

PARRC MEETING NOTES SUMMARY

April 24, 2015

5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

@PAHWF

In attendance:

Jay Erb, North Coventry Township

Donna Fabry, Montgomery County

Justin Keller, Pottstown Area Regional Recreation Coordinator

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

Michael Lenhart, Pottstown Borough

Carol Lewis, Upper Pottsgrove Township

Ashley Pultorak, PAHWF

Tom Troutman, Lower Pottsgrove Township

Charlie Valentine, West Pottsgrove Township

Meeting notes:

1. Carol L. reported that one of the immediate priorities for Upper Pottsgrove is to assess the health of Ash trees that may be impacted by the Emerald Ash borer and to create a plan for their management. Impacts from other invasive pests such as the Spotted Lantern Fly and Gypsy Moth could also be studied. Ideas included harvesting Ash trees before they become infected for in-state production of wood products. Justin K. cautioned the removal of all Ash Trees citing other nuisances such as the American Chestnut Blight and Dutch Elm diseases that eradicated most of these species except for a few containing genetic resistances. Trees with genetic resistances are now being used to reestablish these species. He suggested that priorities to remove diseased or disease-prone trees should be limited to areas along roadways, trails and other areas where diseased trees present safety or liability concerns for persons and property.
2. Ashley P. announced that the next round of PAHWF DCNR Mini-Grants will be in fall, 2015. A specific date will be announced in upcoming months.
3. Justin K. announced that New Hanover Township has inquired about becoming part of the circuit rider program and will include a recommendation to do so in their Park, Recreation and Open Space plan. Dave K. stated that 7 participants were originally included in the grant request. When East Coventry declined to participate, PAHWF picked up their share of the costs to ensure that the circuit rider program could move forward. Most in attendance welcomed the idea of adding an additional participant.
4. Justin K. also mentioned the possibility of including Douglass Township, Berks County in the PARRC group. Although they haven't inquired about being included, their geographic location and ties to the region would make this a fitting addition. Dave K. agreed that the region shouldn't be divided based on county boundaries and inquired as to why they weren't included in the PMRPC.
5. Justin K. was asked to prepare an outline of how his workload would change with the addition of 1 and 2 municipalities. He will also contact DCNR to see if they would be open to a changing the circuit rider grant if this were to happen.

6. Michael L. suggested artwork from SRHA's Scenes of the Schuylkill Exhibition as a farewell gift for Meredith Curran-Trego. Justin K. will check availability and prices.
7. During the next month Justin K. will be focusing efforts on DCED CFA grant applications due June 30.
8. The meeting concluded with updates from the PARRC partners:
 - a. Montgomery County: The County is working on a sustainability plan for Pottstown Borough and will host a kickoff meeting at 5:30 PM on June 9, 2015 in the Community Room at Montgomery County Community College's Pottstown Campus.
 - b. Pottstown Borough: Michael L. announced that the Pottstown PowWow will be held on May 2 & 3. The Borough is also looking for a space to host their gymnastics program. The space would have to accommodate the storage of equipment when not in use.
 - c. Lower Pottsgrove Township: Tom T. emphasized pursuing recreation facility sharing with school districts. He added that events such as the Mercury Mile are good opportunities for people to meet and enjoy area facilities.
 - d. North Coventry Township: Jay E. stated that the township recently completed its master plan for Hanover Meadows Park and is busy preparing for the Coventry Woods Festival on May 17.

Remaining 2015 Meeting Schedule (All meetings to be held at 5:00 PM in the Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation Offices, 152 East High Street, 5th floor, Pottstown, PA 19464):

May 27

June 24

July 22

August 26

September 23

October 28

December 3