

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

**Present:** Karissa Elser, 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 February 7, 2023, meeting were approved as corrected.

**Fonthill Castle Concept Plan** was provided by John Davis. The original presentation was hosted in Council Chambers by the Bucks County Historical Society. An inventory of the existing site was provided to the Board. The proposal is to restore the woodlands surrounding Fonthill to their historic qualities. There will be a pollinator meadow, a series of wet ponds to address the swampy area on the property. It is a proposal to restore and revamp the ecological strengths of the site. The first phase of the project has already begun. The Borough will be restoring the drainage channel and creating some wet meadow ponds. The Board will be given more plans as things move along.

Liz asked why the Borough is participating in the project since it is entirely in Doylestown Township. John explained there is a state requirement to decrease silt and infiltration into our waterways. One of the ways we can do that is with wet ponds and meadows. The primary goal is to remove silt and solids from the water and one way to do that is to improve the stream channels. The benefit of doing this at the Fonthill property is the amount of space that is available. We knew the Society wanted to improve the site and the Commonwealth gave their approval. The stream channel runs from E. Court St. through the Fonthill property and back into the Borough along North St. This project will service both of our needs very well, and this will meet our mandatory water requirements.

This will be a very large undertaking and the Bucks County Historical Society will be starting to fundraise soon. Overall, the plan and presentation was very well received. Liz is very happy about having a bike trail included in the plans.

**Comprehensive Plan Update** was provided by James Lannon. The first workshops will be held March 14. There will be several groups set up and you can join into which one means the most to you. The second workshop will take place on April 11. Park and recreation will be in the second series of workshops. The workshops will begin at 7:30 pm. There may be additional workshops added based on the turnout.

**Bike/Hike Report** John reported the on the bike lane which will be added to West St. The bike lane will begin at Decatur St. and go to the Borough line, in the area of Doyle Elementary School. With regard to the temporary bike lane on the east side of town along State St., since this is a state road, the bike lane may not be eligible to be placed there. John has been asked to write a letter to the State asking when the road is paved in 2026 if they would consider adding bike lanes back. No one objected to this request for letters.

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**Recreation Director's Report** Gary recapped some of his report from last month. Scenic Stroll will begin March 15. Arts and Crafts was posted to the website earlier this year and we were inundated with sign ups. The first tennis registration deadline is March 4. Chess had 32 people for the March First Saturday Chess program. Gary was able to accommodate everyone but 4 people. He is not sure if the event will be able to be held inside in April due to the weather. He is concerned that once the weather gets nicer, the numbers may go down. One encouraging thing for Gary is the age range of the players. Ages range from adolescents all the way to senior citizens.

**Borough Manager's Report** John let the Board know we have received approximately 20 applicants for the Recreation/Events Coordinator position. We have a strong pool of people to choose from. We are hoping to have someone hired by the Spring.

The fishing program is back and will be carrying on as they have in years past. The Rotary was able to obtain a grant for physical improvements for landscaping and plants. The Rotary will be cleaning up and adding the plantings to the rear of the old waterworks. The Eagle Scout project to the bulletin board has been completed and the fish habitats are ready to be dropped into the dam. The work at the pool is on schedule. The downed trees in the woods around the pump track have been removed and the gazebo was taken out for repairs. A great deal of debris was also removed from the entrance in that area.

At Burpee Park, the "all abilities" play equipment is in, and we have most of the Pickle Ball court ready. Burpee Pavilion looks great and at the Council meeting we honored Brian Guerriero who volunteered his time to spruce up the Pavilion.

At Neis, all the dugouts have new concrete floors. We are working on drainage at field 3 and infield mix will be added to clean up the fields.

A lot of dead wood was removed from Maplewood.

The playground equipment was ordered for Broad Commons. A second water fountain was installed and a new bench is coming for the playground. We are hoping to install it by the fall. The picnic tables have not been ordered yet. Summer concerts in Broad Commons has been approved. They may start as early as June 29.

The volleyball program agreement was signed. We will be hosting an introductory volleyball program in March and April.

There being no **Old/New Business** the meeting was adjourned at 8:41 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by

Erika Fellman

Park and Recreation Minutes Secretary