

Park and Recreation Board
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 7, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.

Present: Gary Harris, Robert Huether, James Lannon, Doreen McVaugh, Jill Schweizer, Elizabeth Wyckoff, and Borough Manager John Davis

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

The **Minutes** from the December 6, 2022, meeting were approved as corrected.

Historical Society Park Upgrade Plan was provided by John Davis. The park is largely as it was originally developed. John gave a brief overview of the existing space before going into depth with the planned upgrades. The Historical Society will be turning the existing concrete pad into a patio that connects to the 2-story garage. The wrought iron gate that is in the middle of the park space will be moved to the patio space. The former reflecting pool area will be excavated and back-filled up to the grade and the whole space will be a flagstone terrace with the exception of a small turf area. All the landscaping will be new native plantings. The park will get a nice overhaul. The Borough will be doing the excavating and backfilling for the Historical Society as well as moving the wrought iron gate. The chess tables will remain as well for the First Saturday Chess program.

Gary Harris mentioned how difficult it could be for a person in a wheelchair to access the park unless they park on Main Street or one of the side streets. John will take this concern to the Historical Society and make them aware of the need for additional handicap accessibility and whether a parking space is merited on Main Street.

Sand Volleyball Program John has been speaking with Melinda from the volleyball program. She provided to the Board, information regarding her program. There is a real distinction between the first two sessions and the last two. The program will begin in March for players aged 11-18 with everyone welcome to join. Participants will learn the basics of beach volleyball. Then in April, clinics will begin, and people will be placed on teams based on their skill set and level. These programs are both free. Once May begins, they will be going out to compete in tournaments. Participants will be paying for the last two sessions.

March and April really fit into the municipal recreation program where anyone can join in for free. Beyond that, it becomes very exclusive and potentially cost restrictive. The Borough suggested March and April be our partnership and anything beyond that, she will have to rent the courts (if they're available). That is reflected in the revised agreement.

There have been no conflicts with DAA and with Fanny Chapman schedules in the past two years. There have also been no conflicts with the public using the sand volleyball courts. It was observed for the past year, and we found there were no problems.

Melinda will be required, as a part of the agreement, to advertise the program as "SandYard hosted by Borough of Doylestown." She will provide the Borough with materials for the website, and we will link to her SandYard site. Council is pleased with the program.

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Lions Club Summer Concerts John was approached by the Lions in 2022 to move their summer concert series to Broad Commons Park. They do summer concerts with the Doylestown Heat and Central Bucks Community Band. They have been doing shows for the past 40 years at the park next to the old courthouse. They have been receiving complaints about accessibility, reserved parking and getting band equipment into the space. We think this is a better space since there is access to free parking and the parking garage. There is no set up needed for the bands and people can place chairs out to sit and listen to the music. This is a nice way to introduce the public to the park as an event space. Electric is available in the Plaza and there is electric plumbed at the lower end of the park. We will have to consider the logistics of opening the building for use of the restrooms. Council was agreeable and the Lions are anxious for the opportunity to host their concerts in Broad Commons.

Comprehensive Plan Update James Lannon updated the Board on the Comprehensive Plan. He thanked the Board for their participation in the additional survey. The results of that survey will be discussed on February 14, 2023. Workshops will begin in March.

Bike/Hike Report Liz Wyckoff gave an update on the Witches Ride in October 2022. There were approximately 124 participants. It is getting larger every year and people are really enjoying it. A substantial amount of money was raised and donated to two charities. The Holiday Lights Ride was cold but lovely. There were 50 participants, with \$500 raised for the Bucks County Library.

John provided an update on the bike lanes. There is a concern about people speeding on N. West Street. Public Works staff came up with a proposal, which the residents embraced. Parking will be eliminated on the west side of the street and two 5 foot bike lanes will be added to the street. This will help to slow down traffic along N. West Street.

On the east side of town, we were approached by a non-profit to install temporary bike lanes on E. State Street in the area of Poole's Corner to Mt. Carmel. We will monitor it and if it is successful, PennDOT will come in to make the bike lanes permanent. This is an opportunity for free design work and will be an easy segue to getting something down.

Recreation Director's Report Gary Harris updated the Board on Spring Stroll. Sherry Sullivan is returning with the first walk to take place on March 15, 2023. Summer Arts and Crafts will also return. Borough residents can begin to register on April 3. The Summer Shows schedule has been set. All the sponsors are in. The tennis program will begin on March 24. First Saturday Chess was advertised in the January edition of the *Cardinal*. The January and February group sizes increased and we have a nice variation in age groups participating. We may be approaching the point where we are starting to outgrow the barn at the Historical Society. John suggested Council Chambers could be an option if the chess group becomes too large for the Historical Society. Outdoor Games director, Victoria Ehlinger, will not be returning. We did not have as many participants as we had in years past. It is a lot of effort for a small group of children. Gary thinks the rising temperatures in the summer may be a contributing factor to

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why participation has decreased. The Board held a discussion about the feasibility of continuing to offer the Outdoor Games program. The Board recommended that the Summer Games program not be held in 2023.

Borough Manager's Report A lot of the dead trees have been removed from Chapman Park and wood carpet has been placed at the playgrounds. There is work happening in Maplewood too with regard to removing the dead wood. New playground equipment is arriving for Burpee Park. We have gotten more donations for the benches in front of Borough Hall and another water fountain has been added in the area of where the playground will be located.

There being no **Old/New Business** the meeting was adjourned at 8:06 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by

Erika Fellman

Park and Recreation Minutes Secretary