

## **Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting**

**Parks and Recreation Committee Members:** Commissioner and Committee Chair Nicholas O. Scull, Commissioner Cheryl Lockard, Commissioner Anthony S. Prousi, Patrick T. Stasio, Director of Parks and Recreation Department.

- I. **Call to Order:** Commissioner and Chair Nicholas O. Scull, called the meeting to order.
- II. **Roll Call:** Commissioners and Committee Chair Scull, Commissioners Lockard and Prousi. Also present: Pat Stasio, Director of Parks and Recreation, Matthew H. Candland, Township Manager, Alex Baumler, Township Solicitor.
- III. **Presentations/Announcements** - Nothing to report.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes – July 25, 2022** – The meeting minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.
- V. **Acceptance and approval of the following monthly reports:**
  - A. **Parks and Recreation Monthly Reports for July and August 2022** - Mr. Stasio reported the following:
    - Simone Collins Landscape Architects is continuing work on the Woodlawn Park master plan.
    - Kate Kollar, Program Coordinator, secured additional summer camp counselors, which enabled waitlisted campers to attend programs.
    - Fall programs are close to pre-Covid registration levels.
    - Maintenance crews are performing landscape work at Fair Oaks Basin and also assisted with setup of summer programs.
    - Occasional vandalism continues at the parks and incidents are being investigated.
    - Three “Make A Wreath” programs will be held and registration is almost full.
  - B. **Library Board of Trustees Report** - Maureen Wenik, Trustee, reviewed items on the report:
    - Thanked the Board of Commissioners for their continued support.
    - Thanked Margie Peters, Director, for all her work to keep the Library running smoothly.
    - Friends of the Library “Beads and Books” fundraiser will be held on October 8, 2022.
    - A survey is being conducted to gather information on programs offered by the Library.
    - The Summer Reading program had a 26% increase from 2021 in adult and child participants.
    - Two employment openings are available, which can be viewed on the website.
    - Collaborating with the Learning Center of Norristown to train and provide volunteer tutors, which will be available to children and adults starting in October.
    - People working within the Township’s area businesses can now apply for and obtain an Upper Moreland Library card.
- VI. **Old Business** – Mr. Stasio reviewed updates to the following items:
  - A. **Woodlawn Park Master Plan Development:**
    - Simone Collins Landscape Architects held public meetings in May and September. Their online survey continues through October 3, 2022. Four concept plans were presented and

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voted on by residents for continuing discussions.

- The next Steering Committee Meeting will be held on October 5, 2022.
- The next public meeting to discuss a draft plan will be held on October 26, 2022.
- More information can be found on the Township website at: Departments > Parks & Recreation > Woodlawn Park Master Plan Process.

**B. Fair Oaks Park Basin Progress:**

- The coconut fiber seed rollout have done well in phase II and phase III.
- All drainage pipes have been located and capped.
- Fifteen dry wells will be dug to capture water and force it into the ground.
- The plan for approximately 5,000 plug plants in the basin was canceled, because silt, sediment and various debris must be removed each year from Bay 1, located off of Lynne Avenue. The area is difficult to establish plantings and other options will be considered.
- PECO's Green Region Grant will be consulted on whether the \$7,000 grant award can be used for another park.

**C. A.R.P.A. Funds for Park:**

- American Rescue Plan Act provided the Township with \$100,000 for the parks and \$30,000 for the Downtown fountain.
- At Masons Mill Park, the Public Works and the Parks and Recreation crews have repaved the staff parking lot and maintenance garage area for approximately \$20,000 and the walking trail for approximately \$52,000.
- It will cost between \$7,000-\$10,000 to replace informational signs in several of the parks.
- An estimate is being prepared for dead tree removal along the Pioneer Road woodland, near the fence line of many properties.
- A picnic table with solar panels was purchased for the Downtown area's Memorial Park for approximately \$18,000.

**D. Farmstead Structure Improvements - Alan Sentman, President of Farmstead Alliance, discussed the following:**

- Reviewed that \$1M in local, State, Federal and private grant funds have been received while partnering with several organizations and the Township.
- Requests financial assistance on a list of project items compiled by the insurance company that includes roofs, windows, siding, stone, structural issues, etc.
- Continuing to seek events and functions that will generate revenue utilizing the buildings and a proposal will be presented to the Township.
- Commissioner Valenza expressed concerns about the responsibilities of repairs, issues of inflation, the tax burden on residents and commitments of the Township's budget.
- Commissioner Spearing reiterated the need to increase fundraising events.
- Commissioner Whiting inquired about rentals of the buildings. Mr. Stasio stated that repairs and improvements need to be completed. Mr. Sentman replied that there is a need to reinvigorate a master plan, acquire architectural services, and register on the National Register of Historic Places for tax credits to raise capital.
- Commissioner Prousi recommended preventing further water damage and animal infestation, support of financial commitment, and plans to phase future improvements.
- Mr. Candland made a brief comment in support of worthy intentions to preserve the buildings, and consider opportunities to fund and market the park as an asset to the Township.
- The Committee recommends a discussion continue at a future Finance and Administrative

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Committee Meeting to propose utilizing \$80,700 in ARPA funding.

**VII. New Business:**

**A. Shade Tree Commission:**

- Mr. Stasio explained that the Shade Tree Commission has been consulting with the Environmental Advisory Council on where to plant trees in the Township. A budget of \$16,000 has been set aside with no new costs involved.
- Dr. Lynnette Saunders inquired on the workings of the Commission. Mr. Stasio explained that it resides within the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission's authority, meetings are held on Tuesdays every other month and more information from the ordinance will be provided.

**B. Request from UM Historical Commission for 10/22 Event:**

- Mr. Sentman, Member, explained that there will be a Halloween-themed story event on October 22, 2022, 5-7 p.m., and requested permission to have a firepit and offer free alcoholic refreshments.
- Mr. Stasio will provide further insurance information on the request.
- The Committee recommends the Board of Commissioners take action at the October 3, 2022 Regular Meeting.

**VIII. Other Parks and Recreation Items -Nothing to report.**

**IX. Visitor Comments:**

- Sue Worth-LaManna, Chair of the Historical Commission, announced that the next Democratic Committee Meeting will be held on October 26, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. at the Willow Grove YMCA.

**X. Commissioner Comments:**

- Commissioner Valenza stated his support in the budget for Katie Kollar, Program Coordinator, to be promoted to Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation Department.
- Commissioner McFatrige stated his support for succession plans in other departments as well.
- The Committee recommends the Board of Commissioners continue a discussion at the Executive Session prior to the October 3, 2022 Regular Meeting.

**XI. Adjournment:** There being no further business for this Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Kristire.