

## RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE - Agenda – September 7, 2011

Next Meeting: November 2, 2011 7pm

Minutes from the May 4 meeting were distributed by email and are posted on the township's website under meetings and agendas.

### - Committee Reports:

- MOHS Student Liaisons: Alex Schneeberg –
  - *MOHS students are still disappointed that there is no carnival.*
  - *She asked about the status of the Drakes Brook Park Lacrosse fields. Jim informed her that the Highlands approval has been received, but that we are still waiting for a DEP permit approval. The TBP LAX field can be used now, however, the water and electric has not been run to the concession shed site yet due to weather and other constraints. After the grounds recover from the monsoons, they will begin work on the parking area.*
  - *Alex was asked by Jill to help promote the High School Ski club program and the CBK Treetop Adventure Trip at Camelback Mountain on Oct 1.*
  - *Jim L. asked about the Junior Class request for a fundraising Bonfire event at Turkey Brook Park. Alex had no information regarding the plans. The committee expressed concerns about a bonfire for students at any location.*
  - *The Senior Class Project Graduation for 2012 is looking for possible locations/activities. There was a conflict in the schedule to use FunPlex as in previous years. Jill offered to send information to Alex and Brigitte about possible sites.*
- Open Space: Jim Farley – No report yet. *Open Space meets next week. A report will be mailed out to the committee after that meeting.*
- Park Development: *Has not met since 2010.*
- Parks, Buildings & Grounds: Jim Lynch –
  - *Despite all the spring rain, the fields held up and the sports teams had a good season, only needing to extend the season by one week.*
  - *1 temporary seasonal employee was hired for 8 weeks, after the rains. Much of the time was spent training him. If he is rehired next spring, more work should be able to be accomplished for the spring/summer. A former employee was brought back (temporary position) for the fall season and much more work is being accomplished, including storm clean-up. Fields were closed after Hurricane Irene because there is not enough staff who are not emergency responders available to operate equipment needed for maintenance.*
  - *Prior to Hurricane Irene, windscreens and canopies were taken down and winterized. They will not be put back up for the short fall season. Additional winterization for facilities will begin in October.*
  - *Several camps met at Turkey Brook Park over the summer, and High School sports teams were using fields prior to the start of school.*
  - *The Dog Park still remains very busy.*
  - *MOTFC is considering moving their cross country program from Drakes Brook Park to Turkey Brook Park, where they can use a mix of paved and unpaved trails/terrain.*
  - *Dan thanked Jim for providing extra trash and recycle receptacles by the TBP Football concession stand and spectator areas. Jim mentioned that the Mayor directed the DPW Director to have the remaining P, B & G operating budget be used to provide Sunday overtime for the Football field trash removal and bathroom maintenance.*
  - *Vandalism is again happening at the TBP bathrooms. MOPD has been asked to check that the doors are not slightly propped open to prevent locking after hours, allowing access by the vandal.*
- Board of Ed/Mutual Facilities: Liz Ouimet - Absent
  - *Jill mentioned the Sports Associations' and Mutual Facilities meeting that was held at 7am on 8/3. Minutes are in the meeting packet. The meeting was well attended by representatives from the sports associations. The 7am time seems to work better than the 6pm time, especially for BOE personnel.*
  - *The BOE is now using Community Pass, through the Recreation Dept.'s portal, for students' families. When logging into Community Pass, the parent should look on the left side of the screen to find the School District link. Currently a form has been uploaded for the BOE. Further items will be posted. The BOE & Rec will be able to share a common e-mail distribution list, but all program registrations, and other information will be kept separate.*
  - *Recreation has been asked to take on the coordination of Community School. We are in the process of obtaining data, records, etc. Jill met with Dr. Reynolds and Ms. McCreay yesterday, prior to his meeting with the BOE Business Committee. He seemed to think that they would approve the transfer, and make that recommendation to the Board.*

Community School's brochure just went to the printer yesterday. The plan is to have Community School operate until 12/31/11. Then starting in January, Recreation will take over. There are a lot of logistics to go over, plus Jill will need to analyze data to use in making the Rec Utility Budget 2012.

- Mt. Olive Senior Club: Ron Perry:
  - The Senior Club Newsletter and web site continues to provide lots of information. For \$15/year, residents age 55+ may join the Mt. Olive Senior Club. Membership benefits include discounts on trips and events. There about 250 members. They try to keep track of the various services and benefits available to Seniors from local, county, state and federal sources. Education sessions focus on issues pertinent to Seniors, particularly health related issues. Since May, activities have included mini-golf, bowling, shuffleboard, bocce, the Senior Picnic, the Key Club's Senior Prom and more. There are regular trips to Mt. Airy and Atlantic City. Seniors are staying active and are willing to volunteer where needed. If there are suggestions for tasks that the seniors could undertake, please contact Ray Oser, at (973) 527-4944 or [roser@optonline.net](mailto:roser@optonline.net).

### New Business:

- Taste of the Highlands event: This event is scheduled for Monday, Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> (Columbus Day) from 5:30 to 8:30pm at the Senior Center. A Kids' Taste will be in the Municipal Building at the same time, for parents at the Taste. We are actively recruiting restaurants. So far, restaurants include: On Call Catering, The Sweet Spot Bake Shoppe, Budd Lake Diner, Patsey's Café, Rose's Place, Cliff's Ice cream, Splash Seafood & Pasta, Long Valley Brew Pub, Fresco's, with more on the way. The Kids' Taste will also showcase some of our Fall Recreation programs with activities from our instructors. We are still looking for some Sponsors. PNC Bank is the water sponsor again, and Huntington Learning center will be the presenting sponsor for the Kids' Taste. Committee members have sponsorship information in their packets. Ron encouraged everyone on the committee to purchase tickets and attend. Discount tickets will be available at the 3 PNC Bank branches and at Recreation, through 10/9. Advance sale tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for Seniors (age 60+) and children (ages 3-11) \$10. Jim recommended asking the sports associations to post our pdf flyer on the websites and to help promote it to their members.
- Community School – See information covered in the Mutual Facilities report
- Other: (from Dan Weiss): Interested in bringing the carnival or other large twp event to Turkey Brook: Tabled until November meeting.

