



## DOYLESTOWN TOWNSHIP PARK AND RECREATION BOARD

Meeting Notes: Tuesday, January 12, 2021

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A meeting of the Doylestown Township Park and Recreation Board was called to order at 5:32 p.m. on Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at the Doylestown Township Building and via zoom.

- In attendance: Kathy Brown, Kellie McGowan, Mary Ann Bowman, Blythe Kelly, Paul DiNella
- Absent: Kevin Kane
- Guests: Joe Salvatti and Bob Shaffer
- Township representatives: Karen Sweeney-Director of Parks and Recreation, Stephanie Mason, Township Manager, Ryan Manion BOS Liaison

### Election of Officers (KAS):

Motion to Elect Kathy president made by MaryAnne and second by Blythe; unanimous passed

Motion to Elect Paul as vice-chair made by Blythe and second by []; unanimous passed

Motion to Elect Kellie as secretary made by Blythe and second by Paul DiNella; unanimous passed

### No public comment.

### Meeting Notes: November 10, 2020

The meeting notes were unanimously approved on a motion by Blythe and a second by MaryAnne. abstained; was not in attendance.

*Discussion: None.*

Motion to approve October meeting minutes; approved unanimous, Kellie abstained.

*Discussion: None.*

### Plans: None

### New Business: None

- Recreation Building Board/Committee Stakeholder Interviews Questions
  - Kathy called questions of the Board
  - Paul commented that Ballard has been retained to assist with the progress and this is a focus group study
  - Comments of the board
    - Question 1 – How does/can the new community recreation center project intersect with the role/capability of your board/committee?
      - Paul – how doesn't it
      - Kathy – integral part of our committee
      - Paul – programs are a large part of P&R operation
      - Kellie – directly within scope of the P&R committee and increase

- capabilities of our committee
  - Paul – to serve our existing programs
- Question 2 – How would you describe the value Doylestown Township residents (as a whole) place on their park and recreation system?
  - Paul – majority of residents appreciate parks and systems; benefit to the community; Central Park is an anchor to the Township
  - Kathy – high value
  - Blythe and Mary Anne agree
- Question 3 – Do you think the parks and recreation system is balanced in terms of the types of parks, facilities/amenities, programs, and services?
  - Paul we are balanced
  - Kallie – we are balanced as shown in the park assessment with the one piece missing being the indoor facility
  - Kathy doesn't think balanced because missing the indoor
  - Blythe we are very diverse and balanced compared to other municipalities but we need indoor facility
  - Kathy we need to expand what we offer with the indoor capabilities
- Question 4 – Presently there is no indoor recreation space for the provision of programs and services (i.e. active, educational, gatherin, wellness, etc) – Would the Doylestown Township community benefit from having access to a community recreation center – yes or no.
  - Yes.
- Question 4a – If yes, (i) what are three important park and recreation opportunities?
  - Kellie - Youth sports, township camp and general rec space
  - Blythe - Rental opportunities
  - Mary Anne – use in multi-seasons and recreation available
  - Kathy – meeting rooms and classroom space
  - *Top 3:*
    - *Multi-season, multi-use*
    - *Community participation in park and rec*
    - *Upgraded technology and meeting space*
- Question 4a – If yes, (ii) what are three challenges you anticipate?
  - Paul – parking
  - Blythe – personnel
  - Mary Ann – marketing
  - Kathy – funding; design sufficiency for the future
  - *Top 3:*
    - *Staffing/personnel*
    - *Marketing*
    - *Parking/security*
- Question 5 – What would be the most important community recreation center elements/spaces that should be included to best serve the community in a balanced and holistic manner?
  - Paul – gymnasium; large activity and multi-purpose
  - Kellie – multi-use and all of the above, including meeting rooms, rental space, technology, kitchen facility
  - Paul – ability to expand existing programs of the P&R
  - Kathy – importance of technology; emergency services; large area needed for future use
  - Blythe – rentals require entertainment/kitchen/utility space
  - Kathy – storage?
  - Paul – expanded multi-sized space with updated technology to fit

- programming now and in the future
- Question 6 – What important needs should be served with a new community center?
    - Both. Balance community needs in the park and rec program, with opportunity for the special events and other activities that can be revenue-generating. Can't do one without the other to make it effective.
  - Question 7 – What do you anticipate as potential revenue opportunities for the facility?
    - Yes there are revenue opportunities; building may not pay for itself, but there is an expectation of revenue generating opportunities through rentals.
  - Question 8 – What priority should the Township place on the development of a new community center?
    - Very high
  - Question 9 – Other issues or concerns regarding the project?
    - Kathy – inadequate meeting space and not planning for the future
    - Mary Ann – full sized gym
    - Partnerships: over-use of athletic organizations
    - Funding: yes
    - Programs and Services: plan for future expansion of programs
  - Question 10 – Any other thoughts you would like to share?
    - Paul – The building previously utilized was eliminated. We as a board have been working for over 2 years on this process through meetings and plans and we feel that this is a big need for the community, examined financials and revenue and answered those, so the consensus of the board is that we move forward with the building. Sorely need growth opportunities and to plan for the future.
    - Blythe – safety and security of the surrounding community is important so the management of the building is important in terms of security.
    - Should security be the comment earlier
    - Paul – we should talk up our programs and the expansion
    - Kathy – approach as a community center with a community focus to meet the needs of P&R department now and in the future; importance of design features.
    - “Future needs of the community”

#### **Director's Report:**

- BOS meeting January 19, 2020
  - Final draft of P&R open space and comprehensive plan will be considered
  - P&R board encouraged to participate
- Golf Outing change of date to August 23, 2021
  - Members of P&R board encouraged to take an active role in outing
- Resident Volunteer – Little Library at Bridgepoint
  - All residents can contribute; take one/leave one
  - Adequate size to hold books

**\*Adjournment:** Being no further business the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Blythe and a second by Paul, with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Kellie McGowan  
Doylestown Park and Recreation Board

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_