

**Minutes of the Open Space Park and Recreation Board
Upper Pottsgrove Township**

July 10, 2018

A meeting of the Open Space Park and Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, July 10, 2018. Those present were Chuck Note, Sherry Paup, and Nancy Toothaker. Also present were County Planner Lauren Van Dyk, Circuit Rider Michael Lane, Township Manager Carol R. Lewis and Commissioner Renee Spaide. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. by Chuck Note.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Those present pledged their allegiance to the flag.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Motion by N. Toothaker, seconded by S. Paup and unanimously carried to approve the minutes with the change to page 2 removing and copies were provided to members to review and the last sentence of Long Range Plan.

OLD BUSINESS:

GREEN ALLIES PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS – C. Lewis advised the Board that in August the two interns will be providing presentations on Master Plans for Sussell Park and Prout Farm Park. In answer to a question from Chuck Note; C. Lewis advised that the Agreement for maintenance and activities on these parks by the Althouse Arboretum was approved last year and this is an extension of that Agreement. As noted, they will have to get Board approval for any activities or improvements they would like to undertake.

PARRC COMMITTEE UPDATES - Michael Lane and Craig Colistra, from Pottstown Health and Wellness will be presenting at the Board of Commissioners meeting on August 20, 2018, about the Circuit Rider Program and moving it forward for the next five (5) years.

HOLLENBACH PARK – C. Lewis met with Lauren Van Dyk and Patty from the Montgomery County Planning Commission. They are working on a Master Planting Plan for the entire property that could be phased. The Board discussed the fact that additional signage is needed at the entrance to some of the trails as it is very hard to discern, for example, Mocharniuk Meadows Trail and Corry's Trail. They will be doing a presentation to the Board in August or September.

PROGRAMS – Michelle Reddick is still looking for Community Day volunteers. If you have not responded; please do so. Chuck Note advised that he had been to East Whiteland Township Community Days. They had over 800 people, 50 blowups and fireworks. It was pretty amazing.

GRANTS – C. Lewis advised that Pottstown Area Health and Wellness is accepting Letters of Intent for their Mini Grant Program. They are due August 1st. The Board decided not to apply for one at this time; they want to wait until their plans are ready. C. Lewis will reach out to the Arboretum to see if they have any projects ready.

MAINTENANCE – The Board discussed the signs at Grimm and Fox Hill Trail. They are in serious disrepair and need to be replaced.

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PUBLIC COMMENT:

GREG CHURACH – Asked in relation to the Prout Farm Loop Trail if anyone had talked to the owner before this project was approved. He urged the Board to think about the quality of life of people living next to an amenity before putting in improvements. He suggested that adjoining property owners be specifically invited to public meetings when these items are on the agenda for discussion.

Daniel Kratz is an Eagle Scout looking for a project. They have about ten (10) members and he is looking to complete it by next spring. The Board had talked about a raised trail in the wet areas of Fox Hill which may be a possibility.

OPEN SPACE PLAN – The Board discussed Chapters 3 and 4. N. Toothaker questioned the Amphitheatre for Hollenbach Park on page 2; it seems huge and expensive. C. Note advised that it doesn't have to be. It can be as simple as tiered logs around a central area such as they have at French Creek State Park. He noted that East Goshen Township had an amphitheatre installed for \$750,000 and 100% of it was covered by tax money. He encouraged the Board to not be afraid to think big as some projects could fall under economic stimulus which has other grant funding available for it. The Board then discussed Hillside Park and the names for Kulp, Hoffman and Hillside. As it is all one park it should really have a central name as it can be confusing the way it's currently set up. C. Lewis advised that some of the parks that are named after personal names were part of an Agreement when acquiring the open space property. N. Toothaker then commented about pages 22 and 23 in the 2006 Open Space Plan which has a list of properties. This list is expanded on page 5 but they do not list locations. These really need to be listed in order to enable people to find the locations. The Board then discussed Woodbrook Estates and its open space. It is a private HOA. They then discussed the difference between permanent and temporary protected land. They discussed the differences between agricultural security areas and clean and green. N. Toothaker suggested that the private passive be shown separately as it is not open to the public. L. Van Dyk agreed that the summation of protected areas could be broken out in a separate section for the private areas. The Board next discussed Chapter 4. They discussed Wolf Run being designed as an impaired stream as it still is. They discussed contaminants and TCE use as well as pest such as the Emerald Ash Bore and the Spotted Lantern Fly. Page 10 refers to taking down trees, this section will be expanded. Page 13 talks about Historical and Cultural Resources. In 1995 the Comprehensive Plan an inventory of these was done. R. Spaide advised that a more comprehensive list has been done. They will try to acquire this. They discussed the criteria under which properties were added to the historical list whether it was before 1900 or 100 years old. It was noted that all the historic buildings are private. L. Van Dyk recommended they simply put in a blurb regarding the history and recommended that they revive the Historical Board and have them look closer at this section. Page 16 refers to Scenic Roads and Vistas. Due to development the Crossroads Vista has been compromised and should probably be removed. The rest are still viable such as Snyder, Hanover and Pineford. In Chapter 5 some changes have been made but more will be done after the public work shop.

SURVEY – M. Lane and L. Van Dyk handed out a possible survey to get an idea from the public as to what is in the parks and what they want to see. They tried to make it easy to understand and answer and short as possible.

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Page 5 - #8 shows ideas that the Open Space Board has spitballed already to get feedback from the community whether they are in agreement. They discussed how it could be trimmed down to make it shorter. They discussed promoting the community workshop extensively. It will be put on the website and face book and reiterated regularly. M. Lane and L. Van Dyk will be at Community Days to promote the workshop and the Board discussed sending out notices especially to those residents living next to open space. The Board also discussed the meeting and how it will be carried out. Open Space and Rec Board members will be facilitators and there will be stations for each park. Chapter 8 is an evaluation of Open Space and Rec needs. They looked at a regional map to see what was in the area to avoid duplicating met needs and concentrate on unmet needs. They discussed partnering with other communities and the advantages of regional grant money. M. Lane and L. Van Dyk handed out Chapter 9 which may be discussed next month. While developing the updated Open Space and Recreation Plans they are keeping in mind the County and Regional Comprehensive Plans as well.

BOARD COMMENTS:

C. Note - Questioned an article he saw on Face book about the Althouse managing Sussell and Prout Farm. C. Lewis advised this is per the Agreement that was passed with the Arboretum last year. He also asked that the ash trees at Sussell, near where we planted the news ones, be taken down as they are completely dead.

ADJOURNMENT – Motion by N. Toothaker, seconded by S. Paup and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol R. Lewis, Township Manager