

POTTSTOWN AREA HEALTH & WELLNESS FOUNDATION
AND
POTTSTOWN METROPOLITAN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE
RECREATION COMMITTEE

Meeting Notes Summary

September 24, 2014

5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

@PAHWF

In attendance:

Jay Erb, North Coventry Township

Pete Hiryak, Douglass Township

Justin Keller, Pottstown Area Regional Recreation Coordinator (PARRC)

Dave Kraybill, Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation (PAHWF)

Michael Lenhart, Pottstown Borough

Ashley Pultorak, PAHWF

Meredith Trego, Montgomery County

Ed Whetstone, West Pottsgrove Township

Meeting notes:

1. Ashley P. stated that the latest round of mini-grant awards are expected to be announced within 2-3 weeks.
2. Justin K. provided a summary of municipal priority projects identified during initial park evaluation meetings at four of the municipalities:
 - a. Upper Pottsgrove: Ongoing work to complete the trail system, study to evaluate and provide recommendations for waterways and ponds at Sunset and Sussell Parks, planning and partnerships to identify additional active recreation facilities.
 - b. Lower Pottsgrove: Assist the recreation board to develop a strategy for improving playing conditions at Gerald Richards Park.
 - c. Pottstown: Completion of existing projects such as the bike and pedestrian plan, reconnections plan and Schuylkill River Trail connection. Planning and programming for future improvements to Pollack Park.
 - d. Douglass: Preparation for public involvement to develop master plans for Douglass Park, Libor Property and Smith Property to better position the township for a DCNR development grant in spring of 2015.
3. Jay E. added that Kenilworth Park also has challenges with its main pond and could mutually benefit if included in the waterway and pond study identified for Upper Pottsgrove. He mentioned that John Phelps of Solitude Lake Management has previously consulted with North Coventry.
4. The committee was updated on a meeting to identify a preliminary trail concept connecting Upper Pottsgrove, West Pottsgrove and Douglass (Berks) to the Schuylkill River Trail. Justin K. assisted Montgomery County with this meeting by conducting fieldwork to analyze the alignments and preparing PowerPoint slides showing existing conditions. Several challenges were identified including poor site distances at the Grosstown Road Railroad Bridge and crossing the Manatawny Creek. Justin K. will continue to work with

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Montgomery County planners to set up meetings with individual landowners and to provide assistance to develop the concept and move the project forward.

5. Justin K. also attended the Upper Pottsgrove Recreation Board meeting and the Schuylkill Highlands All Trails Meeting to provide an introduction of his background and the PARRC position. He requested other municipalities contact him to schedule similar introductions with their respective park and recreation advisory boards.
6. PARRC timesheets will be provided to the recreation committee members and municipal managers at the end of each month. Timesheet hours will be tallied separately for each municipality and reviewed quarterly in an effort to maintain equitable PARRC utilization.
7. Next, the committee was asked for their comments on the DRAFT logo graphic. Justin K. explained that the objective of the logo is to help to better identify the subcommittee through its use on letterhead, business cards and other promotional materials yet to be developed. The committee's preference was for logo option A or B. It was suggested that the prefix 'sub' be removed from the word subcommittee so the PARRC acronym can be used to represent the recreation committee. It was also suggested to incorporate people into the logo. Justin K. will revise the logo based on the committee's comments and send it for their review in the next two weeks.
8. A summary of PARRC tasks anticipated for next month was provided. It was suggested that Justin K. also arrange to meet with Rob Matthews of Pottstown Crossfit to better understand their recreation efforts.
9. The meeting concluded with updates from the municipal partners:
 - a. Pottstown Area Health & Wellness Foundation: Due to internal efficiencies, Pottstown Borough was able to return unused mini-grant funds to PAHWF. PAHWF will likely redistribute the unused amount to provide additional funding under the next grant round.
 - b. Montgomery County Planning Commission: North Coventry, West Pottsgrove and New Hanover should submit their open space goals to Meredith Trego in the next couple weeks so they can be incorporated into the Pottstown Metropolitan Regional Comprehensive Plan Update.
 - c. North Coventry Township: It was noted that DCNR Secretary Ferretti will recognize their preservation efforts at Coventry Woods Park on Thursday. Momentum has been building along Riverfront Park, over 150 people were on hand for the Dragon Boat and Owen J. Roberts Crew Club open paddle. The annual bonfire event will be held on November 1st and include activities for all ages.
 - d. Borough of Pottstown: The miniature golf tournament is set for Saturday 9/27. Openings are still available for groups of four.
 - e. West Pottsgrove Township: Attendance at the community swimming pool was down this year. The trail project at Manatawny Park is 95% complete.
 - f. Douglass Township: An Eagle Scout project is underway at the Libor Property to improve trail conditions with mulching and widening.

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- 10. Due to the proximity of the Pottstown Halloween Parade, the next Recreation Committee meeting will be held at 5:00PM on October 22 at the North Coventry Township Municipal Building located at 845 South Hanover Street, Pottstown, PA 19464**

Note: The above represents the Pottstown Area Regional Recreation Coordinator's summary of the meeting and is not intended to be a meeting transcript.