

Environment and Recreation Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 2, 2023 6:00 p.m.

Present: Committee Members Wendy Margolis (Chairperson), Ben Bell, Dennis Livrone, and Joe Frederick, Mayor Noni West, Borough Council President Jack O'Brien, Council Member Amy Popkin, Park and Recreation Chair James Lannon, and Borough Manager John Davis.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Ms. Margolis.

The **Minutes** from November 3, 2022 were approved as submitted.

Historical Society Park Upgrade Plan: John gave the Committee an overview of the plans to upgrade and develop the grounds at the Historical Society Park. It has been approximately 20 years since any upgrades have taken place. The Society approached the Borough at the end of 2022 with a proposal to improve the grounds almost entirely at their expense. John showed the Committee the plans as they were submitted by the Society. The landscape plan has been reviewed and does meet the ordinance requirements. The Borough's role and contribution will be Public Works to move the gate and bring the sunken area up to grade with stone and topsoil. The park will still be usable by the public. Dave Burger and Phil have reviewed the plans and agree to the changes proposed. The maintenance of the landscaping will fall on the Borough after it is in place. John doesn't believe it will have a large impact on the landscape maintenance budget for 2024. Wendy is curious about the material used for ground cover. The large tree is going to be preserved. The magnolia tree will be replaced and relocated. Once the work begins there will be a minimal impact on the public. There will be a minimal impact to Public Works workload as well. There being no further comment on the topic, the Committee moved to recommend the plan to Council for approval.

Pop-up Bike/Pedestrian Lane Project: The Borough was approached by the Bucks County TMA (Transportation Management Association) in the late fall of 2022. They would like to use grant money to create temporary bike lanes to see how it is received. It is partially an engineering design test and a PR test to see how the public used the lanes. This is a free demonstration project. The Borough suggested the Poole's Corner and Chapman Park area. The TMA is very enthusiastic about the proposed location. If it works out it can be made permanent. TMA advised after the fact that state roads are not eligible. They will approach PennDOT to ask for permission to have it laid out so when E. State St. is paved it can be added to their plans.

Youth Volleyball Program Agreement: John gave the Committee an overview of the proposed program and a brief background of the Youth Volleyball Program she intends to offer to the youth of the region. Park and Rec met with the program director, Melinda Cozza, and watched the program in action. Gary Harris and the rest of the Park and Rec Board think this is a great program and increases our portfolio of recreation programs. The Borough helps to promote the program via social media channels. We think this will be a similar fit to the Soccer Shots

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Program. She will be the official youth volleyball program of the Borough instead of renting the courts from the Borough. All employees will be vetted and appropriate liability insurance policies are in place.

Melinda has approximately 20 children, ages 11-18, enrolled in the program right now. She will host a free program in March to learn skills and be active. In April, clinics will begin to start evaluating the players. They will be sorted into different groups based on skill level. Starting in May, she will have tournaments and it will become a travel team of sorts. John doesn't believe this idea fits in the Borough's vision of the program. So, in March and April, it will be a Borough sponsored program and then afterwards it will return to the previous agreement where Melinda rents the courts.

John is recommending this program to the Committee and will be recommending it to Park and Rec Board. A motion was made and seconded to formally enter into this agreement.

Lions Club Summer Concerts: John approached the Lions Club with the idea of hosting their summer concert series in Broad Commons. The Lions have been running their concerts for the last 40 years. There have been some problems with people attending the concerts due to a lack of parking. They will need very minimal utilities and no stage is required. John wants to know if the Committee likes this idea. Wendy would like there to be a set "end time" so the neighbors can be made aware of the possible noise coming from the park. Ben made a motion to approve the Lions Club Summer Concert series to be held in Broad Commons. The Committee voted unanimously in favor.

Bird Town PA Resolution: Bird Town PA has been rebranded and have asked each participating community to pass a new resolution reconfirming their commitments. EAC is requesting we do so. Wendy made a motion to move to approve the resolution. It was seconded by Dennis. The Committee voted unanimously in favor.

Old/New Business: Wendy asked for some updates to old business, regarding the tree plan that Dave Burger has been working on. John said Shade Tree Commission is working hard to develop the plan. The Tree Keeper software will be used to help keep track of plantings.

For the Broad Commons playground, we are getting the paperwork together that the Commonwealth needs for the grant. Dave and Phil are getting updated prices for the equipment and a purchase order should be ready next week. Then it will be a matter of waiting for the equipment to arrive.

The recycling receptacles were ordered. We budgeted for 12 but were only able to get 10 due to the price. We are focusing on placing them in the downtown area.

Wendy also wanted to know if anyone had any thoughts or suggestions to pass along to EAC for Earth Day. If nothing else, we should make sure we have a group that represents the Borough

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for Earth Day. The Committee held a discussion regarding the use of non-gas powered equipment for various bids, such as landscaping. Joe believes this is a transition that can happen but it would need to happen slowly over time. Ben thinks this is a long-term commitment. John wants to know what a reasonable and feasible goal for using electric or battery powered equipment is.

Wendy wanted to know the status of the Dark Skies Ordinance. Karyn is working on the ordinance and it will be presented to the Committee at a later meeting. Wendy wants to talk about things that can be done to mitigate light pollution.

Dennis informed the Committee that the PFAs will be on the Water Committee's agenda in March. One question is how to educate the public on PFAs and a huge piece of this is what the residents feel about this situation. Once a plan is developed and we know how much it will cost to implement, we will have to figure out how to fill in any cost gaps.

John spoke to the Committee about a phone call he received from the Chamber of Commerce. Their black tie event, titled The Red Ball, raises money for the Chamber. It has been held in the past at various locations. They are inquiring whether Broad Commons would be an appropriate venue under a tent in September. It will draw attention to the park, and it may encompass a great portion of the park. Amy asked questions about logistics, such as where the caterers would be located, how damaged ground would be fixed. Wendy doesn't like the idea since it is a very elite and exclusive event. Joe thinks the Committee should think about it. John wants to know if it is worthwhile for the Chamber of Commerce to come to the Committee meeting next month to pitch their idea. In the end, the Committee did not believe it to be a feasible idea.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:02 pm.