

Tredyffrin Township Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes

Date: November 18, 2009

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Tredyffrin Township Building

Park Board Attendees: Jack Edson, Tami Schofield, Sean Moir, Joe Barks

Township Attendees: Hillary Mallory, John DiBuonaventuro, John DiMaio

Guests: Kevin Haddad, Boy Scout from Troop 181

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of October 14, 2009 were approved.

I. Financial Report: No report was reviewed.

II. Old Business:

For Profit Groups Field Usage – New Township Ordinance: John DiBuonaventuro stated that he and Mimi Gleason are drafting an ordinance which should be ready to present to the Board of Supervisors in the beginning of the New Year.

501(c)(3) Status /Wish List: Beth Brake submitted documents prepared with Careen Wright to provide the newly formed non-profit with guidance regarding funds solicited and/or contributed to the non-profit organization. The areas identified where the public could support the township's parks were Park Improvement, Park Maintenance and Park Utilization. A spreadsheet was included listing prices where available for items that could be donated to the parks, events that could be organized and held at the parks and field naming rights. There was discussion as to whether a brochure should be printed and mailed out as a means of soliciting funds, or whether a document should be put on the website maintained by the non-profit listing items to be donated. If the Board determined that a printed brochure was appropriate, Joe Barks indicated he could help with production.

John DiBuonaventuro stated that he viewed the wish list as a "living" document to be added to and adjusted as needs are met and new needs arise. After discussion, it was determined that formal production of the wish list would be put on hold, but that the list would be fluid. Joe Barks will call a meeting of the non-profit board to get them planning their next step.

Discussion turned to the status of IRS approval of the 501(c)(3) application. John DiBuonaventuro and Joe Barks agreed to make a trip to the IRS personally if necessary to determine what is holding up the application. They will involve Bill Richter, the Secretary of Non-Profit Board. Joe Barks believed that approval was imminent when the application was submitted in the spring of 2009.

Field Naming Rights: Hillary Mallory stated that the township is in the process of renewing naming rights for the fields. There are 8 fields that are currently named, each with a five year term . There are 2 fields with ten-year terms, each with five years left on their terms. It was her hope that she could offer a payment plan through December assuming that the 501(c)(3) would have already been approved; now it appears that she will just receive one lump payment. Payment is imminent on 5 of the 8.

The goal was to time the payments with official approval of the non-profit status to ensure the money would be spent on matters related to the township parks and would not be part of the township's general funds. This could be an issue in the future.

Concern was raised about the \$25,000 seed money that has been donated to the non-profit. Beth Brake stated that money donated to the township with notation on the memo portion of the check is tax deductible to the donor and the donation must be earmarked by the township according to instructions on the check. It is also true that once the non-profit has received approval, money donated for a specific purpose must be used by the non-profit organization for that purpose.

It was noted by John DiBuonaventuro that money donated to the 501(c)(3) for a specific purpose would still require BOS approval to implement because the land is owned by the township.

Recycling Bins Grant Program: Beth Brake talked to the point person from Coca-Cola who said the grant program used to be administered by the National Recycling Council (now in bankruptcy). It will be administered by Keep America Beautiful. The representative thought Keep America Beautiful would make the announcement requesting grant applications in Feb 2010, with a 6-8 week application period. Beth joined Keep America Beautiful and sent an email to them expressing our interest.

III. New Business

Garrison Flag Lighting: There is no light on the new flag that was installed in Wilson Park this fall. Apparently the veterans were planning to fund a light but do not have the resources now. Hillary Mallory stated that they have received complaints from other veterans about the lack of a light. These veterans have volunteered to raise and take down the flag if it cannot be lit as protocol requires. It is quite large and heavy, so doing this daily may be unfeasible and require several people. John DiBuonaventuro said he would discuss and hopefully resolve the matter with Bill Bellew.

Billboard Lease Renewal: John DiBuonaventuro stated that the BOS Finance Committee is reviewing a lease renewal for the billboard on Radbill Park on Bearhill Road. Currently the billboard has a standard sign on each side. At issue is changing one side to be a digital sign, which could significantly increase the revenue earned by the township from the leases. The matter will go to the Zoning Board once the lease has been negotiated, at which time any issues will be vetted. The Park Board members recommended the digital side face downhill.

Crabby Creek Bridges: Sean Moir stated the Crabby Creek bridges have been removed from the Five-Year plan due to budget constraints. He asked the Park Board to reconsider working with the Boy Scouts to construct suitable passenger bridges. He showed photographs of the bridges completed by the Boy Scouts in Upper Merion and Radnor. John DiBuonaventuro suggested that Sean should talk to the Recreation Director in Radnor to discuss how liability

issues were handled. John will talk to our township solicitor on the matter. The Boy Scout attending the meeting stated that there are several scouts in his troop that are searching for their Eagle Scout project. The bridges would fit their requirements.

Deer Count – No Deer count available.

IV. Reports

Police Report: Officer DiMaio reported that there were 5 incidents in October. Of note, there was criminal mischief in the bathrooms consisting of destruction of property. Also, Judge Tartaglio required minors found guilty of underage drinking and mischief in Teagarden Park to write a letter apologizing to the Park Board. The letter was read at the meeting. Skateboarders were asked to leave Wilson Park where they are marking up the stage and surrounding area. Signs in the immediate area stating that skateboarding is not allowed have been unlawfully removed.

Public Works Report: Hillary Mallory read the public works report from Steve Norcini. The crews left in the parks are minimal as the season winds down. The new water fountain for Wilson Park has come in and will be installed. Crews are aerating the fields.

Joe Barks brought up the notice emailed by EJ to township residents announcing that the Cassatt Road compost sight will be opened to receive leaves on Sat 11/21. Township resident Bryan Baynard working with Hillary Mallory has volunteered to man the sight, which has been closed unlike prior years. If all goes well, Bryan will volunteer for a few more Saturdays. Joe suggested that the Facilities Committee of the Park Board take a more proactive role in soliciting future volunteers to man the sight beginning in the spring of 2010. Hillary commented that the volunteers need to fill out the sheet found on the township's website.

Recreation Report: Hillary Mallory stated that staff is in place for the winter rec program. Visual sound came and repaired the sound system at Wilson Park free of charge. Their assessment was that the system had been struck by lightning.

V. Committee Reports

Sidewalks Trails and Paths: Sean Moir noted that there will be a public hearing on 1/4/10 at the BOS meeting as to whether or not the BOS should adopt the Patriot Path Plan as part of the Comprehensive Plan. The Planning Commission approved the adoption and recommended that the BOS approve it as well.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Brake