

A meeting of the **PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE** was held tonight. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Charles D. McKeown at 7:30 p.m. Members present were Norris, Portner, Rappoport, Sharkey and Simon. Staff present were Bryan Havir, Township Manager; Joseph Bagley, Township Solicitor; Brian Hinson, Acting Director of Parks and Recreation; Sue Fries, Director of Rowland Community Center; Anthony Birdsong, Director of La Mott Community Center and Alyson Elliott, Assistant Township Manager. A public attendance sheet is attached.

1. Presentation of High School Park Phase II Meadow Restoration, Sikora Wells Appel. Prior to the presentation, Mr. Havir stated that the Township received a \$100,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) for the purpose of designing and making improvements to the entrance of High School Park and another phase of the meadow restoration project. This second phase is part of a improvements designed by a master plan and has been guided by a Steering Committee consisting of members of the Friends of High School Park, members of the community, and Township staff. Mr. Joseph Sikora of Sikora Wells Appel presented the concept plan for the proposed improvements.

Improvements to the entrance of High School Park include closing off one side of the entrance to the park with bollards to prohibit the entrance from being used as a turnaround and parking area. This will improve pedestrian safety. In addition, entrance improvements will include a new park sign on a Wissahickon Schist wall, a seating area, a park map and landscaping improvements.

The meadow improvements will include the removal of a berm that was constructed to prevent stormwater from eroding the bank. It created a physical and visual barrier between the park and the Tookany Creek. In place of the berm, will be an inverted rain garden that will capture and filter stormwater. A walkway and steps will lead from the meadow down to the creek. Invasive plant removal and woodland restoration will also be included in the project. Brian and Shelly Schwartz will also donate funds to construct a wooden boardwalk in the memory of their son, Joshua Schwartz.

Mr. Sikora said the project is currently going through Township and DCNR review and anticipates that construction should be completed by the end of the year. Mr. Norris asked how the objectives for the project were chosen. Mr. Sikora stated there were many objectives, but the chosen objectives were narrowed down as priorities by the group. Mr. Norris stated the donation by Brian and Shelly Schwartz was appreciated and asked if it were possible to get other contributions for this project. Mr. Sikora said there are other opportunities for funding through the community such as fundraising. Mr. Norris stated he felt fundraising with the community would be a good idea.

Ms. Cynthia Blackwood, President of Friends of High School Park, stated there are opportunities for anyone who wishes to donate or help raise funds for any project such as donating benches and brick pavers. Anyone wishing to donate can contact the Friends of

High School Park. Mr. Simon suggested there be a link to the Township web-site for opportunities of people who wish to donate.

Ms. Amy Steffen, former president of the Friends of High School Park and chair of the steering committee stated the group very much supports the plan and it follows many of the objectives of the master plan. Some objectives could not be accomplished because of the lack of funding in Phase II. She stated she hopes there will be increased usage of the park. She also mentioned the plan makes it more inviting for pedestrians and park uses.

Mr. McKeown thanked Ms. Steffen and the Committee for all their hard work and efforts since 1995 and thanked Mr. Sikora for the presentation. Mr. David Beck of Normandy Lane had concerns about the blockage of storm sewage and parking issues for the Park.

2. Curtis Arboretum Exclusive Catering Contract. Mr. McKeown tabled this item until the March 4, 2015 Public Affairs meeting agenda.

3. Glenside Hall Rental Agreement for PATMAD. Mr. Havir discussed staff's recommendation to increase rental fee for the PATMAD group using Glenside Hall. The group has been using Glenside Hall every Thursday evening and nine Saturday evenings each year. He stated the floor stabilization project that is nearing completion is one of the many capital projects that has and will take place to improve the facility. With the need for continuing capital improvements, staff has researched area rental fees to determine whether PATMAD's rent could be increased to help cover some of the capital costs. He said the tenant has always had a year-to-year lease and suggested lengthening the term of the lease to five years to help make the increase more palatable to PATMAD. Mr. Havir said the tenant is aware that the lease is in review.

Mr. Sharkey suggested that before the Township signs a lease with PATMAD, it should make a plan for the future of Glenside Hall. Based on recent income on from the Hall, he would like to see it marketed to increase usage. Mr. McKeown said that the history of the hall should also be researched. Mr. Simon had concerns of the costs of improvements needed and agreed with Mr. Sharkey regarding looking at the future usage of Glenside Hall and possible increase in revenue needed to cover the cost for the hall.

Ms. Rappoport asked Mr. Hinson about the use of Glenside Hall by the Parks and Recreation Department. Mr. Hinson stated the Township will be increasing its usage of Glenside Hall for various programs such as summer camps and special events like last years dance recital. However, it is not currently heavily used by the Parks and Recreation Department and there is room for additional programming and rentals. Mr. McKeown said this matter will be tabled until further review by staff.

Mr. Havir said staff will go back to the tenant to discuss matter and provide the Committee with an update next month.

4. Upon motion of Mr. Portner and unanimously approved by the Committee, the Recreation Reports for the month of January 2015 were received.

5. Upon motion of Mr. Portner and unanimously approved by the Committee, the Curtis and Glenside Hall Reports for the month of January 2015 were received.

6. Upon motion of Mr. Portner and unanimously approved by Committee, the Building Maintenance / Pool Specialist Report for the month of January 2015 was received.

7. Report of the Acting Director of the Parks and Recreation Department. Mr. Hinson announced that the Parks and Recreation Department is in its winter program season and all programs are taking place at this time. Mr. Hinson mentioned that the Parks and Recreation Department is currently working on all spring and summer programs and special events. During the spring there may be three new special events this year. The brochure should be out shortly. All new activities will be highlighted in the spring brochure. Mr. Hinson said he is currently working on hiring seasonal staff for pools and playgrounds. He is also working on contracts for the upcoming summer concerts. He is working on a new ice cream vendor contract for the swimming pools and working on the contract for the school bus services for the summer camps.

Mr. Sharkey asked Mr. Hinson to speak on the upcoming Government Day. Mr. Hinson explained that Government Day helps the students and families learn about the process of the Township. Participants will get the opportunities to meet Township staff and dignitaries. They will have the opportunity to visit different departments to learn how they function. Ms. Fries said there are about 32 children signed up to participate in Government Day.

8. Old Business: None.

9. New Business: None.

There being no further business, upon motion of Mr. McKeown and approved by the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.



Bryan T. Havir
Township Manager

Per Linda J. Vann

PUBLIC ATTENDANCE LIST
Public Works Committee @ 7:30 PM
Wednesday, February 11, 2015
Curtis Hall
Wyncote, PA 19095

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