



140 College Drive, Pottstown, PA 19464 | PARRCoordinator@gmail.com | 484-945-0200

## PARRC MEETING MINUTES

February 28, 2024-A hybrid meeting

### In attendance:

Michael Lenhart, Borough of Pottstown

Jay Erb, North Coventry Township

Bill Keohane, Lower Pottsgrove Township

Charlie Valentine, West Pottsgrove Township

Cathy Paretti, Upper Pottsgrove Township

Karen Nocella, East Coventry Township

Mark Bedle, Washington Township

McKenna Powanda, Douglass Township

Mark McKinnie, Upper Pottsgrove Township

Craig Colistra, Pottstown Area Health & Wellness Foundation

Tim Konetchy, Montgomery County Planning Commission

Tricia McCloskey, PARRC Regional Recreation Planner

Shelley Kriczky, PARRC Recreation Assistant

Cathy Paretti, PARRC Treasurer

### Meeting Notes:

1. Call to Order- 4:31pm and Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Welcome and Introductions. Brief discussion regarding M. Bedle representing Washington Township on PARRC.
3. Approval of meeting minutes from January 24, 2024. The minutes were motioned for approval by J. Erb and seconded by C. Valentine. The motion was approved with no abstentions or objections.
4. Public Comment-None.
5. PARRC Reorganization. M. Lenhart stated that the legal opinion stated that C. Paretti can remain as the Treasurer for PARRC, with M. McKinnie being the voting member and C. Paretti as a volunteer. A motion was made by C. Valentine to have C. Paretti act as PARRC's Treasurer. The motion was seconded by M. Powanda. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Upper Pottsgrove-yes, West Pottsgrove-yes, North Coventry-yes, East Coventry-yes, Pottstown-yes, Washington-yes.
6. Executive and Subcommittee Reports.
  - a. Treasurer's Report. C. Paretti previously provided the Financial Report and it was accepted by the Committee. C. Paretti that that the savings account balance is \$64,853.69 and the checking account balance is \$6,842.52. C. Paretti stated that the invoice from Schuylkill River Greenways is expected in March, and she will prepare the invoices for each municipality.
  - b. Events Subcommittee. J. Erb stated that no meeting was held. Each municipality should pick its date for its spring Empower Your Park event. M. Lenhart stated Pottstown's event will be held in April. C. Paretti stated that \$252.98 is left for refreshments. K. Nocella stated that East Coventry's Pigeon Creek Clean Up event is on April 13<sup>th</sup>. C. Valentine asked about types of events that could be held to help raise funds for PARRC. M. Lenhart stated that partnering with the hospital may be one option.
  - c. Financial Sustainability Subcommittee. M. Lenhart stated that no meeting had been scheduled and that he and B. Keohane need to run the numbers on what adding a ninth member to PARRC would look like financially.
  - d. DEI Subcommittee. C. Colistra stated that he and T. McCloskey need to discuss the survey further and select parks. T. McCloskey stated she is seeking additional grant funds for the survey.

7. County Planner Updates. T. Konetchy stated that the MontCo 2040 Implementation Grant Program will close on March 1<sup>st</sup>. He announced that County successfully preserved Camp Laughing waters in New Hanover and Upper Frederick Townships. T. Konetchy also stated that in the fifth round of PMRPC Minigrants, all applications were awarded in the full requested amount, for a total of \$173,000 for the current round and a total of \$950,000 over the entirety of the PMRPC grant program. T. McCloskey stated that S. Buck emailed her and indicated that he could not attend the meeting. On his behalf, T. McCloskey shared that the Vision Partnership Grant Application Round is open for East Coventry and North Coventry to prepare or update plans and ordinances.
8. Planner Report. T. McCloskey reviewed her work on the monthly Planner Report, including work on numerous grant applications. The Report was attached to the meeting agenda email. K. Nocella mentioned the possibility of S. Kriczky assisting in the preparation of an event flyer for East Coventry Township.
9. Old Business
  - a. Review and Revision of PARRC Procedures. J. Erb asked if there is anything that needs to be changed in the procedures document as it related to C. Paretti's role change. M. Lenhart stated he will send the procedures document to the group.
10. New Business.
  - a. Growing Outdoor Recreation in Pennsylvania Report. C. Colistra shared that he was part of a committee along with Elaine Schaefer of SRG who participated in the preparation of this study. C. Colistra stated that the results of the study concluded that the outdoor recreation sector accounted for \$17 billion of the GDP for Pennsylvania, and that outdoor recreation is the eighth largest economic sector in the state. Strategic priorities of the plan are to build capacity in the outdoor recreation industry and to link outdoor recreation to economic development in the state. J. Erb stated that it is important that this information is understood at the municipal level. PARRC helps to convey this information. J. Erb discussed his involvement with the America 250 program, which will be a years-long program that will work to increase heritage tourism in the area.
11. Grant Announcements. T. McCloskey reviewed open grant programs.
  - a. Chester County Preservation Partnership Program grant applications are due tomorrow. One application was submitted by East Coventry Township.
  - b. PAHWF grant applications are due on March 18<sup>th</sup>.
  - c. T. McCloskey stated that the DCNR C2P2 grant round is open and closes on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. T. McCloskey She discussed the meeting she had with Drew Gilchrist of DCNR regarding the PARRC Partnerships application. T. McCloskey stated that DCNR thought it might be better to file this application as an SHCL Minigrant, as some of the scope items would not be supported. Other scope items, such as the DEI Survey, need to have a deliverable other than just completion of the survey.
  - d. Application for funding under DCED's Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program are due May 31<sup>st</sup>. Possible applicants may be North Coventry and East Coventry.
12. Partner Updates.
  - M. McKinnie, UPT-The Township closed on acquisition of the Kehl property, next to the Althouse Arboretum.
  - B. Keohane, LPT-The Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for March 16<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of March 23<sup>rd</sup>.
  - C. Valentine, WPT-the Township needs land from the Borough to redevelop the pool property parcel. Also, the fire company may be giving its building to the Township.

- M. Powanda, DT-The Township awarded the contract for the tennis court/pickleball court project. Paving improvements are being made at the baseball field dugouts in Douglass Park.
  - M. Bedle, WT-The last meeting for the new Open Space and Recreation Plan was held, the Plan should be completed soon. The Board of Supervisors named the new 38 acre preserve the Naigle Nature Preserve and Woodlands. The Environmental Advisory Committee and the Recreation Committee are teaming to produce a newsletter.
  - J. Erb, NCT-No update.
  - K. Nocella, EVT- Closing on two easements for trails to connect to the Nature Preserve. The Township's 5k and 10k race on the Schuylkill River Trail will be held in April.
  - M. Lenhart, PB- has graffiti wipes to give away to anyone who wants them. The Pow Wow on the Manatawny is set for May 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. The Tae Kwon Do program is back on and needs a minimum number of kids to start. The construction contract was signed for the Manatawny Bridge Project in Reservoir Park. The bridge project may be completed by June.
  - C. Colistra, PAHWF-no update.
13. Action Items-M. Lenhart stated that the action items include coming up with dates for the spring Empower Your Park Events, the Events Committee should meet to talk about the America 250 program. M. Powanda added that he has mulch for \$5.00 per scoop.
14. Next PARRC meeting-M. Lenhart stated that the next PARRC meeting will be held on 3/27/24, and to send all agenda items to T. McCloskey.
15. Adjournment- A Motion to Adjourn was made by J. Erb and seconded by M. Powanda; the meeting adjourned at 6:05pm.