

WARMINSTER TOWNSHIP PARK & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes – March 5, 2014

Members Present: J. Pulkowski, C. Morgan, M. Gilman, D. Baker, C. Wood, M. Myers

Members Absent C. Eisenmann-Quinn, P. Zucker

Staff Present: K. Whitney, K. McDonough

Public Present: None

CALL TO ORDER: Ms Whitney called the meeting to order at 6:41 PM. Ms. Whitney informed the group that she had attended the spring “all-hands” field meeting prior to the Park Board meeting to review issues related to park use with all of the spring sport organizations.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JANUARY 29, 2014

Minutes were approved with no changes by consensus of the Committee.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment

REVIEW – Spring/Summer Field Allocations and Special event permits

Ms. Whitney presented the Spring and summer park field allocations and special event requests to the Board (see attached). Any issues had been worked out at the “All Hands” meeting that was held prior to the Park Board. There was some discussion regarding the Park and Recreation special events and Ms. Baker asked that all members be sure to use social media sites to get the word out. The members reviewed the allocations and approved by consensus.

There was a brief discussion about AED machines in the parks and it was determined that there should be one located at the WREC at WCP. Ms. Whitney stated that they usually run about \$1500 for a machine. Ms. Wood stated that she may be able to get us one that is less expensive since she is a nurse. She will investigate it and get back to Karen.

REVIEW – Edward A Jefferies Memorial Awards

Ms. Baker presented a nominee – Tom Knoll – to receive this award for his long standing (30+ year) involvement in Warminster Soccer in the community. She provided documentation from numerous athletes, past and present, who were affected by Mr. Knoll’s coaching. Ms. Whitney stated that she had also received a verbal nomination for Leo Quinn but was waiting on the documentation. Members of the Park Board chose to table the discussion until the additional documentation was received.

UPDATES

Summer Programs:

Ms. Whitney reviewed a tentative schedule for the upcoming summer programs. She informed the Board that they would be concentrating on youth programs this summer, maintaining current levels of fitness programs, reducing adult hobbies and pushing special events. There has been a tremendous drop in the number of persons participating in trips and many have been cancelled over the past two years. We may want to consider moving away from trips altogether and just doing one or two a year instead of trying to program 6-10 each year. The Department is still in discussion with the school district but it looks like they will be able to accommodate our 7 week programs for camps at Willow Dale, Log College and McDonald.

Grants/Budget:

Ms. Whitney informed the group that Mr. John Gonzalez was assisting her with budget overview and trying to find ways to reduce costs and increase revenues wherever possible. Working together they had identified about \$130,000 in rev/exp that could improve our end of year total.

Ms. Whitney told the group that she had been informed that day that the Central Bucks YMCA was interested in expanding their services to the Warminster area and that Rich Manfredi and Leo Quinn had met with them to begin the discussion. They would be taking over programming activities in the community and would utilize the new recreation facility being built with RACP funds. Questions were raised about the effect on the current staff and current programs, special events, how much Y was donating funds towards the building, budget impact, etc. Ms. Whitney stated that she did not have any more information and that the idea was to be presented at the Board of Supervisors for their review the following evening.

Friends:

There was no update from the Friends group regarding their IRS status.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

- Ms. Whitney stated that Mr. Manfredi has asked her to review the status of the NAWC land swaps that had not yet been completed back in 2008 when the Township switched Solicitors.
- Ms. Whitney stated that the Merrell Down and Dirty event would be held at WCP this year on a trial basis. Fairmount Park is no longer entertaining this type of event and they are looking for a new home. This type of event could bring \$12,000 to the P&R Dept. but the construction of obstacle and reclamation would need to be closely monitored.
- Building costs
- Ms. Whitney explained the dramatic damage that was done in the park system by winter storms. The crew would be working for many weeks to clean up the limbs, down trees and debris.
- Ms. Whitney stated that the FEMA/PEMA information had been passed on to the Emergency Management Coordinator.
- Warminster Baseball has approached the Park Department about putting another shed in Munro Park. Ms. Whitney told them that it would need to be approved and meet L&I building requirements.
- Due to winter weather and storm damage, the park crew is way behind on field prep but, with the assistance of many WBBA volunteers, hope to have fields ready for play by April 1.
- Basket Bingo raised about \$2900 but this is lower due to a decreased number of sponsors and participants (due to room change)
- Ms. Whitney informed the group that the Little Lane property had been sold by the Centennial School District
- Ms. Whitney stated that we were experience additional vandalism in Safety Town.
- Ms. Whitney stated that she had received notification that the parcel of open space next to Szymanek Park was appraised at \$126,000.

COMMENTS

Donation Catalog – members suggested that we gather pictures of items that are needed to be included in a new donation catalog.

Mr. Pulkowski suggested that we sell the down trees for firewood

There were no further comments by the committee or public.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM

Respectfully submitted, Karen Whitney