

RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE – Minutes: January 27, 2016

Next Meeting 7pm March 9, 2016

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

In attendance: Brigitte Geiger, Noelle Kehrley, Frank DiPrimo, Amanda Fink, Arthur Punla, Karen McConnell, Alex Roman, Antoine Gayles, Jim Lynch, Jill Daggon

- Committee Reports:

- o Open Space: Karen McConnell: *No meeting was held at the beginning of January. Alex will follow up to see that Karen is included on the email distribution list.*
- o Parks, Buildings & Grounds: Jim Lynch: *Since our last meeting Park staff winterized everything, added 2 more people: Steve Schiller and Martin Erdle. Both have served in police departments and bring many talents and interests to the team.*
 - o *Baseball is planning their tournaments (Memorial Day until October). Russ Nagel field will be used in 3 tournaments. They want to redo the backstop, double the batting cages and add a press box. Jim will meet with them next week to talk about how they can accomplish this.*
 - o *Splashpad construction will start March/April*
 - o *New Maintenance Building design was passed around the table. It will be located at the edge of the Lacrosse parking area, just before the access to Petillo Parkway, out of sight from the Historic Seward Mansion and barn, as required by the state.*
 - o *Braille Trail – partnering with Stanhope to repair the bridge on Plane Street. Stanhope is to provide \$10,000 of materials and 1 of their 4 DPW staff. Jim anticipates 3-4 of his staff will be needed to complete the project in about 3.5 weeks.*
 - o *They did get a sawmill – they are milling wood from trees downed by Sandy and using them for DPW vehicles that need sideboards. He will ask Tim (Director DPW) to reach out to other area DPWs to offer the same service, plus milling work for historical uses and bring in revenue for the township.*
 - o *Jim is keeping track of work orders in iWorqs – in January they have almost 500 work orders!*
 - o *Budget hearings are on this Saturday, 1/30. PB&G is asking for a 8'x24' enclosed trailer to be an offsite mobile base of operations. Also requesting a truck with a bucket lift so they can do work in a timely manner (instead of having to schedule arrange the use of the BOE unit). The truck will also be able to be used for plowing and other general work. A 25kvh generator is on the list, for events – especial since the water & sewer generator is always on call for emergencies. It will be able to power the ShowMobile (on Jill's 2017 capital request) we need to replace a trailer used to store files.*
 - o *Drakes Brook Park has 1 lacrosse field coming on line this spring. The other field still needs some remediation.*
 - o *Morris County owns a parcel of land that is between Drakedale Road and Drakes Brook Park. We will be walking the property with Laura Harris when the conditions are cooperative. We will need to meet with Gene Buczynski to review if it is possible to build a baseball field there (providing we can convince the county to lease the property to us. Once upon a time, Kathy Murphy, grants coordinator, mentioned that the county could lease the property to us for \$1/year for 99 years). This is in anticipation of losing the baseball field at the former BOE building. The site can be accessed from the Drakes Brook Park parking lot. The field and amenities will need to be compliant with the 2010 ADA regulations for recreation facilities.*
 - o *The Dog Park access and parking should be cleared of snow this week. The snow in the dog park is still quite deep.*
- o Trail Maintenance – every 2 weeks trails are walked and maintenance done as needed (primarily the White Trail, TBP and TB Greenway).
- o Board of Ed: Antoine Gayles: *The BOE is aware of the Rec Dept's request for school facilities for summer programming. Alex mentioned that it would be great to reach out to students to make videos of events, interviews with twp staff, make PBA video. Jill will contact Dr. Reynolds to see what is available and the procedure.*

New Business:

- o Congratulations to appointed members for 2016 – update contact information
- o Select Chair and Vice Chair for the Committee: *Brigitte was chosen as Chair and Noelle continues as Vice Chair (Thank you!)*
- o 2016 Events & Volunteering: *A green spreadsheet is in the handouts, listing the 2016 events, and out need for volunteers. Please review the events and dates – we would like each member to volunteer for 2 events and 1 shift at the Carnival. We need lots of help to deliver excellent events. Email Jill.*
- o RAC member projects/assistance: *Please email Jill with your interests and skills that can relate to Recreation so we can best utilize the resources and abilities each member brings to the committee.*

