

PARRC MEETING NOTES SUMMARY

May 27, 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. Forest Stewardship:
 - a. Justin K. will discuss requirements for a forest stewardship plan when he meets with John Nissen of the PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry on June 17. Jay E. recommended expediting efforts to remove disease prone trees before they become infected so that maximum value for forest products can be realized. If assessments do not begin by this summer, removal activities could be delayed for a year and increase chances for infestation.
 - b. Justin K. stressed that removal of disease prone trees should be limited to public access areas and public lands adjacent to private property. He added that areas identified for future public trail access could also be logged, and logging access roads could be aligned with planned trails to provide initial clearing and rough grading.
 - c. Jay E. stated that most logging operations take the main tree trunks and leave behind slash (branches and leaf debris). Since these operations are presumed to take place on municipal properties, logging companies should provide slash removal services in their proposals so this does not become the responsibility of the municipalities. It was acknowledged that this might reduce their return on the forest products since this is an additional service.
2. PARRC Expansion:
 - a. Justin K. stated that New Hanover Township has informally expressed interest in joining the PARRC. In a phone call from Connie Gardner (New Hanover Township Recreation Director), she mentioned that the topic was informally discussed at a board of supervisors meeting and is a recommendation in their Park and Open Space Plan currently under development. Ashley P. noted that the PARRC governing documents require new municipalities to be added at the start of the fiscal year. Justin K. will reach out to New Hanover Township to make them aware of this requirement and ask for a formal written request as soon as possible if they would like to join the PARRC committee at the start of the second fiscal year (August 26). Donna F. mentioned that a presentation should be made to PMRPC who would also have to vote to approve this addition.

- b. Justin K. will speak with Mike Piaskowski and Drew Gilcrest to discuss DCNR grant requirements for adding municipalities. He will also contact Connie Gardner to debrief her on conversations held by the PARRC committee and relay information related to the timing and procedures needed to add municipalities. He will instruct Connie Gardner that the first action needed from New Hanover Township is to receive written notification of interest to join the PARRC committee. Justin K. will also be available to meet in person with officials from New Hanover Township as needed.
3. Ashley P. will bring a farewell card for Meredith Trego to the next PARRC meeting. It was also discussed that the foundation will print an aerial photo of the Schuylkill River Sojourn as a farewell gift in appreciation for the great work she did here.
4. The meeting concluded with updates from the PARRC partners:
 - a. PAHWF:
 - Ashley P. announced that the parks promotion contest beginning on July 1, 2015 will include a crowdfunding feature allowing individual donations to parks included in the contest. PAHWF will provide a match to these donations and collect all funds for disbursement to the respective municipalities at the end of the contest period.
 - PAHWF grant award announcements are expected this week.
 - Lindsey Patience is resigning and the foundation is currently looking for a grants assistant.
 - b. Lower Pottsgrove Township: Tom T. asked Justin K. to contact Bursich Associates to obtain the status of the aerial photography and survey work for Gerald Richards Park. He also mentioned that there is a historic walking tour of Pottstown scheduled for June 17.
 - c. West Pottsgrove Township: Charlie V. reported that the Community pool will open this year beginning on Community Day, June 13. Community day will be held from 1-5.
 - d. Pottstown Borough: Mike L. announced that the Borough will also hold a community day on June 13 in Memorial Park. Upcoming events include the Pottstown Rumble at the end of June.
 - e. North Coventry Township: Jay E. stated that the previously held Coventry Woods Festival was a success. The annual Disc Golf tournament will be held in Kennilworth Park in July. Jay also distributed a brochure for self-guided tours of the Iron and Steel Heritage area covering parts of our region.
 - f. Upper Pottsgrove: Carol Lewis announced that the final trail section has been constructed along Snyder road to connect Althouse Arboretum to Sussell Park.

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):

June 24

September 23

July 22

October 28

August 26

December 3