



COUNTY OF DELAWARE
GOVERNMENT CENTER BUILDING
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PARKS AND RECREATION
MARC J. MANFRE
DIRECTOR

ANNE P. STAUFFER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Delaware County Park Board Meeting
July 9, 2024
12:00 p.m.

Location: Hunt Club

Attendees:

- Board: Kathy Lopez; John McMullan; Barron Lacy
Department of Parks and Recreation: Marc Manfre, Director of Parks & Recreation; Anne Stauffer, Deputy Director of Parks & Recreation; Beth Chapman, Marketing & Communications Manager; Donny DeMutis, Superintendent of Parks
County: Councilperson Elaine Paul Schaefer, County Council Liaison
Not present: Bridget O'Donnell; Stephanie Gaboriault; Parker Snowe; Nicholas Hoyt; Mary Coniglio; Kelly Johnson; Trish McFarland
Minutes by Carol Tustin
Call to Order: 12:17 pm

Meeting Minutes from May 8, 2024 were approved by the board.

Call to Order..... Chair Kathy Lopez

- The meeting was called to order at 12:17pm by Kathy Lopez, Park Board Chair.

Guest Speaker.....None

Directors report.....Marc Manfre

- Brooke is doing great at the Redwood Community Center in Upland. They are now open 5 days a week with programs every day.
The new roof is now complete at the Lewis House in Smedley Park. The Penn State Extension people are very happy.
We are looking to buy 2 more new mowers for the park system.
The Senior Games this year were a huge success. The swimming was at Ridley High School, we had golfing at Paxon Hollow and Clayton Golf Course, and Cardinal O'Hara for track. The games were held all over the County. The luncheon is happening tomorrow at The Drexelbrook Event Center. They do a great job with the luncheon for the seniors.

- Budget submissions are coming. Marc and Anne started working on them on Thursday for next year.
- Briarcliffe Firehouse was purchased. It is really a wonderful venue for the community.
- Golf Course numbers are struggling this month due to the heat. June was great for our numbers and last year was a banner year.

Deputy Directors report..... Anne Stauffer

- The Senior Games table tennis event at Upper Darby was great. It made the news.
- We got the grant for the water line at Little Flower Manor, so we can start preparing for a community garden to be started there next Spring. Sustainability was there, they love the meadows that we are starting there.
- At Rose Tree Park at the main Mall area, the Penn State Master Gardeners planted our container gardens. They look great and people stop to admire them daily.
- Work on a study to prevent erosion on the berm at Rose Tree Park.
- We are digitizing records.
- We met with the Parks & Recreation Department from Concord Township. They want to partner with us for our Bioblitz at Clayton Park. We will email the board with this information.

Open Discussion and Public Comment

- Councilperson Elaine Schaefer mentioned that she loves the Summer Concert series. It is great for the community and is well loved by a lot of people.
- Elaine said last month that they took bond issues for Capital Improvement, this is done as municipal borrowing. It will be used for a lot of major investments. One of them will be the 911 center, some will be invested in the parks. It won't be enough to fund everything, so Elaine would like to use a separate bond next year just for parks so parks can start to improve places like Delco Woods. She would like to poll Delaware County constituents to see if they would like this idea. We would put the question to the voters for special bonds like this because it causes a raise in taxes, and we would want to seek approval from the voters first.
- People in Darby, the Friends of Woodbourne, are rehashing plans to renovate the Mansion. The County walked the property two weeks ago and they are slowly making improvements, but Woodbourne Mansion is a lot of work. You can respect history, but you must be realistic on what is salvageable.
- Kathy Lopez talked about the Park Board visit to Pennock Woods and Shrigley Park in June. At Shrigley there are signs to explain how the foliage helps the environment and Pennock Woods was beautiful, and the trails look really good.
- We haven't received any complaints about the playground closure during the concerts.
- The Juneteenth Celebration was a tremendous event. Everything went well and Philly Gumbo was a hit again.

- The Briarcliffe station that the County now owns will be great for programming and the community seems happy to make it a community center.

Old Business

- Summer is off to a good start. The Summer Concert series is going well. We had a rough start last year but this year the weather is cooperating. The Class of 84 just played in front of a monster crowd. Everyone in the community is enjoying the concerts. I just want to say that Beth is doing a really good job with the concerts and bookings.
- The Senior Games this year were a huge success. The swimming was at Ridley High School, we had golfing at Paxon Hollow and Clayton Golf Course, and Cardinal O'Hara for track. The games were held all over the County. The luncheon is happening tomorrow at The Drexelbrook. They do a great job with the luncheon for the seniors.
- We have decided not to do huts at The Festival of Lights. There will be no vendors we are going to limit it to the Lights and some Food Trucks on a couple of Saturday and Sundays. The kickoff will be the same as usual with music and Santa and celebrations.

New Business

- Marc Manfre is retiring as the Director of Parks and Recreation. He is officially done on July 26, 2024. Marc has been here for 30 years. He started here as a Parks and Recreation intern while he was attending Temple University. He worked in different departments before settling in as the Director of Parks and Recreation. He has enjoyed his time working in the County and is going to miss Parks and Recreation. He thanked the Parks Advisory Board and said it is a great cushion between the community and the department and has always been grateful for their advice and insight.

- **Meeting adjourned: 1:05 pm**

Meetings:

January 10

March 13

May 8

July 10

September 11

November 13

Park Visits:

February 13 – Little Flower Manor

April 10 – Upland Park

June 12 – Pennock Woods and Shrigley Park

August 14 – Smedley Park

October 9 – Delco Woods

December – Rose Tree Festival of Lights on opening night