Old Business

1. Background check ordinance – update: All sports associations have been sent the procedures and form needed to have their volunteers' fingerprints scanned. We are handling the option to submit alternate documentation proving a background check has been done within the last 6 months, on a case by case basis. MOPD is the contact with the state for the reports. Re will set up a data base of volunteers to track the screening process, and work with the associations with the process to reimburse their volunteers.
2. Need leads for sponsors and vendors for all events – we are lining up sponsors now, so it is in their 2016 budget. We've added several more levels of sponsorship to each event, plus print and digital media. More opportunities for banners (especially feather banners)

3. New programs/New instructors needed for Rec programming. *We've found that our families look for new programs every 2 years – even if the instructor has changed up the specifics. We need help locating new program ideas and people to provide them.*
4. Spring Brochure will be in schools at the end of February.
5. Recreation's Monthly Reports for November & December

Events:

1. 11/1-19 Blanket & Coat Drive: Approximately 1,000 coats and blankets were collected and donated
2. 12/13 CandyLand about 500 people joined us at the library
3. 1/23 Sand & Sea: Snowstorm encouraged us to reschedule this event and dovetail it into the Fairy & Pirate Festival on 5/14. Sponsors are happy, only a few people requested credits to their accounts.
4. 2/20 Cabin Fever Reliever: All sponsors have been recruited, working now with organizations for activities. Need a volunteer DJ
5. 3/12 Lego & Tech Fest: Working with the Mt. Olive Robotics Club and the Lego First League, as well as our other Lego and Tech instructors
6. 4/16 Pajama Run 5K: Event is on Run Reg and registered with the charity Pajamas for Kids.
7. 5/14 Fairy & Pirate Festival

Trips

Yankees trip Looking into June dates for only 1 trip in 2016

• Other:

- *The trail off Sandshore Rd to the lake on the bog side is over grown, and has not been worked on recently.*
- *Fishing pier – Frank went a few times and spoke with others who expressed a concern that they did not catch any fish from that location. It is a popular spot for ice fishing. Many anglers choose to go out by boat/kayak to the bog side of the lake to fish. Is it possible to place material off the pier that would be an inviting environment for fish? Jill will check – there may be issues with placing objects/trees in the water.*
- *Alex suggested looking into Drone Racing – obstacle course for drones.*
- *Lighting at TBP – Jill is requesting 2 light towers for events, but it still takes 21 light towers to provide lighting all around the park, from crosswalks to parking area. We would like to see a permanent lighting plan. With the new Maintenance Building, JC&L can bring in 3 phase power. That could benefit baseball and lacrosse fields.*
- *Food Truck Festival: Location has to change this year, with the splashpad going into the great lawn. We want to be able allow cars to park in the soccer lot.*
- *A suggestion was made to offer pre-sale parking passes for carnival and food trucks, at a higher price. Then offer free parking at MOHS with shuttle service. The money made from the passes will offset the lack of revenue from MOHS. Event promotions need to clearly state what the parking fee donation is benefiting (purpose)*
- *We should survey people concerning what trips they would like go on.*
- *We could place a suggestion box at the Rec table at Cabin Fever with a prepared list of possible ideas for events/programs*
- *There are a lot of people moving into Mt. Olive. We should get a list of new home owners and send out a Welcome packet with things to do/info for families. We can reach out to realtors with the Welcome Packet as a sponsor benefit...*
- *Noelle is willing to help with Social Media Marketing*
- *We need volunteers to take video and pictures for social media of our events and programs*

- Continuing Concerns

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

Enclosures:

RAC Minutes (blue) RAC Meeting Calendar 2016 (pink) Recreation Event Dates (green)
 Recreation Monthly Reports November & December (Salmon)