

RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE – Minutes Nov 5, 2014

Next Meeting: January 14, 2015 7pm

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

In attendance: Harry Bond, Noelle Keherley, Mary Gallagher, Aaron Allen, Alex Roman, Jim Lynch and Jill Daggon

- Committee Reports:

- o Open Space: Jim Farley: no report
- o Parks, Buildings & Grounds: Jim Lynch –
 - o *Huge park use this fall. Traffic counters were put out for the 10/25 (2nd date) Soccer Tournament, 4,000+ cars. That didn't include the CMS parking lot or the LAX parking. Attendance estimates for the 1st weekend was 15,000 people. On 10/25 we had the Halloween soccer tournament, softball tryouts, football games and the Monster Mash 3K Dash fun run/walk. A fire pit was built in the event activity area and was used for Monster Mash and other upcoming Rec events. For other groups wanting to use the fire pit, they will have to contact Recreation. A bonfire permit will be needed from the fire marshal and a policy developed that includes only using wood supplied by PB&G. We need a log splitter. Jim is also planning on using funds from the Tree bank to plant trees to be a windscreen for the fire pit area. The sports fields have had a lot of use – the football game field hosted 64 games this season. It will be worked on in the spring. Trails have been added and soccer field 4 now has lights, that can also illuminate the great lawn area for future events. With all the work going on at the park, and installation of security cameras, vandalism is down at the park.*
 - o *The old Baptist Church and one room school house had some trees removed and additional renovation work. More work is being planned for the Seward mansion.*
- o Board of Ed/Mutual Facilities: no report

New Business:

- o *4 committee member's terms expire 12/31, 1 member is unable to continue through 12/31/16. We need to provide recommendations. Expiring terms: Aaron Allen, Mary Gallagher, Don Verducci, Harry Bond, unexpired term: Dan Weiss.*
 - o *Aaron is willing to serve again (thank you!!!) and mary will let me know.*
 - o *We need recommendations as soon as possible. Prospective volunteers need to send Jill an email with a brief bio and why they are interested in serving on the committee.*
 - o *Many Rec Committees help with planning and volunteering at Rec Events, and actively promote Recreation programming. We need help with events and recruiting volunteers. Jill would like to see committee members volunteer for 2 events a year, plus 1 day at the carnival.*
- o 2015 Meeting dates – 1/14, 3/4, 5/6, 6/3 (if needed), 9/3, 11/3
- o Planning for 2015: *New Events: 1/25 Snow & Ice Tea Party, 3/29 Lego Party, 5/16 Food Trucks and Fireworks, 8/2 Wet & Wild, 7/24, 31 and 8/7 Movie night events, November Coat Drive. Carnival is 7/8-12.*
- o Sports Associations sports planning calendar – to set season parameters to prevent overlap. Perhaps a Google calendar that the sports associations' presidents or board members can log into and see/add information.

Old Business

- Rutgers S.A.F.E.T.Y. Coaches training on 9/29 was moved to 10/27 – only 4 participants
- Budget Planning – Capital requests by Sports Associations to meet with Paul Licitra by Sept.15, Rec & PB&G budget planning
PB&G – cameras at all parks, tied to 1 integrated system in conjunction with the IT budget (it would be great to be able to have the public log in remotely to watch a game). Russ Nagel – lights will be reset for an adjustment for returning to standard time. Is there signage on who to contact if someone wants the lights on? Usually people call dispatch and they can reach Jim.
- Rec Updates:
 - o September & October Monthly reports
 - o Brochures – Winter will be distributed in schools for Friday 12/5. (Goes to printer 11/13). New programs include: Solar Space Fleet Workshop, Chemical Creations, Jam Cats, Theater.
 - o Developing marketing plans for 2015, including sponsors for E-newsletter and Mayor's Wellness monthly e-newsletter
 - *Suggestion to add to our event/program registrations – "How did you hear about us?" QR codes can be added to posters and flyers.*
 - o Looking into developing a mobile app
 - o Working on revising summer camps to be science and nature based
- Events:
 - o 9/28 Tour de Mt. Olive- Flanders Park. 84 riders in the 40 mile course, 72 in the 5 mile family ride and 8 participants in the Trike-a-thon. Approximately 280 people attended the activities on site.
 - o 10/25 Monster Mash 3k – tremendous turn out – almost 700 participants. Bonfire huge success.

- 11/22 Bike & Hike – Turkey Brook. As of Monday 11/3, only 6 people were pre-registered. We have made the event free and added a nature stroll (for strollers) since we seem to be drawing a lot of young families. The mountain bike course will be the same as the hike, starting 5 minutes before the hikers. Activities at the party area include a bonfire, inflatable ride, DJ, food, games.
- 12/7 CandyLand – MOPL. We've expanded the activity space in the Children's area of the library – we have 3 activity stations available to fill. We expect 600+ people.
- Trips:
 - 9/23 Yankees vs. Baltimore Orioles trip. Sold Out!
 - 11/7 Radio City Christmas Spectacular trip partnering with Jefferson Twp Recreation – sold out!
 - 12/21 Trans Siberian Orchestra 3pm show at the Prudential Center \$125 ticket – some tickets left – Join us!
- Other:
 - Suggestion for an activity – “Shop with a Cop” partner with local businesses/sponsors for \$100 gift cards. Children then are taken by volunteer officers to shop for holiday presents for their families.
 - Can we put advertising in the bathrooms? Green Acres allows recognition of sponsors for facilities and grounds but not advertising per se. Vandalism is also a concern. If Lowes or other supplier provides in-kind materials perhaps they could be recognized with a sign above the mirror area?
 - Carnival – please request more advanced sale wristbands. (We are already planning on that, and will have 3 dates for in person payments/voucher pick up: June 1, 15 and 30 – the Rec Dept will stay open until 8pm)
 - We need a digital sign at the entrance of Turkey Brook (replacing the donor acknowledgement sign) and remind all the park users of upcoming events or traffic/safety awareness for the park.

- **Continuing Concerns**

- Suggestions for future programming, facilities, special events, trips, improvements
- Community Service recommendations for winter
- Recommendations for Agenda – *please e-mail me!*

Enclosures:

RAC Minutes (blue) Monthly Reports (tan) 2015 Calendar (Pink)