

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

Mr. Bagley stated that the Board met in Executive Session before the Parks and Recreation meeting tonight to discuss potential litigation and land acquisition.

Mr. McKeown wanted everyone to wish Mr. Portner a happy birthday.

1. Curtis Arboretum Retaining Wall Repair. Ms. Montgomery passed out a packet of pictures showing the repairs that are needed for the retaining wall and patio. The walls are beginning to separate, deteriorate and collapse due to damage by tree roots and water. The walls will be taken apart carefully, numbered, washed used rebuild the patio and wall. Because of its historical value many of the pieces will be saved, and reused along with new pieces. Mr. Simon had questions regarding the scope of the repairs. Ms. Montgomery explained that the walls and railing were the main focus points.

Mr. Simon asked if it is necessary to remove the four trees located along the wall and was concerned that their removal would reduce the value of the property. Ms. Montgomery stated that the trees must be removed in order to level the patio properly and to prevent future wall damage.

Ms. Rappoport had concerns about storm water management for the area. Ms. Montgomery said that stone will be placed behind the concrete wall that will help manage the stormwater. Ms. Rappoport asked Ms. Montgomery to explain the base bid. She stated that the base bid is the repair of the wall using the existing materials with an alternate to construct a concrete wall instead of using the blocks.

Mr. Simon wanted to know if grant funds would be available to help offset the cost. Mr. Havir said there has been funding available in the past for Curtis Hall; however, there has not been any funding available through PHMC in the last three years.

Ms. Rappoport asked if there will be more appropriate trees selected to replace those being removed. Ms. Montgomery stated once the patio is leveled, openings will be left to plant new appropriate trees if there becomes a grant or a donation available for them. Trees will not be planted as part of this project. Mr. Norris suggested letting residents know that they can donate a tree or bench. Mr. Holland asked if the wood being removed from the patio can be donated to the High School or groups in the Township. Ms. Montgomery said that the individuals who would be receiving the tree parts would be responsible for picking them up.

Mr. Simon suggested that maybe a new wall can be built several feet further east and west in front of the existing walls to expand the patio to give the tree roots room to grow. Ms. Montgomery said the idea was good but the cost has to be considered. Mr. Havir said he will look into whether or not the trees are historic and worthy of preservation with the landscape architect who is working on the landscape master plan. Mr. McKeown commended Ms. Montgomery on a job well done.

2. Recommendation to award a Professional Services Contract for Sandblasting and Painting of Conklin and Glenside Pools. Mr. Hinson stated only one bid was received from Wade Associates. He explained that sandblasting the pools is necessary every ten years because it helps the paint adhere to the pool. Conklin Pool was last sandblasted in 2003 and Glenside Pool was last sandblasted in 2005. He said there have been problems this year with the paint chipping at the pools because the paint is no longer adhering to the surfaces. He also stated that each pool uses a different paint. He would like to see them use the same paint in the future.

Mr. McKeown asked about the status of the leak located at Conklin Pool. Mr. Hinson said he will be meeting with Aqua to locate the leak under ground at Conklin Pool. Mr. McKeown also had concerns regarding the cost for repairing of the leak.

Mr. Sharkey mentioned that he swims at the pool every week and the sandblasting work is definitely needed. Mr. Sharkey wanted to know if Wade Associates was the only company that responded. Mr. Hinson said Wade Associates was the only response. Mr. Sharkey wanted to know if anyone other than Wade Associates can do the sandblasting work. Mr. Hinson said he will investigate and report back. Mr. Sharkey suggested checking for other local companies other than Wade Associates since they are coming from Harrisburg. The cost could be lower if a local company is used.

Mr. Sharkey asked Mr. Hinson to make a statement regarding the rumors of glass in the swimming pools. Mr. Hinson noted there was no glass in the swimming pools. Mr. Sharkey asked if professionals can be recommended to paint the pools rather than having the pool staff do the work. Ms. Rappoport requested a change in the process for future proposals of change orders with consultants after a price is given. Mr. Simon also requested someone closer to do the sandblasting and painting of the pools.

It was a consensus of the Committee to table further discussion on this matter and have staff investigate cost proposals from other consultants and check if the current bidder will lower his out of pocket travel expenses.

3. A Tri-Annual Report of park related activities and events was given by the Friends of High School Park members, Mr. Kevin Reise the Restoration Manager who resides at 7951 Montgomery Ave. Elkins Park and Ms. Cynthia Blackwood President of Friends of High School Park, who resides at 1100 Prospect Avenue Elkins Park, PA. (see attached)

Mr. Sam Rucket of Boy Scout Troop #7 also gave a representation of his scout project. He resides at 7703 Chapel Road, Elkins Park, PA 19027. (See attached) Mr. Rucker was given recognition for his work on the reconstruction of the High School Park shed porch. He also built

three birdhouses and two bat boxes. Mr. Sharkey asked Rucker to let the Committee know when he will be receiving his Eagle Scout award.

