

Park & Recreation Board
Meeting Notes
February 11, 2014

In Attendance: John Bray, Chairman; Sue Reichwein, Blythe Kelly, Paul DiNella, Emily Remherst. Guests: Shawn Touhill, Board of Supervisors Liaison; Ken Snyder, Board of Supervisor; Joe Salvati, Karen Sweeney, Park & Rec Director via phone and Stephanie Mason, Township Manager.

Minutes

On motion of Ms. Reichwein, seconded by Ms. Kelly, the minutes of 1/14/14 were approved.

No Correspondence

Kids Castle Update

Mr. Salvati indicated that the committee is creating four kingdoms to keep Phase II organized and manageable. They are starting with the first kingdom; they have a donor who is willing to provide play equipment “ship”.

They have looked at the Phase 2 design.

Ms. Sweeney suggested that the design is good and it should be recommended to the Board to accept the design overall. Then the kingdoms could be created and fundraised piece by piece. Installation would occur as things move along.

Mr. Bray liked that idea and suggested that Mr. Salvati take that recommendation back to his committee.

Mr. Bray asked that Ms. Sweeney provide in advance of the next meeting the Phase 2 diagram and any drawing she may have of the proposal.

Sensory Trail

DCD Grant received, would like a further update at the next meeting.

Ms. Mason reported that Baker Engineers is working with the Township along with two other trails to get the bid package for installation of the trail portion.

Dog Park Update

No Report

Amphitheatre

Needs study and planning.

Mr. Bray indicated that he believes that there are two perspectives.

One would be to conduct benchmarking with other municipalities and how they use their facilities. Second: What do we have and what could we use in the future.

Ms. Sweeney provided several photos of existing prefab designs coming from Rose Tree Park, Upper Providence, Hatfield, Bensalem and Forks just to mention a few. She indicated that she had reached out to the colleagues and how they are using their facilities and what we need.

Mr. Bray believes we should make a list of the facilities, find out the events, what other municipalities use the facility for, programming and then look at what our needs are now and going forward. Perhaps what we have done as well as how we use the showmobile and how we make it available for fees.

Mr. Bray indicated prefab resource, what do we want to do to develop the frame work and how we start. This information should be gathered and look at how best to utilize the amphitheater in the Central Park setting.

Ms. Sweeney indicated that she always likes to promote balance in the park and certainly one of the concerns is the hill in Central Park and the ability to keep sledding available.

Ms. Sweeney suggested asking the former members of the Performing Arts Committee to assist with the process as they worked to raise the funds available to create the amphitheater.

Mr. Bray asked Ms. Sweeney to make a list of facilities, what the municipalities and events they stage there are as well as at Central Park. Develop what we would want to do; this would give us a head start.

Ms. Sweeney indicated that would be easy to accomplish.

Mr. Bray suggested we have a launch off on the exploration of the needs assessment.

Park Visit

It was agreed to have the spring meeting on April 8th as a field trip, starting with Turk Park and perhaps Sauerman Park.

There was also discussion regarding the sign for the errant golfers. Ms. Sweeney indicated that she saw proofs and that they have been ordered. The question on whether or not they have been installed or perhaps will be in the spring.

Programs

Ms. Sweeney reminded the committee of the 20th Annual Golf Outing, first Monday in June and perhaps a Food Truck Rodeo in conjunction with CB Cares Educational Foundation.

Bike & Hike Trail

Ms. Sweeney indicated that next year will be the 20th Anniversary of the Sounds of Summer Concert series, which began in 1995.

Mr. DiNella asked about the Neshaminy Creek Greenway Presentation that he attended on January 28, 2014, at the library. This was sponsored by the Buck County Planning Commission.

Mr. Bray indicated that this was a program that the Bike/Hike Committee was familiar with and they meet the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 8:00am at the Township Building. There is an opportunity to attend those meetings.

There was discussion about the EAC but there is no need to meet with them at this time.

Ropes Course Interest

Ms. Reichwein indicated that she and her family have done them, they are great activities. There is someone who is interested in perhaps putting one in the park. This will be discussed further at a future meeting.

Ms. Sweeney pointed out the Lure Coursing activities every their weekend that are very popular at the Dog Park.

Being no further business the meeting adjourned at 6:34PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie J. Mason, Township Manager