



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

PARRC MEETING MINUTES

December 5, 2024

In attendance:

Michael Lenhart, Borough of Pottstown
Bill Keohane, Lower Pottsgrove Township
Charlie Valentine, West Pottsgrove Township
Karen Nocella, East Coventry Township
Jay Erb, North Coventry Township
Mark Bedle, Washington Township

Mark McKinnie, Upper Pottsgrove Township
Tim Konetchy, Montgomery County Planning Commission
Tricia McCloskey, PARRC Regional Recreation Planner
Shelley Kriczky, PARRC Recreation Assistant
Greg Churach, Upper Pottsgrove Open Space Board

1. Call to Order- M. Lenhart called the PARRC meeting to order at 4:30pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was made.
2. Welcome and Introductions. Introductions were made and included presenters Kate Van Druff, Liz Crouthamel, Natalie Van Druff and Olivia Van Druff from Pick Up Sticks Hockey, based in North Coventry Township.
3. Approval of meeting minutes from October 23, 2024. The minutes were motioned for approval by J. Erb and seconded by M. McKinnie. The motion was approved with no objections or abstentions.
4. Public Comment-None.
5. Presentation-Pickup Sticks Hockey. Kate Van Druff and Liz Crouthamel from Pick Up Sticks Hockey gave a presentation of the renovation of the existing deck hockey rink in North Coventry Township Park into a state-of-the-art facility. The organization, which aims to build a community through hockey and grow the game, received a \$200,000 grant from the Flyers Charities and Philadelphia Flyers. They discussed the potential for other municipalities in the region to implement deck hockey. They discussed several successful hockey events organized by Pick Up Sticks Hockey, including a women's tournament, a kids' clinic, and a Halloween-themed event. The presentation discussed rink construction and the benefits of installing proper hockey boards and a sport court surface for an outdoor rink, such as improved safety, ball movement, and longevity. A typical court dimension is 165 feet by 173 feet. Pick Up Sticks offered their support to partner with local municipalities interested in building hockey rinks. The goal is to create a network of local rinks to facilitate leagues, tournaments, and open play across the region. The conversation ended with a discussion of the economic impact of a hockey rink, including the potential income from tournaments and rink rentals.
6. Executive and Subcommittee Reports.
 - a. Treasurer's Report. M. Lenhart discussed the Financial Report and stated that the checking account balance is \$3,775.46 and the savings account balance is \$67,966.73. A motion was made by B. Keohane to accept the Financial Report provided by C. Paretti.
 - b. Events Subcommittee. No report.
 - c. Financial Sustainability Subcommittee. M. Lenhart stated that SRG is holding \$23,463.16 in unspent, unencumbered and PARRC should recover these funds into its account, and they should be used for operations. B. Keohane stated they should be either left with SRG or restricted in PARRC's account. A motion was made by B. Keohane to request that SRG transfer the sum of \$23,463.16 in unspent,

unencumbered PARRC funds to the PARRC ICA savings account at Diamond Credit Union to be held in reserve and restricted for salary and/or other operating expenses categorized under the original intent for which they were contributed. The motion was seconded by C. Valentine. M. Lenhart stated that M. Powanda will vote by email. C. Colistra asked if the MOU needs to be revised and M. Lenhart responded that the MOU leaves the door open.

- d. DEI Subcommittee. T. McCloskey stated that the final proof for the new sign at the Ricketts Center will be sent next week and she is still working to get the tree planted.
 - e. PARRC Foundation. M. Lenhart stated the next PARRC Foundation meeting will be held in January.
7. County Planner Updates. T. Konetchy stated that the Montgomery County Agritourism Map was just released and the Montgomery Awards were recently announced. T. McCloskey stated that S. Buck was not able to attend the PARRC meeting and he did not have any major updates to share.
 8. Planner Report. T. McCloskey stated in the interest of time her report would be brief. She stated that since the October meetings, she filed nine grant applications for the PARRC region, totaling just over \$2 million.
 9. Old Business
 - a. New PARRC & PARRC Foundation Logos. M. Bedle stated he would have designs for the January meeting.
 - b. Nature Based Placemaking Project-T. McCloskey stated that the contract has been signed with the PA Downtown Center and is meeting with Julie Fitzpatrick next week.
 - c. PARRC Planner Annual Review. M. Lenhart stated that he, C. Colistra and M. Bedle reviewed the Committee's results of T. McCloskey's annual review. He stated further developments are to be discussed in January.
 10. New Business
 - a. Unencumbered funds with SRG-handled in above item.
 - b. A motion was made by J. Erb to accept the 2025 meeting dates as provided by T. McCloskey. The motion was seconded by M. Bedle and passed with no opposition and no abstentions.
 - c. Meeting with DCED. T. McCloskey stated that M. Shorr of DCED offered to meet with PARRC in the spring time to discuss DCED grants, schedules, and scopes of work. T. McCloskey stated she will reach out to M. Shorr to get a date for the meeting.

11. Grant Announcements.

M. Lenhart stated that the PA DCNR Community Conservation Partnership Program Grant Round opens on January 21, 2025, and the Chester County Preservation Partnership Program is due on February 28, 2025.

12. Partner Updates.

- M. Bedle, WPT-The Park and Recreation ordinance was passed and M. Bedle is the Chairman of the Committee.
- C. Colistra, PAHWF-Will be meeting with Claire Jantz of DCNR to discuss funding and partnership opportunities for PAHWF.
- B. Keohane, LPT- The Township has hired a new administrative assistant who will be Bill's new alternate and will work on park and recreation projects for the Township.
- M. McKinnie, UPT-M. McKinnie stated that the Township received a PAHWF grant to conduct the Trail Connection Study.
- J. Erb, NCT-The Township's Annual Coventry Woods Bonfire will be rescheduled, possibly for February.
- C. Valentine, WPT- The Township's annual Tree Lighting is coming up and will have caroling by high school students and Santa will be in attendance.

- K. Nocella, ECT-The Schoolhouse and tree were decorated last weekend. L. Willow stated she can being the PARRC alternate anymore and will need to be replaced. M. Lenhart. The replacement must be approved by the Township.
 - M. Lenhart, PB- The SRT Bridge Project in Riverfront Park is complete and the ribbon cutting ceremony will be held on December 17th at noon. d in November. Spooky Golf at Manatawny is ongoing.
- B. Keohane stated he will send the minutes to M. Lenhart showing that Samantha's as the new PARRC alternate for Lower Pottsgrove.
13. Action Items. Action items include dealing with the unspent funds at SRG and getting M. Powanda's vote on the two financial items
 14. Next PARRC meeting- M. Lenhart stated that the next PARRC meeting will be held on 1/22/25, and to send all agenda items to T. McCloskey. New dates for the 2025 PARRC Meetings will be needed.
 15. Adjournment- A Motion to Adjourn was made by J. Erb and seconded by C. Valentine; the motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 6:28pm.

PARRC Human Resources Meeting – Closed Session

1. Recreation Assistant Hourly Rate. A motion was made by B. Keohane to increase S. Kriczky's hourly rate from the previously authorized hourly rate of \$19.57 to \$20.00 per hour. The motion was seconded by M. Bedle. The motion passed with no opposition and no abstentions. A discussion was held regarding an increase in S. Kriczky's hours. C. Colistra asked what the SRG's policies are regarding part-time employees, and whether she would be entitled to a change in benefits from an increase in hours.