

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, Commissioner Prousi, and Pat Stasio, Director of Parks and Recreation. Absent: Commissioner Lockard. Also present were: Matthew H. Candland, Township Manager, Randall K. Schaible, Assistant Township Manager/Director of Finance and Sean Kilkenny, Township Solicitor.
- III. **Presentations/Announcements** - Nothing to report.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes - March 21, 2022** - The minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.
- V. **Acceptance and approval of the following monthly reports:**
 - A. **Parks and Recreation Monthly Reports for March 2022** - Mr. Stasio reported the following:
 - The cross-county trail engineering firm has a draft trail plan for Upper Moreland, which will be discussed at a public meeting in the next 30 days. PECO, SEPTA, Norfolk Southern Railroad, the Sewer Authority, and land owners have been consulted concerning right-of-ways.
 - Meetings continue with Simone Collins Landscape Architects on the future development of Woodlawn Park.
 - The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Grant application was submitted for \$200,000 and awards will be announced in October/November.
 - Women's Softball League has resumed and there are four teams, which play on Friday evenings.
 - The Summer Supervised Playground Program is very popular and currently has a waitlist.
 - Seasonal maintenance workers have repaired many trashcan holders and benches, installed a drinking fountain at Masons Mill Park, and restored areas vandalized at North Willow Grove Park and Pileggi Park.
 - All athletic fields and playground surfaces have been refreshed with safety mix.
 - Park signs have been inventoried and will be replaced with new signage.
 - Commissioner Scull inquired about staffing summer camp positions. Mr. Stasio explained that there is a need to fill approximately 11 more positions; pay was increased by \$2 per hour, and waitlisted registrants are being asked to make alternative plans.
 - Commissioner Scull suggested a signing bonus and Mr. Stasio replied that there are opportunities available.
 - Commissioner Scull inquired about Kate Kollar's representing the Board of Commissioners on the Sauers Cares Foundation. Mr. Stasio explained that it is a non-profit fundraising organization, which seeks new and unique ways to provide support to local causes and issues. They are considering a landscaping project in the community.
 - B. **Library Board of Trustees Report** - Jay Silverman, Facility Committee Chairperson,

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reported the following:

- Thanked the Commissioners for their support to renovate the public restrooms.
- Invited everyone to participate in an activity scheduled at the Outdoor Environmental Education Center as part of the Environmental Advisory Council's Earth Day Event on April 23, 2022.
- Participating in the Juneteenth Event activities with assistance from a \$2,500 Grant award that was received from the PECO Charitable Trust.
- Commissioner Prousi inquired about distribution of the Library Happenings. Margie Peters, Director, replied that the goal is to have it available by the 15th of the month and the May Happenings is almost completed.

VI. Old Business:

A. Herbicide in Parks (Tabled Item) - Mr. Stasio reported the following:

- The use of natural herbicides will initially begin in Masons Mill Park around adjoined playgrounds and landscaped bed areas and, after evaluation and monitoring, will subsequently be applied to broader areas before continuing into the other parks.
- All product guidelines are followed and the applicators are certified with continuing education units.
- The Committee agreed with the plan and will continue a discussion at a future Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting.

B. Woodlawn Park Plan Development - Mr. Stasio reported the following:

- The buildings are being demolished, Simone Collins Landscape Architects is leading the master plan development process, and a steering committee was appointed with the first meeting on April 20, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Room. The first public meeting that is open for comments will be held on May 25, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. A public survey link is being created and focus groups will contribute to the concept plans for Woodlawn Park. Additionally, residents can directly contact Mr. Stasio as well as Simone Collins to input ideas. The plan should be available by November/December 2022 for 30 days to review, comment and make modifications. The Board of Commissioners will then adopt the plan in January/February 2023.
- Commissioner Prousi and Mr. Stasio stated that every effort is being made to advertise the project through the Township's website, social media and various postings, and stressed that the public become involved.
- Commissioner Prousi asked that a flyer be sent to the Commissioners to advertise to their constituents. Mr. Stasio is finalizing the meeting schedule locations and will provide the flyer.
- Commissioner Spearing suggested providing information to the public on current amenities available in the parks. Mr. Stasio explained that several fact-finding reviews will help to direct the process.
- The Committee will continue a discussion at a future Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting.

C. Park Neighbor Meetings - Mr. Stasio reported the following updates:

- A meeting was held at Mill Creek Park regarding a grant application to widen Mill Road with a cut-through.
- A meeting was held at Farmstead Park regarding anticipated environmental and structural changes with over \$1M in grant funding already received.

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- Park neighbors are encouraged to call the Township with any questions or concerns.

VII. **New Business** - Nothing to report.

VIII. **Other Parks and Recreation Items:**

A. Seasonal Staff Update - Mr. Stasio reported the following:

- Stressed concerns over the short-staffed seasonal maintenance crew and seasonal park attendants, and thereby asked everyone to spread the word that those positions are available.
- Commissioner Scull suggested offering signing bonuses using the pandemic relief funds.

IX. **Visitor Comments** - Nothing to report.

X. **Commissioner Comments:**

- Commissioner Spearing reminded residents to read the Spring Newsletter for important information. Residents can contact the Township if they have not received a copy and it is also posted on the Township's website. Mr. Stasio directed residents to sign up on the Township's website for news and updates.

XI. **Adjournment:** There being no further business for this Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Kristire.