

UPPER UWCHLAN TOWNSHIP PARK AND RECREATION BOARD

April 19, 2018

Minutes

Board members Christopher Foster, Lou Lanzalotto, Sushila Subramanian and Cathy Tomlinson were present. Also present were Assistant Township Manager Shanna Lodge and Historic Commission Chair Brett Hand.

Call to Order

Ms. Tomlinson called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Ms. Tomlinson provided the group with a summary of the joint Board and Commission workshop which took place on April 10, 2018. At that meeting, Ms. Tomlinson updated the Supervisors and others present on the efforts and events of the Park and Rec Board: The Tree Lighting, Easter Egg Hunt, and trail connection goals. Ms. Tomlinson recognized and acknowledged the contributions and enthusiasm of the youth volunteers at the Easter Egg Hunt. Mr. Lanzalotto agreed, and noted that the group should endeavor to include and recognize the young people in the community.

Minutes

Ms. Tomlinson called for a motion to approve the minutes of March 15. Ms. Subramanian moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Foster seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved without comment.

New Business

Upland Farms Long-Term Planning – Ms. Tomlinson introduced Brett Hand, chair of the Township Historic Commission. Mr. Hand shared with the Park and Rec Board the Historic Commission's vision for Upland Farms. Mr. Hand shared that one goal of the Historic Commission is to portray and relate the Township's history to the community at large.

The Historic Commission's vision for Upland Farms largely centers on the farmhouse on the property. The Commission envisions the downstairs floor of the house as a classroom and exhibit space, possibly housing and displaying historic artifacts and photographs. The structural improvements and potential accessibility upgrades to the house were discussed.

Other suggestions for Upland Farms put forth at the meeting included: a sculpture garden; the inclusion historical facts on trail markers and wayfinding signage; improvements to encourage or enhance birdwatching; and a photographic display of Township history and locations.

Given the desire to blend the use of Upland Farms as both park and historic resource, as well as the interest of other persons who attended the joint Boards and Commissions meeting, it was the consensus

of all present that the Upland Farms Advisory Committee (UPFAC) be reconvened and or reestablished. The groups concluded that the former members of UPFAC should be approached first, then newer members of the various relevant boards and commissions could also be invited.

A discussion of demolition by neglect followed. The group concluded that encouraging proper maintenance of historic structures in the Township should be promoted.

Upper Uwchlan Township Block Party – The 10th Annual Block Party will be held on June 16, 2018. The group agreed to commission a t-shirt design for shirts for the Board and youth volunteers to wear at the event. Ms. Lodge suggested that the design, which would promote and highlight Township parks could also be printed on a magnet as a Block Party handout. The group liked the idea and instructed Ms. Lodge to move forward with the design and production of both t-shirts and magnets. The group agreed upon two other ideas for their Block Party table – Large maps of the trail master plan and trails on the ground; and a suggestion box where the group can accept ideas for a name for the new park in the Village of Eagle. After reviewing all the suggestions, the group can pick their favorites to be voted upon in a public poll.

Resident Survey – Ms. Lodge shared with the Board the questions and results of an Open Space and Recreation survey that was disseminated by the Township in 2008. She reported that it is the opinion of staff that a survey with the same questions should again be distributed by the Park and Rec Board; asking the same questions will allow the group to assess changes and trends. The Board supported the idea. Ms. Lodge will draft a new digital survey and distribute to the Board for review.

June meeting – Due to summer commitments, as well as the Block Party, the Board elected to cancel their June meeting.

Committee Reports

Facilities – Mr. Lanzalotto reported that he recently had several opportunities to speak with Kyle Ripka, a member of the Public Works facilities team. Mr. Lanzalotto expressed his appreciation for the dedicated efforts of the facilities team, and suggested that the crew be recognized in some way.

Upland Farms – Ms. Lodge reported that a local Eagle Scout has begun a project constructing two picnic tables at Upland Farms. Mr. Foster inquired whether bird houses or other items could be installed at the park to attract birds.

Trails – No further update.

Events – No further update.

Regional Connections – No further update.

DARC – Mr. Nadkarni sent an update to the Board via email in advance of the meeting.

Open Session

Playground – Mr. Lanzalotto inquired about the status of the Hickory Park playground. Ms. Lodge reported that she has met with two vendors and plans to meet with two more. When proposals and pricing have been submitted by all vendors, Ms. Lodge will present these to the Park and Rec Board for review.

Closing the Trail Loop – Ms. Subramanian reminded the group that prioritizing trail connections should be on a future agenda. Mr. Foster and Ms. Tomlinson discussed priorities and next steps. Mr. Foster will bring a list of trail connection priorities to the next meeting. Next steps would include advocating for connections to be included in the 2019 budget and seeking grant funding. Mr. Foster noted that while the trail connection process is likely to be a long one, the sooner the process begins, the sooner the trails will be completed.

Flag Retirement – Ms. Lodge reported that the Flag Retirement is set to be held on May 26th. The primary organizer of the event is Jim Dewees, a member of the Township Planning Commission and a member of the Patriotic Order of Sons. Staff are currently reaching out to local Scouting troops for assistance with the ceremonial portion of the event. The Park and Rec Board has been asked to sponsor and staff the refreshment table.

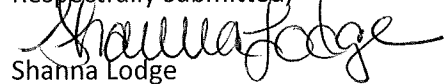
Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Park and Recreation Board will be held on May 17, 2018.

Adjournment

Mr. Foster moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Subramanian seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:24 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shanna Lodge", written over the printed name.

Shanna Lodge

Park and Recreation Board Secretary

