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PARRC MEETING MINUTES

June 26, 2024-A hybrid meeting

In attendance:

Michael Lenhart, Borough of Pottstown
Bill Keohane, Lower Pottsgrove Township
Debi Roesener, West Pottsgrove Township
Karen Noella, East Coventry Township
Mark Bedle, Washington Township

Andrew Duncan, Douglass Township
Mark McKinnie, Upper Pottsgrove Township
Tim Konetchy, Montgomery County Planning Commission
Tricia McCloskey, PARRC Regional Recreation Planner
Shelley Kriczky, PARRC Recreation Assistant

Meeting Notes:

1. Call to Order- 4:30pm and Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Welcome and Introductions. Introductions were made for the group, including Andrew Duncan substituting for M. Powanda and Debi Roesener for C. Valentine.
3. Approval of meeting minutes from May 22, 2024. The minutes were motioned for approval by B. Keohane and seconded by K. Nocella. The motion was approved with no objections or abstentions.
4. Public Comment-None.
5. Executive and Subcommittee Reports.
 - a. Treasurer's Report. C. Paretti previously provided the Treasurer's Report. M. Lenhart read the report and indicated that the Savings account has a balance of \$62,954.20 and the Checking account has a balance of \$4,616.23. M. Lenhart stated that according to the report, SRT sent an invoice to PARRC and the Planner Contribution was paid on May 2, 2024, in the amount of \$63,749.00.
 - b. Events Subcommittee. M. Lenhart and K. Nocella discussed the formation of a Minigolf Tournament Subcommittee. K. Nocella said she would contact J. Erb to discuss possible dates in the fall, prior to Halloween. M. Lenhart indicated that morning would be a better time, perhaps breakfast with a shotgun start. Corporate sponsors are needed, perhaps by hole. M. Bedle stated that Canva is a good program to use to create flyers. T. McCloskey stated S. Kriczky can work with the subcommittee on this.
 - c. Financial Sustainability Subcommittee. M. Lenhart stated that no meeting had been held and that he worked on cost projections to make the parttime Recreation Planner position into a fulltime position and will email the numbers to the townships. This item was then tabled until the next PARRC meeting.
 - d. DEI Subcommittee. T. McCloskey stated that there was no report.
6. County Planner Updates. T. Konetchy shared that Pottstown Borough received a \$250,000 sidewalk replacement grant through the MontCo 2040 Implementation Grant Program. PMRPC is conducting a public survey for the update to the regional comprehensive plan. T. McCloskey stated that S. Buck contact her and gave her an update to share. The Chester County Vision Partnerships Program will now have a Minigrant program open on a rolling basis for certain planning projects. The maximum award is \$10,000 and the match is a minimum of 40% the total project costs.
7. Planner Report. T. McCloskey reviewed her work within the PARRC region on the monthly Planner Report, including the submission of two DCED Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program grants for projects in

North Coventry and East Coventry. Work is progressing on two grant applications to the DCED Multimodal Transportation Fund Program for Upper Pottsgrove and Washington Townships. Work on the StoryMap is underway. B. Keohane stated that a potential source for photographs might be Joe Zlomek.

8. Old Business

a. E-bike policy. M. Lenhart stated that M. Bedle provided additional information regarding e-bike policies. M. Bedle stated that the information in the document was taken from several sources and isn't meant to be comprehensive. M. Lenhart stated that North Coventry's set policy is Class 1 e-bikes only on its trails. M. Bedle stated that most Class 1 e-bikes are pedal assist and under 750 watts. He also shared that most accidents occur on single track/natural surface hiking trails from what he has read. K. Nocella discussed her experience with mountain bikers while on horseback, especially at Green Lane Park. A discussion was held regarding regulation and enforcement of rules and ordinances. Municipalities should have an ordinance in place, have appropriate signage regarding rules and trail etiquette posted at trailheads, and maps depicting where e-bikes are permitted. T. McCloskey also stated that within the Borough, people are riding in the wrong direction within the bike lanes which can pose a safety hazard.

9. New Business.

a. WeConservePa-Healthy Outdoors for All Program (HOAP). M. Bedle discussed a budget initiative called HOAP that the Growing Greener Coalition has been working on which would provide a one-time injection of between \$80 to \$100 million dollars into the state budget for park, trail and recreation improvements projects into the 2024-2025 state budget. He asked if PARRC could prepare a letter in support of this endeavor. T. McCloskey stated that she would draft the letter for M. Lenhart's signature. M. Lenhart asked for a motion to be made to prepare the letter to go to each municipality's state legislators. M. Bedle made the motion and it was seconded by K. Nocella. The motion passed with no opposition and no abstentions.

10. Grant Announcements. T. McCloskey reviewed open grant programs.

- a. M. Lenhart stated that the DCED Greenways, Trails and Recreation program Grants are due May 31st. T. McCloskey added that she is filing on for North Coventry and one for East Coventry.
- b. M. Lenhart stated that the DCED Multimodal Fund Grants are due on July 31st. T. McCloskey stated she will be working on two so far, and if anyone has a scope of work related to trails, streetscapes or a sidewalk improvement-type project to get in touch with her.

11. Partner Updates.

- M. McKinnie, UPT-A new sign has been installed at trailhead at the Schwenk Road Open Space. A new sign was installed at the Kehl Meadows at the Arboretum. A cleanup was held recently and a structure was removed from the site.
- D. Roesener, WPT-The Veterans Park, Old Timers Field and Murgia Park projects are all underway.
- M. Bedle, WT-The township is working on a Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant Application for Washington Park Pedestrian Improvements as well as reviewing the draft rules and regulations ordinance and Recreation Board ordinance.
- K. Nocella, ECT-No update.
- B. Keohane, LPT-The Sanatoga Park Summer Concert Series schedule has been set and six shows will be held between June 30th and August 4th. Community Day is set for September 7th. The Pottsgrove Recreation Board is celebrating its 55th anniversary and a celebration will be held on July 16th.
- M. Lenhart, PB-Will be away for most of July. The Rumble was held last weekend and there were a total of 6,300 registrations and over 3,000 players. The playground at Chestnut Street Park should be installed this week. 900 feet of trail were resurfaced in Memorial Park. The pedestrian bridge has been closed for safety reasons. M. McKinnie asked M. Lenhart for information regarding pedestrian bridges.

12. Action Items. M. Lenhart to send out the Recreation Assistant parttime to full time position numbers to the Committee and will reach out to the Events Committee for sponsors for the minigolf tournament.
13. Next PARRC meeting-M. Lenhart stated that the next PARRC meeting will be held on 7/24/24, and to send all agenda items to T. McCloskey.
14. Adjournment- A Motion to Adjourn was made by K. Nocella and seconded by B. Keohane; the motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 5:56pm.