

January 19, 2022

Parks and Recreation Committee

Members present:

Laura Miller

Toinette Neilson

Tina Skinner

John Bickhart (zoom)

Audrey Reith (zoom)

Staff present:

Robert Weer, Assistant Township Manager

Guest: Heide Harper

- 1. Call to order 7:05 pm**
- 2. Approval of agenda** as presented
- 3. Recognition of Heide Harper as guest**
- 4. Approval of minutes as is.**
- 5. Reorganization:**

Chair: Laura

Vice-chair: Audrey

Secretary: Tina

- 6. Park Report**

Robert Weer: financial report needs to be adjusted to match 2022 budget. Nothing new to report on dog park or garden, other than an issue with the bathroom solar charger batteries. They need to be replaced. Wood for the four garden beds -- \$1052.82 -- has been purchased.

Heide Harper said one gardener was trying to secure his same plot today, but was unable to do so on the website, and was referred to Heide. Unsure why his email was not working. New application form and rules not finalized yet. Garden rules were waiting for guidelines from Food Bank – Heide said working with food bank doesn't seem viable; they want 70 percent of produce, want to supply the wood, require classes – too many hoops to jump through. Other changes to garden application include a new map of the garden beds. Heide suggested replacing 22, 7, 15, and 29 with raised beds and board agreed. Also, adjust guidelines to specify that a box for donation will not specify a particular charity. Heide will create copy for flyer for the park kiosk announcing application for veggie garden.

Earth Day project: Saturday at 10, April 23 to build the boxes, with Sunday rain date. Audrey said she might be able to coordinate Scout/youth participation. Robert said the hardware should be provided by township. Tools, however, will need to be provided

- 7. Old Business**

Goddard Memorial Garden. Budget approved. Robert will talk to Ken about next steps to do this. A contract needs to be signed soon if we want to get this done before fall, Laura said.

Grant updates: Robert: stream upgrade grant application was submitted; trail application is due next month. Laura brought in latest DNCR grant update for Robert.

Scout Life Project: Laura has been communicating with the scout, suggesting a trail project, and the invasives on the Blosser property. He said he was interested in the invasive removal and would like to propose it to the Board of Supervisors. He has gotten approval from his Scout master, and Robert said he will put him on the February BOS agenda. Laura said she will attend too.

501C3 Update: Robert said it has been approved for the final phase, and needs approval by the BOS, then there will be a need to creating rules and objectives and appoint a board of directors.

8. New Business

Earth Day/Volunteer event for garden beds to be coordinated, and Blosser Property to be done by Scout Life Project.

Audrey said many scout troops need to do a community service project. Audrey asked if they could replace the bat house or bat sign, Robert said that would not need approval since it is simply replacing. Audrey also mentioned vine removal, and they were excited by that idea. Laura expressed concern that the projects be age appropriate, and that litter pickup would be useful. Robert stressed the need for coordination, planning time and date, not just having people come whenever they want. Robert suggested bringing suggested volunteer events before the board. Toinette suggested it be tabled until the next meeting. Audrey said maybe Saturday, June 4th event, and it will be discussed next month.

Walk in the Park: Audrey said different topics: invasive species, bog turtles, and general education programs could be organized with master gardeners and watershed experts to create events people would look forward to and grow a volunteer base. Robert suggested it could be expanded out to include parks and trails to let people know the extent of what we have here. Audrey is developing a curriculum with Chester County Parks and Rec., and Robert said this ties in beautifully with streambed restoration grants we are applying for. Laura suggested we all think about ideas for discussion at future meetings.

Fall Festival in the Park. There are no funds there, and they have to come from donations, Robert said. Audrey asked about the opening of the Goddard Park with a ribbon cutting.

9. Adjournment: 8:20 pm

