



COUNTY OF DELAWARE
GOVERNMENT CENTER BUILDING
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COUNCIL
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VICE CHAIR

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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Delaware County Park Board Meeting
January 10, 2024
12:00 p.m.

Location: Zoom

Attendees:

- Board: Kathy Lopez; Parker Snowe; Bridget O'Donnell; John McMullan; Mary Coniglio; Kelly Johnson; Nicholas Furman; Stephanie Gaboriault; Trish McFarland; 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
County: Steven Beckley, Planning manager, Open Space and Trails; Karen Wilwol, Watershed Specialist, Delaware County Conservation District.
Not present: Nicholas Hoyt
Minutes by Carol Tustin
Call to Order: 12:06 pm

Meeting Minutes from November 8, 2023 were approved by the board.

Call to Order..... Chair Kathy Lopez

- The meeting was called to order by Kathy Lopez, Park Board Chair.

Directors report.....Marc Manfre

- First, I want to say congratulations to Karen on her new title, she is the new Director of soil conservation.
The Festival of Lights was very successful. We had 3 weekends of the "village" that went well. On opening night, there was a downpour, but it was held despite weather conditions not being ideal and it went well. Funding for the past three years has been supported by ARPA; for next year, we are working with the Chamber and Visit Delco to ensure continuation of funding.
Next would be Capital budget. I have had recent conversations with Danielle Floyd about the restrooms at Clayton as renovations are happening. She asked if they could be upgraded for winter use. We have tried before putting heaters in the restrooms, but

unfortunately, use is not heavy enough to sustain through the winter and in the past, we have had pipes burst even with the heaters. So, we are not going to upgrade them for winter use. We need some new lawnmowers; we are looking to get 2 hustlers. This process will start in February working with purchasing. As everyone knows, Norm retired and interviews with new candidates to fill the position have started. We do have some promising candidates.

- We are gearing up for permit and community garden season. Scheduling for the Summer Concert series has started, so Beth is busy with this. Derrick has been busy planning new activities at the Redwood senior center.
- There is a rough draft of the Don Guanella Master Plan that is not ready for public distribution. There are plans for it to be ready by October.
- Golf revenue at Clayton Park was at an all-time high; \$305 thousand. I do have to thank Nick Furman for bringing the GAP youth program to Clayton, it was a success again this year. We also have active recreation through the softball fields here also.

Deputy Directors report..... Anne Stauffer

- We have a Community Development Block Grant application for \$50 thousand for installing water facilities at Little Flower. This will be very helpful to get the community gardens started.
- Karen shared information about recycling of Rose Tree trees from the Festival of Lights display. They will be used for stream bank stabilization where they will be anchored to eroding stream banks. This program is a band-aid rather than a long-term solution. It has been successful in the past at Glen Providence Park, although we have seen some breakdown in trees that were installed in 2020. These trees will be used at Don Guanella and will be part of a community education initiative as well. There were some questions from the board about the process of installation and whether plantings nearby have been considered. It was explained that the trees are anchored by rebar that has been bent into loops and driven into the banks, then the trees are threaded into the loops. Plantings have been used successfully, but they are not always feasible for every site.
- Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources grant applications are due in April. Currently, we are discussing with the Planning and Public Works Departments whether they could benefit Mineral Hill and/or Smedley Park.

Old Business

- Little Flower Park naming is our current priority. The next County Council meeting is Wednesday, 2/7/24, and we plan to have our suggestion(s) to them before then. Please make additions to the list of suggested names by 1/25/24. Kathy will send out a form for voting on a proposed name by 2/1/24. Please cast your vote by 2/5/24.
- Thank you for attending Holiday Village Delco. This was the park visit for December.
- Round 4 of Delaware County Greenways Grant recipients was approved last week and the recipients were announced.
- A new proposal for the Rose Tree Park First Responders Memorial was submitted, including an updated proposed budget. County Council allocated \$75 thousand of ARPA

funding during their December meeting because the ARPA deadline for allocation was 12/31/2023 and the deadline for spending is 12/31/2026. These funds will not be released until approval from Park Board & County Council. We reviewed the amended proposal. The pavilion has been removed but it was noted that there is still a concrete slab showing between the two structures. There were concerns expressed by various board members regarding impervious concrete being a threat to green space, going against the ordinance of not building new structures. Marc acknowledged that they provide their own maintenance, plantings for the memorials, and are very involved with upkeep. Parker motioned, Mary seconded, and a vote was taken. Consensus for support of repairs and actual wall/memorial extension. Denial of existing plan for concrete slab. The board will reconsider a unifying element between the memorials if it is either reduced to a walkway or a pervious solution. We do recognize unfortunately that a pervious solution adds a significant additional cost.

New Business

- Park visits for 2024 were discussed. Catania was put in as a suggestion as previous visits were a while ago, one was canceled, and one was sparsely attended. Little Flower may be a good park to visit since there have been upgrades completed since the last visit. Pennock Woods/Shrigley/Darby Creek Trail was another suggestion. Lansdowne has made the road by Shrigley into a one-way bus land leading to the township park. Don Guanella was another suggestion. We have asked Peter Williamson to join us in March. We would like to hear from the board members who they would like to hear from as a guest speaker. We may ask Francine Locke, Chief Sustainability Officer or Elaine Schaefer, County Council to be a guest speaker.
- Chair and Vice-chair election will be at the annual meeting in March. The nomination guidelines have the following language: self-nominations for positions are solicited. We need 3 volunteers who do NOT plan to put in for either position to serve on the nomination committee, and then Kathy will appoint a chair of that committee by 2/1/2024. Names of nominees to be submitted to the nominations committee by 3/1/2024; they will be sent to the board prior to the March meeting. The Committee chair presides over the election, and new or re-elected officer(s) preside immediately over the annual/business meeting.
- Please look for a coming email for Board Priority Survey for 2024.

Open Discussion and Public Comment

- **Meeting adjourned: 12:52 pm**

Meetings:
January 10
March 13
May 8
July 10
September 11
November 13

Park Visits:
*Park Visits will be announced soon