

POTTSTOWN METROPOLITAN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

Improving parks. Connecting communities.

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

PARRC Meeting Minutes

June 26th, 2019 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. @PAHWF

In Attendance:

Jay Erb, North Coventry
Karen Nocella, East Coventry Township
Liz Willow, East Coventry Township
Bill Keohane, Lower Pottsgrove
Greg Churach, Upper Pottsgrove Township
Michael Lenhart, Borough of Pottstown
Pete Hiryak, Douglass Township

John Cover, MCPC
Marley Bice, MCPC
Craig Colistra, PAHWF
Karleigh Cimorelli, Recreation Research Assistant

Meeting notes:

- 1. Welcome and Introductions. Liz Willow, Alternate Committee Member for East Coventry Township, was introduced
- 2. Steven Braud, Designer/Representative for DiscGolfPark gave a presentation on the services and products his company provides for disc golf courses. A 9-hole course could cost between \$9,000 \$12,000; a family friendly 18 hole course could cost \$22,000 + and a professional 18 hole course could cost \$30,000 +. This includes design materials but not installation. They can refer a contractor for the installation (more expensive) or a municipality's facilities staff can do the installation (less expensive). They use artificial turf on the tees and some courses can have several layers of tees for beginners, mid-level and professionals on one course.
- 3. Karleigh Cimorelli, Recreation Research Assistant, gave a presentation on Inventory/Observations in Parks to date. She discussed the tools used, the process and gave some examples of conflicts from the inventory data.
- 4. K. Nocella requested if trail sensors could be installed in their parks before their Wayfinding & Signage project started. Memorial Parks trails sensors will have gathered a years' worth of data by mid-July and some of those could be relocated to East Coventry. It was suggested that PARRC acquire some trail sensors to be shared by the entire committee.
- 5. Craig Colistra discussed the need for an evaluation of PARRC's past 5 years by a consultant to assist with determining a direction for the next 5 years and beyond. Many organizations have long range plans, PARRC does not. Now that PARRC is considering becoming an independent body, we should consider looking at accomplishments/challenges before our independence. DCNR could potentially fund the evaluation. It was discussed that the evaluation could proceed in tandem with the initiative to become more independent. It was agreed by the Committee to move forward with the evaluation.
- 6. Craig Colistra announced that he will be presenting the Needs Assessment Study at the PMRPC meeting following the PARRC meeting. It was requested that he present to PARRC as well.
- 7. Meeting minutes from May 22nd, 2019 were approved.
- 8. It was announced that the PAHWF grant round will open in July. A Letter of Intent is due August 1, 2019. The PMRPC grant round will open in the fall.
- 9. Members commented on park projects that M. Lane is working on:
 - a. Inclusive Playground M. Lane discussed the inclusive playground that the Pottsgrove Recreation Board is interested in constructing. He was approached by the Board about their idea and asked to attend



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their June 13th meeting. After a presentation of their concept, he informed them of the process it would take to construct the playground. The Board will be refining the details as to the site and presenting the concept to the Townships and School District.

- b. DT M. Lane discussed the tree health evaluation he performed in Douglass Park. Trees in the park were evaluated for safety and health concerns and recommendations were made for treatment or were ranked for removal from "Immediate" to over a 4 year period.
- c. WPT M. Lane discussed the return of a \$25,000 PMRPC grant to PAHWF for the Murgia Park Trail & Pavilion project. The grant was approved for the pavilion and trail to be located on one side of the park. After the grant was awarded and the Township received their check to start the project, the BOC changed their minds and wanted the pavilion and trail to be relocated to another area in the park. Even though their decision was not supported by their Township Engineer or the Recreation Coordinator, the BOC requested that the Recreation Coordinator ask the PAHWF for a variance for the new location. The PAHWF denied the variance and the BOC decided not to move forward with the project and returned the funds.
- d. LPT B. Keohane provided an update on Gerald Richards Park. The budget for the project was \$387,450. The bids came in at 1.1 and 1.6 million dollars. Both bids were rejected. M. Lane discussed that a meeting had been set up with the Township to discuss the path forward to construct the project.
- 10. Grant Applications There was a discussion concerning the grants awarded by Schuylkill Highlands and why some grants were awarded and some not.
- 11. Intergovernmental Agreement Recommendations were made for changes to the slide presentation to include ECT as a member of the PARRC. It was discussed that while the IA was being finalized and the PARRC evaluation was being done, PARRC was still under PMRPC auspices.
- 12. Discussion of Announcements:
 - a. The 6-month Pie Chart of Recreation Coordinator's time was discussed. No changes to the Recreation Coordinator's time was suggested for the next 6 months were made.
- 13. Updates from the PARRC members:
 - a. PAHWF: No updates.
 - b. North Coventry Township Several park ordinances were updated and approved at the BOS meeting on Monday.
 - c. <u>Pottstown Borough:</u> The Rumble went very well. The 4th of July celebration is on track. They are looking for a portable commercial AC unit for the Ricketts Center.
 - d. Lower Pottsgrove: The summer concert series has started. PECO sponsors it.
 - e. West Pottsgrove Township: No updates.
 - f. Upper Pottsgrove Township: No updates.
 - q. Douglass Township: No updates.
 - h. MCPC: No updates
 - i. East Coventry Township: No updates

Adjournment: 7:00 PM Recorder: M. Lane



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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, 5th floor, Pottstown, PA 19464):

January 23 February 27 March 27 April 24 May 22 **June 26**July 24 August 28 September 25 October 23 December 5

Next meeting: July 24, 2019 5:00 pm @PAHWF