

Parks and Recreation Board
Minutes from June 4, 2019

In Attendance: James Convey, Joanne Crawford, Terry Ferris, Kevin Kissling, Tom Manley, Emily Fox (WAC Liaison), Thomas Blomstrom (Parks and Recreation Director), Jackie Bender (Parks and Recreation Staff – Meeting Minutes).

The meeting was called to order at 7:01PM at the Parks and Recreation Administration Building at Koontz Park.

Joanne Crawford led the Pledge of Allegiance

APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 2ND, 2019 MEETING MINUTES:

- Terry Ferris made a motion to accept the April 2nd, 2019 minutes, Kevin Kissling seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD LIAISON – COMMITTEE REPORTS

2019 4th of July Committee:

- Terry Ferris attended the May 22nd meeting.
- Tom Blomstrom stated that there was excellent attendance and there was a discussion about adding more prizes for the children – The Lions Club will be making a decision. He also added that all letters were sent to businesses and residents along the parade route and e-mails have been sent to past registrants about registering for this year.
- Joanne Crawford will be attending the next meeting on June 13th.

Arbor Day Celebration with WES

- Joanne Crawford attended the annual Arbor Day Celebration at WES on Friday, May 3rd where the kindergarteners planted a Flowering Pear Tree.

WHITEMARSH ART CENTER REPORT

- Emily Fox presented the report as submitted.
- Kevin Kissling asked where the instructors have been coming from – Emily Fox stated that the majority of the teachers come from past classes and programs but are looking to develop new relationships to increase teachers for camp and programs.
- Joanne Crawford asked about the safety of the fire/spinning performing artist – Emily stated that all of the demonstrations have the proper permits and safety checks – and are held outside.
- Joanne Crawford and Tom Manley suggested the Art Center getting a service project with local scout groups.
- Tom Manley asked about the \$43K loss this year and what may have caused that – Tom Blomstrom suggested that was due to the hiring of a full time executive director and

staffing costs. He added that the leadership is also looking at operations to see if there are things that can be tightened up.

- Tom Manley asked what the overall budget is for the Art Center – Emily Fox stated it was just below \$100,000.00 and that the board believes in the Executive Director’s knowledge and experience and he is of high value to the center.
- Tom Manley asked how much the Art Center expects to receive from the estate that supports the loss. – Tom Blomstrom stated that they will not have an exact answer until after the Art Center’s next meeting but they usually received approximately \$26K per year.
- Kevin Kissling stated that the Whitemarsh Art Center is a separate organization that utilizes the building the park – Tom Blomstrom added that he only attends their board meetings as a liaison and the Township is not involved with their operations or votes in their decision-making. He also stated that there is a good relationship between the Art Center and the Township and they work together for the betterment of the community.
- Terry Ferris made a motion to accept the Whitemarsh Art Center’s Executive Director’s Report, Tom Manley seconded the motion, and the report was accepted unanimously.

DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION REPORT

New business:

- Summer Camps: Kevin Kissling asked if Township Residents took advantage of the early registration offered for Cedar Grove Camp – Tom Blomstrom stated that the Township Residents do take advantage of the offering and the weeks come close to filling in that time frame.
- Wells Street Open Space: Tom Manley stated that the stairway at the Wells Street Open Space looks great and natural in the woodland setting.
- Township Day: Joanne Crawford stated that the Township Staff did a great job on Township Day. Jim Convey asked how the trailer went on Township Day – Tom Blomstrom stated they are re-evaluating for next year due to lack of users. It was noted the Township will be using the trailer for the 4th of July Parade.
- Whitemarsh Foundation – Dixon Meadow Programs:
 - Jim Convey asked if this was the program that did not run last year – Tom Blomstrom stated that it was, but there are more participants registered this year as opposed to last year.
 - Tom Manley asked if there were other programs the Whitemarsh Foundation puts on throughout the year – Tom Blomstrom stated that he was not aware of their other activities but they do have fundraisers occasionally.
 - Joanne Crawford asked if they had posted the flyer at the Meadow – Tom Blomstrom stated that the Parks and Recreation Department has sent it to them and they are responsible for their own postings and he believed that was done.
- New ADA Equipment: Kevin Kissling stated that the new equipment at Leeland Park gets used often.

- Miles Park Building Fire Alarms
 - Tom Manley asked if it was being added to be up to code or if it is just a good addition to the building – Tom Blomstrom stated it is a good addition for the safety of the building users and it is up to fire code.
 - Terry Ferris asked who would be installing the system – Tom Blomstrom stated that Militia Hill would be installing the system.
- Miles Park Pavilion bathrooms: Kevin Kissling asked if there were timed locks in the other building – Tom Blomstrom stated that the bathrooms at Koontz and Leeland are on a timer and they are looking into upgrading the systems as needed. Tom Blomstrom added that the bathrooms at Cedar Grove do not have timed locks, but the door leading outside does have a timed lock with a push bar so all is well there.
- Cedar Grove Field Sponsor Signs: Terry Ferris asked who oversees the sponsor signs at Cedar Grove Park – Tom Blomstrom stated that Whitmarsh Girls Softball oversees them.

Old business

- None

Terry Ferris made a motion to accept the Director’s report, Jim Convey seconded, and the report was accepted unanimously.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

- No Board Member comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

- Mr. Eli Glick, Whitmarsh Township Resident, stated his concerns about the McCarthy Park/Trail area. His concerns included the significant trash, overgrowth of invasive plants in the basin area, a dumping area, and issues with dogs running loose and dog waste. He wanted to bring it to the attention of the Park and Recreation Board as the Parks and Recreation Department oversees the trail and basin area, but was also aware that most of the issues are from Colonial School District. He complimented the Township on the improved trash cans, but is concerned that the PWHS sports complex has cans blowing over and trash spreading to the wood like and basin areas. He recommended that they should get sturdier receptacles, increase the number of receptacles, and quicker pick-up after large events. He added that there needs be a plan for the invasive plants, similar to the Wells Street plan, to be followed. He also recommended that a “Friends Of” group for McCarthy Park be established – he added that the EAB has been looking to do something but has been too slow. He added that the Township needs to oversee the above issues and enforce – specifically referring to neighbors who dump their trash, dog waste, and pool water into the basins.
- Board members asked questions such as where is the line between Colonial School District and the Township and if more permanent trash receptacles – it was explained where the boundaries were and what the Township could decide vs what the school

district could decide. Joanne Crawford stated that the board will take his comments under consideration and thanked him for his attendance.

ADJOURNMENT

- Terry Ferris made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Kevin Kissling seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:08PM.