4. Upon motion of Mr. Portner and unanimously approved by the Committee, the Director's Report for the month of August 2015 were received.

5. Upon motion of Mr. Portner and unanimously approved by the Committee, the Recreation Report for La Mott and Rowland Community Centers for the month of August 2015 were received.

6. Upon motion of Mr. Portner and unanimously approved by Committee, the Curtis and Glenside Hall Reports for the month of August 2015 was received.

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

8. Old Business: None.

9. New Business: Mr. Sharkey wanted to thank the Parks and Recreation Department for a good job during the summer. He asked that the duck (statue) outside the pool area be removed or replaced because it is deteriorating.

10. Citizens' Forum: None.

There being no further business, upon motion of Mr. Portner and unanimously approved by the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.



Bryan T. Havir  
Township Manager

Per Linda J. Vann

Friends of High School Park  
Commissioners' Report, September 2015

The following is an outline description of the activities performed by or directed by Kevin Reis, the Restoration Manager of the Friends of High School Park, with volunteer groups during the months of April through August, 2015

April

Provided "spot spray" consultation with the township personnel  
Hosted a class from Philadelphia University (50 volunteer hours)  
Toured the park, and updated Brian Hinson, Director of Parks & Recreation on projects past and current.  
Provided native plant garden consultation to Cheltenham Elementary School  
Directed Workday Weekends (24 volunteer hours)

May

Mapped invasive exotic species in the lower woodland area and meadow  
Consulted in the design of the Creekside Co-op Garden, continuing the native plant mission of High School Park  
Directed Workday Weekends (18 volunteer hours)

June

Fenced in deer browsed shrubs  
Provided plants and planting services for the EP Traffic Triangle  
Directed and performed exotic invasive plant removal throughout the park  
Continued work on the Creekside Co-op Garden  
Directed Workday Weekends (12 volunteer hours)  
Assisted in Arts In The Park, directed the Plant Sale

July

Maintained trails through the park, weeding, reconstructing, spreading wood chips  
Directed Workday Weekends (18 volunteer hours)  
Mapping of the lower woodland area for future use during Phase II and the redevelopment of the Black Pipe Sewage System

August

Hosted 50 students from Arcadia University for the Annual Day of Service (150 volunteer hours - exotic invasive removal from High School Park and Ogontz Park, wood-chipped trails, cleaned up entry ways)  
Hosted Temple University undergraduate architectural class for four field trip visits  
Directed Workday Weekends (39 volunteer hours)  
Hosted Boy Scout Sam Ruckett for his Eagle Scout project (the renovation of the shed porch, and construction of bird houses and bat houses.

September:

Hosted one of two bird walks through the park.  
Will be hosting 2 workday weekends with an expected 24 volunteer hours.

Thank you - Kevin Reis, Restoration Manager; Cynthia Blackwood, President



Creating a trail and fixing up the parking lot.



Pulling exotic invasive plants from the meadow.



Arcadia's Day of Service volunteer group.



The rotting porch replaced as an Eagle Scout project.



One of three birdhouses installed as an Eagle Scout project



20th annual Arts in the Park reaching record numbers this year.

## **HIGH SCHOOL PARK SHED PORCH RENOVATION PROJECT**



**For my Boy Scouts of America Eagle Scout project, as a member of Troop 7 in Elkins Park, I demolished and rebuilt the porch of the work shed in High School Park. I also built three birdhouses and two bat boxes and installed them in the park. I raised over \$930 for materials. The demolition of the shed commenced on July 24, 2015 and the project was completed with the installation of the bat houses on August 23, 2015.**

**Sam Rucket**



**The existing porch consisted of warped Trex board.**



**When we removed the decking, we found rotted wood and short 4x4s that were not secured to the ground or other boards.**



**We installed 11 4x4 posts 8" deep on a subfloor from the old High School auditorium and cemented them in place. Based on the recommendation of a structural engineer, we used 4x4 framing for added strength.**



**We placed geo fabric over the dirt and covered it with stone to help with drainage. We used 6" wood deck boards to replace the warped Trex board of the old porch.**



**We stained the boards using three coats of weatherproof stain to create a new, stronger, more stable, and more aesthetically pleasing front porch for the shed.**

Kevin Reis, the Park's Restoration Manager, asked if I also could build a few birdhouses and a bat house. I consulted with others and researched the type of houses to build. I found plans online and my family and I built and installed three birdhouses and two single chambered bat boxes.



**Sparrow Bird House**



**Robin Bird House**



**Flicker Bird House**



**Two Single Chambered  
Bat Boxes**



**PUBLIC ATTENDANCE LIST**  
**Parks & Recreation @ 7:30 PM**  
**Public Works Committee @ 7:45 PM**  
**Wednesday, September 9, 2015**  
**Curtis Hall**  
**Wyncote, PA 19095**

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