



Parks and Recreation Board Minutes from February 7, 2017

In attendance: Kevin Kissling, Joanne Crawford, Terry Ferris, Tom Manley, Rachel Bach, Emily Fox, Jim Totten, Tom Blomstrom, and Brianna Muller (recording secretary). Attendance from the public: Linda Doll.

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM at the Parks and Recreation Administration Building -Koontz Park.

Reorganization

- Joanne Crawford nominated Kevin Kissling as chairperson of the Board. Terri Ferris seconded, and the appointment was approved unanimously 5-0.
- Tom Manley nominated Joanne Crawford as vice-chairperson. Kevin Kissling seconded, and the appointment was approved unanimously 5-0.

Approval of Minutes

- Minutes from 12/6/16 motioned to approve by Joanne Crawford, Terry Ferris seconded, minutes were approved unanimously 5-0.

Director of Parks and Recreation Report

- Tom Blomstrom presented and submitted the Director's Report (attached).

Comments from Director's Report

- Tom Blomstrom announced a Whitemarsh Athletic Association meeting on Monday, March 6th at 7pm at the Koontz Park Administrative Building. Tom Manley agreed to be the representative from the Parks and Recreation Board at that meeting.
- Tom Blomstrom explained the impact of the state-wide DHS law on the program operations of the Parks and Recreation Department, and specifically how this law will impact Cedar Grove Camp.
 - Kevin Kissling asked about how enrollment numbers will be affected, as well as how revenue will be impacted. Tom Blomstrom explained that enrollment will likely drop by about half and the department will adjust staffing and expenses accordingly. He also gave a projected revenue loss of approximately \$25,000, with the understanding that the program will still be net-positive due to adjustments being made.

Whitemarsh Art Center Report

- Spring registration for Art Center classes and programs will open on February 15th. Early registration will end March 1st. Classes will run for 10 weeks starting March 20th.
- Emily Fox updated the Parks and Recreation Board on the outcome of the Planning Committee meetings and process. The stakeholders made the final recommendation that the Art Center continue to operate as an independent center by maintaining a minimum number of programs, operating within a fixed budget, and with a highlighted focus on ceramic and children's programming.
- The Art Center has received a number of applications for potential board members, all of whom are being contacted in regard to their interest as well as being appraised of board member responsibilities and duties.
- The Art Center has received \$4,046.00 in annual giving from twenty six individual donors.

- Emily Fox announced upcoming Art Center events including the Member Art Show at the William Jeanes Library, the Plein Air event, and the Montgomery County Open Studio Tour.
 - Community resident Linda Doll inquired as to who would be eligible to attend the Member Art Show reception at the William Jeanes Library. Emily Fox did not have a firm answer, but appreciated the insight regarding the Library.

New Business

- Announcement of the receipt of a DCNR C2P2 Grant for \$200,00 for Miles Park improvements.
- Announcement of Whitemarsh Athletic Association Meeting on Monday, March 6th at 7 pm at the Koontz Park Admin Building.
- 2017 Parks and Recreation fee schedule was distributed.
 - Kevin Kissling inquired how the prices of our parks and recreation programs compare to those in surrounding municipalities and facilities such as fitness studios and schools. Tom Blomstrom replied that our department conducts informal comparisons throughout the year when planning programs and collaborates with neighboring municipalities annually for a price-comparison report.
- Tom Blomstrom announced that preparations for Township Day 2017 are underway and that registration for businesses, crafters, restaurants, etc. has begun.

Old Business

- Tom Blomstrom presented the Board members with the newly purchased ADA accessible swings for the Miles Park playground. The Board was very impressed and excited about them being installed in spring 2017.
 - Tom Blomstrom explained that the swings would be installed on the current existing swing bay where there are bucket swings. Two of the existing bucket swings will be moved to the former tire swing area.

Adjournment

- Joanne Crawford motioned for adjournment, Terry Ferris seconded.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Next meeting is Tuesday, April 4th at the Whitemarsh Township Administrative Building- Public Meeting Room.

Respectfully submitted,
 Brianna Muller