

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

Meeting Notes Summary

October 22, 2014

5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

@North Coventry Township

In attendance:

Jay Erb, North Coventry Township

Drew Gilchrist, DCNR

Justin Keller, Pottstown Area Regional Recreation Coordinator (PARRC)

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

Carol R. Lewis, Upper Pottsgrove Township Manager

Meredith Trego, Montgomery County

Charlie Valentine, West Pottsgrove Township

Meeting notes:

1. Justin K. informed the committee that Lower Pottsgrove hired Katie Smith as their parks and recreation program coordinator.
2. Justin K. provided a summary of municipal priority projects identified during initial park evaluation meetings with two of the municipalities:
 - a. North Coventry: Development of planting plan for Kenilworth overlook entrance; Pond maintenance and management at Kenilworth Park, Schuylkill River Trail connections to Kenilworth and trailhead on Route 724; Cherry lane water crossing; Coventry woods property acquisitions and development of site and facilities master plans.
 - b. West Pottsgrove: Improve awareness of community pool; security lighting at playgrounds; construct trails as grants are available
3. Justin K. mentioned that watershed stewardship and pond management is an emerging need in several municipalities. He informed the committee that he met with John Phelps of Solitude Lake Management who indicated that a study of pond sedimentation and water quality would cost approximately \$6,000. Carol L. mentioned that Upper Pottsgrove received a mini-grant for a pond study. Justin K. offered to review proposals from the township's pond consultant.
4. It was suggested that Justin K. contact Solitude Lake Management to arrange a presentation by them on pond maintenance. The January recreation committee meeting was suggested so all eight PMRPC municipalities can be in attendance.
5. The committee was updated on the preliminary trail concept connecting Upper Pottsgrove, West Pottsgrove and Douglass (Berks) to the Schuylkill River Trail. Montgomery County has revised the plans based on the September meeting and Justin K. will review the revised plan and coordinate with the County planner to set up meetings with Waste Management and other private landowners. Justin K. will also be working with Schuylkill River Greenway Association to develop trail connections to the Colebrookdale Railroad which might also serve as links for this trail.
6. Justin K. attended the following meetings in the previous month: Pottstown Police Athletic League, Pottstown Area Industrial Development Corporation; Colebrookdale Rail Road; The Hill School; and, park facility tours with Pottstown and Lower Pottsgrove.

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7. In addition to a regional watershed stewardship and pond maintenance study and preliminary trail concept connecting Upper Pottsgrove, West Pottsgrove and Douglass (Berks) to the Schuylkill River Trail, Justin K. outlined several other potential regional projects for the consideration by the committee:
 - a. Upper and Lower Pottsgrove trail connections to Pottstown Bike and Walk plan.
 - b. Regional park information project: initial ideas are for wayfinding, park signage and a website. Justin K. mentioned that this project isn't an immediate priority but is one that merits an ongoing discussion. Dave K. suggested that signs could contain QR codes that can be scanned by a smart phone to link to additional information on a website. It was suggested that the recent Upper Perkiomen Valley wayfinding and identity program be studied as an example:
http://upperperkiomenvalleyrpc.files.wordpress.com/2013/12/130828_upv_final-presentationsm.pdf.
8. The revised draft logo and tag lines were presented. Justin K. asked the committee members for their vote on the preferred logo and tag line. Results are as follows: Logo 3.A (7 votes), logo 3.B (2 votes), logo 3.C (1 vote); Tagline 1 (6 votes), Tagline 4 (2 votes), Tagline 5 (8 votes), Tagline 6 (5 votes).
9. Charlie V. suggested that the selected logo be photocopied to ensure the graphics are readable in black and white.
10. Meredith T. mentioned that the "KEEP" plan will examine ways to use industrial properties along Keystone Boulevard in Pottstown Borough and West Pottsgrove Township. Trail plans should also be considered as a part of the overall strategy in this location.
11. Charlie V. mentioned that PennDOT will be vacating land for a realignment of Route 422 in 2018. A plan for use of the vacant land should be developed.
12. Justin K. mentioned that next month he will be developing plating plans for the gateway overlook driveway area at Kenilworth Park. He will review initial concepts with the North Coventry Recreation Commission on November 5th. It was mentioned that deer are not currently a problem in the park, but planting plans might consider deer resistant plants.
13. Carol L. asked those in attendance if their municipalities charge a fee to sports organizations to cover maintenance of athletic fields. Justin K. stated he has found that fee requirements vary amongst the municipalities. Jay E. mentioned that athletic field user fees are sometimes waived or reduced for sports organizations who volunteer for a service project.
14. The meeting concluded with updates from the PARRC partners:
 - a. Montgomery County Planning Commission: Montgomery County will be presenting a draft of their 2040 comprehensive plan at the PMRPC meeting following this one.
 - b. North Coventry Township: A recent DCNR grant award allowed the township to acquire 5.2 acres of open space adjacent to Coventry Woods. The township is also working on various improvements to the landscaping, boat launch and parking at Riverside Park.
 - c. West Pottsgrove Township: Interpretive signs are the only items left to be completed at Murgia Park.
 - d. Upper Pottsgrove Township: The township continues to foster its partnership with the Althouse Arboretum. The arboretum recently held a night hike that was very well attended. The arboretum also completed improvements to their parking lot. The

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township has approved trail construction at the Prout farm and From the Althouse Arboretum to Sussell Park.

15. The next Recreation Committee meeting will be held at 5:00PM, December 10 @PAHWF

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