### Old Business

- Turkey Brook Park Donor Sign – Friends of Turkey Brook Park: update  
7 signs have been put up on the Donor board. We have room for more! We have received donations from about have of the donors. Reminder letters will be sent out. \$1800.00 has been received to date, with \$1300.00 still to come.
- Viridian Energy Fundraising update – green flyer  
All approvals are in place for this fundraiser. It was rolled out in time for the Green Summerfest. Recreation had a booth on site and representatives from Viridian assisted in providing information to the public. Information regarding how to participate in the fundraiser are in tonight's packet. All committee members are encouraged to participate, if they are ready to change energy suppliers to Viridian. Please encourage friends and family to participate, and if there are other non-profit organizations who would like to do this fundraising program, they can do so through contacting Mt. Olive Recreation, we will receive a smaller donation for each of their participants.
- Green Summerfest at Vasa Park: was held on Saturday 8/13 (Sunday 8/14 was rained out). It was well attended, by about 750 people. Jill was not in town, but Recreation had a booth on-site. The same company that arranged the Flea Market, coordinated the Green Summerfest. Recreation will be receiving a donation from JC Promotions in the next few weeks.
- Beach Tags/Attendance: Attendance was down dramatically at Budd Lake Beach this summer, now that there is an admission fee. 2010 saw 12,000 visitors. 2011 had 4044, a drop of 2/3. 250 Adult resident tags, 12 non-resident adults were sold, and 188 resident Child tags, 13 non-resident tags were sold. Resident and non-resident status was not tracked for daily walk-ins. Staffing was cut dramatically when attendance levels were consistently low. Swim lessons were also severely affected, since adding the beach admission to the swim lesson cost nearly doubled that total fee. We are having a planning meeting in a few weeks with the beach supervisors to brainstorm ways to improve for next season. We will probably bundle benefits, such as free event admission and discount swim lessons. We finished the season with needing to use over \$11,000 of our previous fund balance to cover our costs.
- Mobi-Mat for wheelchair access at Beach update: Council approved Open Space funding for the bond to purchase the four mobi-mats for ADA access on the beach. The demo mat that was provided for us during the season, survived the hurricane and high waters with no difficulty. We are in the process of submitting the requisition and sole source documentation needed for the purchase.

- Flea Market/Yard Sale Saturday, 7/9 at Turkey Brook Park, 9am – 5pm Soccer Parking Lot: *The event was attended. About 1,000 people came. There were 65 vendors in the soccer parking, and plenty of room for parking by shoppers. I have given several possible dates for 2012 for 2 events in July and 2 in August. The parking lot is too busy during the spring & fall sports seasons.*
- Fairy Festival: May 21 at Turkey Brook Park 10am - 2pm: *This event had a phenomenal turnout – more than 1,000 people came for the 4 hour event. It was the first sunny day in May. The fields were closed because they were under water and the great lawn area was too soggy. We held the event on the basketball court instead. The presenting sponsors, Drs Cohen & Schwartz Dental (Tooth fairy!) and Bright Horizons were very pleased. We thought we would see 200-300 visitors.. We had a constant line 30+ deep for face painting, with 4 – 6 stations staffed. Vendors ran out or supplies. Star Dogs kept going out to resupply They sold over 1,000 hot dogs. We are already planning the 2012 event to include Fairies & Friends (Pirates!?). We will be contacting MOSC and the other sports groups to let them know, so they can plan now to schedule away games that day.*
- Other:
  - Mary asked about the fundraiser for collecting electronic to be recycled. Jill hasn't had time to work on those logistics. Mary offered to coordinate it.
  - PNC is checking to see if they can sponsor the On Warm Coat Drive again this fall. The sponsorship donation provides funds for the department and is an easy service to coordinate.

- **Committee meetings:**

- Park Development Committee meeting
- Mutual Facilities & Sports Associations' Committee – 8/3 minutes – yellow. Next meeting 11/2 at 7am

- **Continuing Concerns**

- Suggestions for future programming, facilities, special events, Trips –
- Community Service recommendations for Fall/Winter
- Recommendations for Agenda – *please e-mail me!*

- **Special Events & Trips –**

- 9/17 San Gennaro Festival \$30
- 9/20 Yankees Games! \$42 Leaves ITC Walmart at 4:15pm A few tickets left!
- 10/1 CBK Treetop Adventure for ages 13-18 \$60 Leaves MOHS at 8:30am returns 3:30pm.
- 10/10 Taste of the Highlands \$20 in advance \$25 at the door (Senior Center) \$15 for Seniors. Kids' Taste \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door.
- 11/5 Sister Act and Memphis Broadway shows \$113 leaves ITC Walmart at 9am and returns around 6pm
- 12/3 NYC Holiday Shopping and Lights Tour \$35
- 12/22 Trans-Siberian Orchestra at the Prudential Center 8pm show \$103

**Enclosures:**

RAC Minutes (blue)      Viridian Fundraiser flyer (green)  
Sports Associations' and Mutual facilities meetings minutes

Taste of the Highlands information (salmon)  
Fall program flyer from Green Summerfest event