

## **PARK & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

**November 10, 2014**

The November 10, 2014 Park and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. Those present were:

Christopher Carroll	Chairperson
John Murray	Vice-Chairperson
Danielle Dvorchak	Secretary
Mike Zumpino	Member
Rob Nagle	Member
Susan Furlong	Member
Kathleen Johnson	Member
GlennAnne Chabala	Park & Recreation Director

### **1. Approval of the September 8, 2014 Minutes**

Mr. Murray asked for any questions or corrections relative to the Minutes of September 8, 2014 which had been circulated by e-mail. Upon hearing no further comments, Mr. Zumpino made a motion to approve the Minutes. Ms. Dvorchak seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed to approve the Minutes of November 10, 2014.

### **2. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

### **3. Old Business**

#### **A. Fall Fest**

Mrs. Chabala noted that it was a beautiful day and there were over seventy cars. Mrs. Chabala stated that she ran out of pumpkins and had to get more. She reported that over \$4400.00 was brought in; however, all the expenses had not been accounted yet. Mrs. Chabala reported that "Touch a Truck" was added this year. She stated two fire trucks, the ladder truck, some public works equipment and the police Tahoe were on hand and very popular. Mrs. Chabala thought next year an ambulance or something from the SWAT team could be added.

#### **B. Carnival**

Mrs. Chabala advised the budget numbers were in relative to the carnival. She reported the revenue was \$51,238.00 which she felt was good considering much of Saturday night was lost due to the weather. Mrs. Chabala stated the expenses were \$33,035.00, which left a profit of \$18, 203.00. She reminded that labor costs were not deducted, such as Police and Public Works overtime.

**C. Budget**

Mrs. Chabala reported that the Commissioners were working on the budget and the Department Heads had made their proposals for their own budgets. She advised the preliminary budget should be adopted at the November meeting then be available for public viewing and comment for a month, then final adoption would be at the December meeting.

Mrs. Chabala advised that Pickleball was one of the items Park and Recreation was trying to get approved, however, the Commissioners have not agreed to it. She stated one of the tennis courts would be lined for Pickleball to see what kind of use it would get. Mrs. Chabala explained that she had contacted residents who were interested in Pickleball to let them know a temporary court would be available for their use. Mr. Carroll questioned what if any concerns there would be of marking up a current tennis court. Mrs. Chabala explained it would cost \$350 to mark a tennis court as opposed to \$60,000 to construct a Pickleball court that would not be used. She reported signs would be posted for the Pickleball court but there would be no way to police the courts. Mr. Zumpino asked about the popularity of Pickleball and Mrs. Chabala stated Hatfield and Upper Gwynedd have had phone calls about it. She feels the popularity was growing and if use shows a court should be constructed and would be done so across Center Street where the Grave's house used to stand.

Mrs. Chabala reported a feasibility and engineering study was being considered for the Community Center. She reminded the property to the back of the Community Center does not belong to the Township. Mrs. Chabala stated it was possible to come out the front and the wires in the front were being re-located to the back of the Community Center. She noted Montgomery Township was building a Community Center which would have a fitness center but the Upper Gwynedd Community Center would allow additions to the programming.

There was brief discussion of what would be upgraded and what would be replaced in the Community Center.

**4. New Business**

**A. Soccer Program**

Mrs. Chabala reminded she had hired a part-time assistant, Alex Kaker, who had experience with recreation programming. She noted he was interested in soccer programs and had much success in the past. Mrs. Chabala explained he wanted to run a small-sided soccer league for ages four and under, six and under, eight and under and possibly ten and under which would take place in the Spring at Parkside Place. Mr. Zumpino asked how the other Township's with leagues would feel about it and Mrs. Chabala stated no other leagues take place during the Spring season. Ms. Furlong questioned if the UK Elite would still be available and Mrs. Chabala stated it would since it takes place on Wednesday's. Mr. Murray asked how Mr. Kaker would run the league since he currently works at night, and Mrs. Chabala explained the league would take place on Saturdays and there may be a Site Supervisor who would be hired for Thursday evenings. Mr. Carroll questioned how that would impact the budget and Mrs. Chabala stated it would cost approximately \$2,000.00 for equipment but the goal was to cover costs with registration fees.

**B. Playground Anniversary**

Mrs. Chabala stated next year would be the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the playground. She advised an audit by a Certified Playground Safety Inspector from Leathers Playground came out and the official results were not received yet. Mrs. Chabala explained she did have the initial results of what was called "Priority One, Safety Hazards". She reported that due to the wood having moved the tube slides have developed pinch points

where hoodie strings can get caught and specifications have changed so what was code was no longer. Mrs. Chabala advised that new slides were on order and that this did not affect the large enclosed tube slide. She noted one of the slides was currently blocked off and not allowed to be used.

Mrs. Chabala reported the tree chair had the arms removed. She noted the bench in the children's area was also a hazard because the gap between the back and the seat was too large. Mrs. Chabala explained a piece was welded to close up the gap.

Mrs. Chabala advised the Township was lucky in the way that the inspector did not find the need to shut down the playground. She explained the repairs would cost approximately \$60,000.00 and the Commissioners were proposing \$30,000 in 2015 and \$30,000 in 2016. Mrs. Chabala stated she did not know if that would be acceptable until the audit was received.

