



## POTTSTOWN METROPOLITAN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

140 College Drive, Pottstown, PA 19464 | PARRCoordinator@gmail.com | 484-945-0200

### PARRC Meeting Minutes

February 27th, 2019

5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

@PAHWF

#### In Attendance:

Michael Lenhart, Borough of Pottstown  
Charlie Valentine, West Pottsgrove  
Jay Erb, North Coventry  
Greg Churach, Upper Pottsgrove  
Bill Keohane, Lower Pottsgrove

Craig Colistra, PAHWF  
John Cover, MCPC  
Marley Bice, MCPC

#### Meeting notes:

1. Welcome and Introductions – Greg Churach, Upper Pottsgrove Township representative.
2. Meeting minutes from January 23, 2018 were approved.
3. C. Colistra & M. Lane presented a draft of their presentation for the PRPS conference called The Value of Evaluation in Parks. Community leaders want better information as to why they need to spend capital on park & recreation resources. Grant funders want to know how their funds are impacting the community. It will also help us understand who is not at the parks. We discussed playground evaluations as they make municipalities more aware of changing standards and guidelines, capital funds to set aside and adding amenities for a more rounded and attractive destination for families and neighbors to interact. We discussed a summer intern that will inventory, perform interviews, and observing use of facilities in the parks. It was also suggested that PARRC acquire trail sensors that can be shared by the members to count users at special events or at a specific park for a determined time period. J. Erb suggested that PARRC apply for a grant to acquire infrared sensors that could be shared by PARRC members to count attendees at special events.
4. PECO grants: Will be announced late winter/early spring.
5. PMRPC grants: Have all been approved.
6. PAHWF grants: Board meets on Tuesday and award notifications to be sent by the end of the week.
7. DCNR/DCED grants: M. Lane stated that he has discussed the possible implementation of NCT's Coventry Trail, the Boro's Manatawny Trail and Riverfront Park signage in 2020 with the municipalities.
8. Casino funds: J. Cover clarified that the additional share of funds from tax revenues from Valley Forge casino that Montgomery County will be receiving will be going towards projects that support water quality standards. DCNR will be administering the grant program and suggested we check DCNR's website.
9. Discussion of Announcements:
  - Grant funding for projects - M. Lane stated that he has discussed the possible implementation of NCT's Coventry Trail and the Boro's Manatawny Trail signage in 2020 with the municipalities.
  - Status of PARRC meeting venue – C. Colistra looked into the access issue with the building manager and the door was supposed to be left open until 6:00 PM. If we change venue, will we need to advertise it? The meetings aren't advertised now and advertisement is usually done in the beginning of the year. Would PAHWF still have food available for the meetings and if so, would it be delivered to another venue? M. Lane stated that SRG offices are available even though 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room is not accessible. The first floor can be used and a projector



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and screen is available along with tables and chairs for the first floor if accessibility is an issue. J. Cover stated that rooms used for public meetings need to be accessible during the entire meeting.

- The bylaws have been revised and are in place. J Cover stated they need to be adopted by each municipality.
- The PMRPC's MOU has expired. The Resolution signed by each municipality to extend the PARRC position by 5 years has replaced it. J. Cover stated that a new MOU needs to be adopted with the bylaws in it. He stated he could develop a draft of the MOU for PARRC's review at the March meeting. He will also call or email M. Lenhart to discuss.
- Update Comp, Open Space & Master Plans - The members approved moving forward with updating plans. LPT will be looking at developing a strategic plan with a priority list of projects.
- Coordinate special events – It was discussed that PARRC could sponsor a regional event, like a large community day, and it could rotate to a different township every year. It was suggested that a Beer Fest could be done at all parks all on one day. Some parks don't allow alcohol though. For the "On your parks, Get set, Go" challenge, the Foundation found that people who entered it stayed in their own parks and did not venture out to other parks as hoped. PAHWF has an events budget of \$1,000 that is available in July. The County has a Trail challenge that we could maybe use as a model and do a series of them in each township. You check how many events you go to that are already planned for the year. Survey Gizmo uses a QR code which could be used for the tracking of people at events. It was discussed that we could leverage what already exists. All municipalities have an event they can add for the regional event this summer or fall. How to incentivize it. J. Erb to get info on Schuylkill Highlands adventure at 4 sites like a scavenger hunt and it is incentivized with rewards like a free ice cream cone from a local store or a backpack from REI or end at a brewery if event is for adults.

10. Elected Officials changed in some municipalities. M. Lane will update the list.

11. Updates from the PARRC members:

- PAHWF: The 2018 Community Needs Assessment should be done by April.
- North Coventry: J. Erb stated that a study he recently saw showed that outdoor recreation grew by 1.7% and the economy grew by 1.6%. Spending on outdoor recreation was 2% of the GDP. He also mentioned that the township has 14 different geocaching locations in different parks.
- Pottstown Borough: The Manatawny Green Mini-golf course was leased to the Carousel to run for the summer. .
- Lower Pottsgrove: Gerald Richards Park finally received their NPDES permit to start construction of the project. The Open Space Plan amendment is in its final stages. Next month, the P & R Board will send to the BOS a list of all parcels owned and to be acquired and the priority of each. The Township will be putting on their Summer Concert series again June thru August. There will be 6 concerts and all the bands and dates are booked. Check the township website for dates and bands.
- West Pottsgrove Township: No updates.
- Upper Pottsgrove Township: 300 ash trees to be cut down in the Althouse Arboretum.
- Douglass Township: No updates.
- MCPC: Montco 2040 grants are due this Friday. PART – Transit Development Plan needs citizen input. The plan can be accessed on the Boro's or PART website. Montgomery County is developing a Diversity



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Trail Access Study to determine what the demographic makeup is of trail users. They want to know who is there and not there and then try to encourage the expansion of users on the trail. The SRT is the focus of the study and it is just starting up and being developed by Donna Fabry.

Adjournment: 6:53 PM

Recorder: M. Lane

***2019 Meeting Schedule***

(All meetings to be held at 5:00 PM in the Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation Conference Room, 152 East High Street, 5<sup>th</sup> floor, Pottstown, PA 19464):

<i>January 23</i>	<b><i>February 27</i></b>	<i>March 27</i>	<i>April 24</i>	<i>May 22</i>	<i>June 26</i>
<i>July 24</i>	<i>August 28</i>	<i>September 25</i>	<i>October 23</i>	<i>December 5</i>	

***Next meeting: March 27, 2019 5:00 pm @PAHWF***