees Report: Juan Suarez Romero, Vice President, provided the following updates:
 - The customized circulation desk and lobby, redesigned by AHAdams & Company, was approved by Paul Purtell, Director of Code Enforcement. The area will accommodate a self-check-out computer for patrons' use, space for seating and allow for a more efficient staff workload.
 - A Trustee position remains open on the Library Board of Trustees. Applications can be obtained at the Library or online at uppermoreland@mclinc.org. Trustees meet on the

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second Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. One application has been received to date.

- Beanstack, an electronic registration tool available for patrons of all ages, can be found at umfpl.beanstack.org, to track summer reading logs and collect prize incentives. The Summer Reading Kick-Off program is Saturday, June 22, 2019 at 1:00 p.m., which will offer a Mad Science show and snacks.
- Matt Hocker, Director of Information Services & Facilities, has approved the work that will begin soon for the Library's building upgrade of the MCLINC network connectivity to fiber optics and a wider bandwidth that complies with the contract through Educational Networks of America.
- Walk-N-Talk Program will be held June 26 to August 7, 2019 at Veterans Memorial Park.
- Commissioner Scull inquired on funding for the upgrades to the Library. Mr. Romero stated that some are subsidized with strategic reserve funds.

V. **Old Business:** Mr. Stasio provided the following updates:

A. Consideration of a centerpiece at the entrance to Veterans Memorial Park:

- Another contractor was contacted but there has been no response, as yet.

B. Masons Mill Parking Lot and Water Conversion:

- Rainy weather has delayed work. AQUA will be connecting the water and sewer lines very soon. Restrooms remain open and well water is being used.

C. Master Trail Plan:

- The first public meeting held on May 8, 2019 to solicit input on the Trail Plan was successful with over 60 attendees. While the Steering Committee is on Summer hiatus, Mr. Stasio and the consultant are visiting trails and reviewing sidewalks to try to determine the best paths through the Township.
- Commissioner Spearing commented on safety concerns on PennDOT's proposal to include a bike lane on Fitzwatertown Road and suggested initiating communication with Montgomery County to identify better alternatives. Mr. Stasio stated that he and the consultant are in constant communication with Montgomery County representatives who attend the Master Trail Steering Committee meetings. They will research and discuss safer connections to the trail.

D. Friends of Boileau Park Lease Agreement – Attorney for Boileau to draft proposed revisions to submit to Committee and Solicitor for review - nothing to report.

E. Little Free Library's at Park:

- Locations are: Fern Village Park, Fair Oaks Park and Masons Mill Park, which are used daily. Patrons read books and replace them, and the Library supplies donations. The sites are checked weekly and the box at Fern Village Park was repaired by a father who made kids pay for damage to the door. The Department is considering installing Little Librarys in other parks because they are so popular.

F. Blair Mill Park Renovations:

- Rainy weather has delayed the anticipated completion date which was Memorial Day. The playground is installed, concrete sidewalk is completed and a wood carpet will be installed with the opening by this weekend.

VI. **New Business -**

A. 2019 Fall Township Newsletter:

- Mr. Stasio stated that the Newsletter is in the process of editing for final printing and it

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will be mailed out to residents the first week in September.

VII. Other Items -

A. Summer Programs Update - Mr. Stasio provided the following updates:

- Kate Kollar, Program Coordinator, is credited for successfully filling almost all programs.
- Maintenance crews are preparing playground sites for the start of supervised playground programs the week of June 24, 2019.
- Junior Police Academy will start on June 19, 2019, which is very popular and sells out within two hours each year.

VIII. Visitor Comments - nothing to report.

IX. Commissioner Comments:

- Commissioner Scull commented on the use of random fireworks which he noted that most are legal in Pennsylvania, and he stated that residents can call the Police if they are experiencing a problem.
- Commissioner McFatridge stated that the old Downtown Fountain is nicely maintained with flowers and landscaping.
- Commissioner McFatridge inquired on the status of the "mule truck". Mr. Stasio stated that the maintenance crew is using the "mule truck" which is working out very well at Masons Mill Park.

X. Adjournment - There being no further business for this Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Kristire.