



POTTSTOWN METROPOLITAN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

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

PARRC Meeting Minutes

May 23, 2018

5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

@PAHWF

In Attendance:

Michael Lenhart, Borough of Pottstown
Charlie Valentine, West Pottsgrove Township
Jay Erb, North Coventry Township
Tom Troutman, Lower Pottsgrove Township

Carol Lewis, Upper Pottsgrove
Pete Hiryak, Douglass Township
Craig Colistra, PAHWF
Marley Bice, MCPC

Meeting notes:

1. Meeting minutes from 4/25/18 were approved.
2. Tri-County Trail Study Preliminary Construction Plans – Craig Bachik from Navarro and Wright presented preliminary construction plans. *Manatawny Trail* – Berks County Redevelopment Authority refused to allow crossing of the railroad tracks at the exit from the trail from the Rt. 100 underpass and wanted a tunnel instead. That increased the cost estimate to \$1.4 to 1.7 million. *Upper West Trail* – they are shifting the trail on the Salzer property further west away from Manatawny Drive. Cost estimate around \$780,000 to \$820,000. *Pottsgrove Trail* – At Charlotte and Glendale Streets intersection, PADOT suggested no built up bump out with grass strip and sidewalk on the bridge but a “quick-curb” with vertical reflectors with a 6’ pathway behind them be added. The meeting with the Pottsgrove School District went well and they are discussing the trail internally and will want to meet again at the end of the summer. The intersection of Kauffman and Buchert Roads, PADOT suggested a simple connection to existing intersection. The bridge over Sprogels Run near the intersection is slated to be evaluated in 2029 and PADOT will re-evaluate the intersection then as well. At Brookside Family Restaurant, separation measures between the trail and parking lot include landscaping and a post and rail fence. Cost estimate is between \$380,000 to 440,000. *Coventry Trail* – the trailhead off Rt. 724 has been designed with a range of amenities including a parking lot, bike racks, sculptural icon, pavilion with possible restrooms, native plantings and information kiosk and benches. Cost estimate for trail is between \$630,000 to 890,000.
3. The Regional Recreation Social was discussed. There were about a dozen attendees who came to Manatawny Still Works to hear Daphne Klahr, Executive Director of Reading Recreation Foundation speak about the journey of the Foundation from the brink of elimination to 2017 PA Agency of the Year. PARRC members who went were very impressed with Daphne and enjoyed the venue. Low attendee showing was discussed and might have been from conflicts with other meetings or too close to summer season or venue. PARRC members suggested Manatawny Creek Winery or MCCC as new venues. We also discussed the confusion with notification to share the invitation with other board and committee members in each municipality. The invitees were also narrowed to Park & Recreation staff and elected officials in the PMRPC region. We discussed the challenge with finding appropriate speakers and the PARRC members were asked to suggest some for next year. M. Lane and C. Colistra will re-evaluate the event and determine if it is worth doing again next year or do a small version of it at every PARRC meeting instead.
4. Park projects: Murgia Park - Phase I bridge/path construction installed, need to close out PAHWF eng. mini grant. Douglass Park – Construction bids acquired and awarded and Township engineer revised bid to meet grant budget. A pre-construction meeting is set for June 1st. Memorial Park - Nature Based Play Space in was finished at the end of April. Phase II being designed and installation planned for the fall. Riverfront Park – the art work was installed at Riverfront Park in the Pollinator Garden. A 6’ wide, asphalt, ADA path will be installed the first week of June to the pavilion between the Pollinator Garden beds. North Coventry Parks – Riverbend Park Anderson Parking Lot, Pigeon Creek Bridge and Paravis Hall restrooms are mostly complete and are in the closeout process with funding. J. Erb to email K. Hennessey for status of close-out documents. Paravis Hall restroom done, electric upgrades done, plumbing capped but to be functioning restrooms, septic tanks need to be installed. J. Erb to email K. Hennessey for status of close-out documents and septic tanks. Open Space Plan update progressing in Upper Pottsgrove.



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5. Grant Applications submitted/developing - Coventry Woods Park Master Plan – resubmit to NL in the fall as well as DCNR. DEP Growing Greener grant – find out what maximum amount of request can be.
6. C. Lewis brought up issue of paved vs stoned parking lots and if it was an item of concern with users of the parking lots in other PARRC member parks. J. Erb suggested if they are plowed or there aren't drainage issues, keep them in stone, they are more "green" than paved lots.
7. Emerald Ash Borer - more information is needed to understand the status of their effect in the region. Upper Pottsgrove allows some residents to cut trees in the parks and take the wood for their own use.
8. Spotted Lanternfly – C. Lewis participates in a monthly phone call that updates its status.
9. Playground evaluations – M. Lenhart to do in the next few weeks. M. Lane to send him his availability to go with him.
10. PARRC position extension – This issue will be discussed at the PMRPC meeting this month. C. Lewis will discuss how important the position is to the PARRC and request that the PMRPC continue to be the umbrella organization to administer the position. More budget information is needed from the PAHWF and when the actual date in 2019 the position ends. C. Colistra discussed the current cost sharing formula and also a projected formula for 2020 to 2024. It was discussed that C. Colistra and M. Lane are developing a PPT about the contributions the Regional Recreation Coordinator has had. It will be presented to each municipalities governing board in the summer. The PARRC members will be contacted for a date.
11. The YMCA will not be closed. The building was bought by the Gulati brothers who own the Sunnybrook Ballroom. They will lease part of the building back to the Y and rent the remaining spaces to other health care providers.
12. Updates from the PARRC members:
 - a. PAHWF: No updates.
 - b. North Coventry: J. Erb announced that the Coventry Woods festival went well even during the wet weather.
 - c. Pottstown Borough: M. Lenhart is developing a Growing Greener grant and combining it with Tree of Heaven removal.
 - d. Lower Pottsgrove: No updates.
 - e. West Pottsgrove Township: C. Valentine announced that the Fishing Rodeo went well and had about 40 children.
 - f. Upper Pottsgrove Township: No updates.
 - g. Douglass Township: P. Hiryak announced that the Fishing Rodeo went well and had about 130 children. They had good sponsorship for food and drinks and prizes. The weekend after they had a fishing Rodeo for veterans. They are planning their annual Bike Night in August.
 - h. MCPC: M Bice discussed the Bike Montco final plan being adopted by the Commissioners next month. She also distributed a flier for a Bike Montco seminar being offered in Blue Bell June 20th.

Adjournment: 6:45 PM

Recorder: M. Lane

2018 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 24	February 28	March 28	April 25	May 23	June 27
July 25	August 22	September 26	October 24	December 5	

Next meeting: Wednesday, June 27th, 2018, 5:00 pm @PAHWF