Mrs. Chabala advised the one piece of major work that did need to be done was sanding and that could not be done by sand blasting, it had to be done by hand. Mrs. Chabala noted the celebration had to be decided as a kick off with volunteers to have the work done or face painting, balloons, food, look at your playground. She suggested if anything were to be done, it be done in June or July since Fall is busy with other activities. Mr. Zumpino questioned why it needed to be sanded and Mrs. Chabala explained it was splintering. There was brief conversation relative to the sanding of the playground and how sandblasting would hurt the integrity of the wood but sanders could be used. Mr. Murray questioned if the volunteer spirit could be generated as before, Mrs. Johnson pointed out how it took a year to get what needed to be done for the original build of the playground. Mr. Murray noted not as many volunteers would be needed for sanding as was needed for the build. Mrs. Chabala stated it was important to celebrate the anniversary but how it would be celebrated needs to be decided.

There was brief discussion relative to the other parts of the playground that need to be addressed and maintained. It was suggested that possibly the tech schools may have volunteers or Merck has times where their employees give back to the public.

Ms. Dvorchak suggested getting quotes from a contractor just for the sanding of the playground. Mrs. Chabala asked the Park and Recreation Advisory Board if that was the way they wanted to go or if they were interested in getting volunteers. Ms. Dvorchak expressed concern there would not be enough volunteers. Mrs. Chabala noted she wanted to do the work in the Spring but did not see any reason not to do the kick off in August and the event at the end of September. Mr. Carroll noted a professional would not take as long as volunteers and Mrs. Chabala advised there were high areas of the playground that would be difficult to reach as well. Ms. Dvorchak suggested having volunteer times throughout the year so when a large project like this comes up it would be something they could own. Mr. Murray expressed concern relative to someone supervising those times when work would be done by volunteers.

Ms. Dvorchak stated she was in favor of having a celebration with balloons and face painting and not a kick off for work. Mr. Zumpino mentioned a possibility of having donations in order to keep the maintenance of the playground going. Mrs. Chabala advised that would need to be discussed with the Finance Director, Dave Brill.

There was discussion relative to having sponsors and how sponsorship could occur.

Mrs. Chabala advised it would be approximately two to three weeks before the audit was received. Mr. Zumpino questioned if cost estimates would be included and Mrs. Chabala was not sure but did not think it would. She stated it should only state how to fix the issue, not the cost.

Mrs. Chabala asked again how the Park and Recreation Advisory Board how they wanted to handle the maintenance, the sanding, of the playground. There was conversation of the donation option. Mrs. Chabala advised any thoughts for fundraising could be brought to the Commissioners for approval. She suggested the Board return in January with ideas to be brought to the Commissioners.

Mr. Zumpino suggested a "Save Our Playground" campaign with sponsorships, goals for specific things, cost to build and what the Township has invested to keep it and what it would cost to keep it in order to show the community the time line. Mrs. Dvorchak expressed concern over using the word "Save". Mrs. Chabala agreed and stated Happy Birthday may be a better route. Mr. Murray asked if a separate letter would be better and Mrs. Chabala said a separate letter could be mailed. Mr. Murray stated the newsletter only goes to the residents. Mrs. Chabala advised the letter would only go to the residents as well.

There was discussion how the event would be publicized in the newsletter.

Mrs. Chabala advised she would discuss what would need to be accomplished in setting up the financial fund for the playground. She asked if the Board would want a fund that would need to be approved by the Board of Commissioners or was this a one-time maintenance fund to get the playground up to code. It was agreed to have an on-going fund to maintain the playground. Ms. Dvorchak questioned what role the Park and Recreation Advisory Board members would play in getting donations and Mrs. Chabala stated the spear-heading and drive would come from the Park and Recreation Advisory Board with clerical assistance from the Township. Mrs. Johnson explained how the board, which was created to get donations for the build of the playground, got sponsors. Mrs. Chabala reminded that was for the build and this would be scaled down.

In response to Ms. Dvorchak's question regarding whether or not a decision needed to be made immediately as to whether the Park and Recreation Advisory Board would move forward with this, Mrs. Chabala explained the main question was to decide whether or not to have volunteers or professionals sand the playground. Mrs. Chabala advised the answer was to get professionals. She stated that once the audit was received at the January meeting another review could be done. Ms. Dvorchak asked if fundraising would be done for the Community Center as well and Mrs. Chabala stated she did not believe it would be required. Mr. Zumpino suggested possibly having the audit distributed prior to the January meeting so it would be ready to be discussed.

Mrs. Chabala advised in the next newsletter she would put an article referencing something was happening with the playground. She stated it could read "June 6<sup>th</sup>, Our Playground's 20<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration. Stay Tuned for Details" with pictures.

**5. Other Business**

**A. Déjà vu Marathon**

Mrs. Chabala reported the marathon did very well with 240 runners. She stated there were forty-four teams which was an increase of seventeen from last year. Mrs. Chabala noted the half-marathon may be removed because it seems to cause a problem with timing. She advised it took place from 8 am until 2 pm.

Ms. Dvorchak noted volunteers were not requested this year. Mrs. Chabala explained it was an over-sight on her part. She acknowledged Ms. Dvorchak and Mr. Zumpino were both in attendance last year.

**6. Call for Adjournment**

Mr. Carroll asked for any further questions or concerns. Upon hearing none, Mr. Murray made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Furlong seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Danielle Dvorchak  
Secretary