

## RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE – Minutes: November 2, 2016 7pm

### Next Meeting:

Minutes from the May 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, Alex Roman, Jill Daggon

#### Committee Reports:

- o Open Space: Karen McConnell: *Karen's report via email: Reminder--Trail Building Day--November 5* Mt. Olive Trails Team! On **Saturday, November 5** we will keep working on a trail on the Silver Spring Farm property from Flanders-Drakestown Road to Route 206. We will work from 9 to no later than noon. **Meet** on Flanders-Drakestown Road. There is a widening of the road next to the detention basin before Theresa Drive (driving uphill in the direction towards Tinc Road) where you can park. The detention basin is between the Silver Spring Restaurant & Theresa Drive. You can also park on Theresa Drive. (Do not park at the restaurant!) Please put a *note on the dashboard of your car that you are trail building. Everyone should bring work gloves & water. Also, bring any of the following tools: loppers, hammer, clippers, saw, rake. Recommend that you wear long pants, hiking boots or other closed-toed outdoor shoes, & socks. Feel free to bring (or share this announcement with) friends, family and neighbors. Our goal is to make a loop on this nearly 300 acre property. Inquiries can be made by emailing [mtotrails@gmail.com](mailto:mtotrails@gmail.com) or give me a call. Unless it is pouring, we will go rain or shine.*
- o Parks, Buildings & Grounds: Jim Lynch: *Jim's report via email. All park operations normal. Seward Mansion fence down since building is secure and stabilized. Fall maintenance and shut down of restrooms coming mid month. Budget has been submitted and hearing is 11/9.*
- o Board of Ed: *No liaison*

#### Updates & New Business:

- o Noreen Wilpieszski (Rec Assistant) has accepted a position in the Borough of Middlesex, as their Recreation Director. Lilirana (Lili) Pappaterra started last week as our Rec Assistant. She has a degree in Outdoor Adventure Recreation from Green Mountain College in Vermont, experience in adaptive recreation and is tri-lingual. We are excited for all the new avenues Lili will be bringing to our department.
- o Bill Caldarola is also volunteering 3 mornings a week in our department, learning more about the administrative side of Recreation. He is a recent graduate of Sacred Heart University in Connecticut, with a BS in Sport Management.
- o Recommendations for three, 3-year terms, and one unfilled 1 year term for our committee: *Brigitte and Noelle would like to be reappointed. We need 2 more volunteers to fill the remaining positions. Please submit suggestions to Jill by Thanksgiving.*
- o Fall programming is well underway. The After School All Stars program at Tinc Rd school is so successful, that parents have requested a before school program as well. Morning Stars started this week.
- o Winter Programming – we are in the final stages of gathering information for new programs for Winter 2017. Chef It Up has planned a Drop & Shop event on 12/22 at her store, where kids can be dropped off and partake of some fun cooking activities, while parents finish up their holiday shopping. The Ski Shawnee program is now open to 4<sup>th</sup> graders, and we have a family registration package, if a family would like to drive up together. The event for January is a Shop Small coupon event for area businesses, to promote shopping at our local supporters and sponsors. Most programming will begin the last week of January/early February. PEAK has several new programs including indoor soccer, snow tubing and a family trip to Camelback's indoor waterpark.
- o Budget planning for 2017 is underway. Recreation's budget meeting is 11/9.
- o A Tournament Planning Committee is held on 9/28 to develop policies and procedures for sports tournaments. The Health Dept. ran a food handlers' course for the sports associations on 10/18, so they could be in compliance for their food concessions for tournaments.
- o Videos for posting on Facebook are needed! We have posted a video contest on Facebook, to promote the Hot Cocoa 5k. Best submissions will win gift cards, and have their videos posted on various social media platforms. RAC members (and families) can submit cell phone videos to promote this event and others. 40 secs or less, family friendly.
  - o *Suggestion was made that we use Twitter more – choose a # relevant to the event and offer a prize such as free admission to an event, 2 wristbands for the carnival, register for 3 events, 4<sup>th</sup> is free, etc. Random drawings for the opportunity to win (25<sup>th</sup> to register, 99<sup>th</sup>, etc.)*
  - o *Have more administrators for the FB access*
  - o *Have more volunteers take pictures & post and share at events: John Geiger, when at events, Noelle, & Arthur.*

#### Old Business

1. 2016 Fall Event volunteers needed: 11/19 Hot Cocoa 5K (*Noelle*), 12/11 Winterland workshops (*Amanda*)
2. Need leads for sponsors and vendors for all print and digital media. More opportunities for banners (especially feather banners)
3. New programs/New instructors needed for Rec programming for Spring and Summer
4. Winter Brochure will be in schools 12/9.
5. Recreation's Monthly Reports for September & October

#### Events:

1. 9/24 Starry Skies Craft Beer and Wine event – perfect weather! Nicely attended. Next year the Sept. event will be a Big Backyard BBQ Bash, with streaming a football game on a giant screen, a chili cook-off and more!
2. 10/29 Monster Mash Dash and Glow Run – about 300 participants, went very smoothly

Upcoming Events

- 3. 11/19 Hot Cocoa 5K & Bonfire Boutique
- 4. 12/10 Winterland – winter crafts and activities at the Senior Center

- **Other: Mobile App:** *Jill, Liz, Christie, Scott met with Michael O'Hagen from MersaTech about the services they can offer in a mobile app. This proposal is really geared toward Recreation, parks & trails, special events. Alex is interested in an app that covers all municipal services. We will look at other mobile app services at the NJLOM. Noelle will look to see what other towns may have. A meeting will be scheduled later in the month to review options.*

- Continuing Concerns

- o Suggestions for future programming, facilities, special events,

- o Community Service recommendations
- o Recommendations for Agenda – *please e-mail me!*

Enclosures:

RAC Minutes (blue)  
RAC 2017 Calendar (Yellow)

Recreation Monthly Reports September, October (Salmon)  
2017 Events (Green)