

WESTTOWN TOWNSHIP
PARKS and RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Oakbourne Mansion, 1014 S. Concord Road, Westtown Township, PA
April 14, 2015

In attendance: Commission Members Deb Litman-Goch (Chair), Maria Klang (V. Chair), Mark Schatzel, Stuart Rich, Jennifer Masiko, and Walter Pavelchek. Township Manager Robert Pingar also attended. Seamus Lavin was absent.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:32PM.

II. Minutes

Minutes of March 10, 2015, Meeting approved. Mark volunteered to keep the minutes.

III. New Business

A. April 25th Spring Yard Sale

Deb reported that 64 yard sale spots have been reserved by sellers, with 4 tables being rented. The sign-up timeframe has been extended an additional week to encourage participation. Deb has been in touch with WC Fire Police, but is having difficulty securing Rustin High School volunteers due to competing events.

Maria is going to reach out to a contact at the school in order to extend the opportunity to the sports teams. Some students may be looking for volunteer hours and we hope to capitalize on it. 13 vests will be available for volunteers.

The commission will meet at 6PM on Friday the 24th, to review parking spots, strategy, concessions, and other logistics.

Habitat for Humanity will be on site to receive post-sale donated items.

Due to complications with obtaining the two way radios used last year, Mark will look into purchasing some for future events. Ideally 8, however, cost will be a concern.

Walt will manage the volunteer sign-in table which will be set up on the front porch of The Mansion.

Maria and Stuart will be running the concessions. Concessions will include pizza, pretzels, Goshen Donuts, drinks. We discussed strategies in case of a rain-out. Deb to contact Pam to discuss how to handle – provide rain date or hold rain or shine.

P&R Commissioners discussed charging buyers for parking. This was discouraged since it was not included in any previous communications about the Community Yard Sale; however, it was agreed we would have donation buckets. Jennifer will provide two buckets to be used for this purpose.

P&R Commissioners will meet at 7:30AM at the Mansion on the morning of the CYS ahead of sellers arriving beginning at 8:00AM.

B. Board of Supervisors April 6 Open Meeting

Deb and Walt attended the meeting. Deb provided an overview of what was discussed and suggested. They would like to see more ideas from the P&R Commission and encouraged us to be creative.

They are looking forward to additional integration with the P&R Commission and will join us in a future meeting. The BOS Encouraged additional integration with the community and using ideas from other P&R groups in nearby communities. Activities should be balanced between age groups, from young to old.

Walt provided insight on guidance discussed by the BOS regarding the Open Space Plan that was approved in 2014. The BOS would like to see an evolution of opportunities develop in the future. While some concepts are still being shaped, additional opportunities will likely be nurtured by ideas presented by the P&R Commission.

Long term planning of new park spaces was briefly discussed and will be a joint effort in the future. Reference Open Space Plan.

On May 16th at 9:00am, we will be meeting for an overview of the parks. We will also explore the landscaping improvements and gardens.

Development of a calendar/goals/suggested initiatives report is targeted in August, so that the BOS has time for review and approval of the budget for 2016.

A status report will be created in January to review advancements in the prior year.

D. 2015 Calendar of Events

On June 26th we will show Big Hero 6. Mark will call D'Ascenzo's to inquire about sponsorship. Deb suggested the second (July) movie night have a musical theme to compliment the West Chester Band that will perform before the movie from 7:30-8:30 p.m. More discussion to come to select the movie this movie night as well as the third one in August.

A Halloween Masquerade Party for adults is planned for October 24th. Pam will hold that date on the mansion calendar. The group discussed concepts of fundraising targets, concepts to drive donations to the mansion, party planning, and more. Before P&R gets too far down track planning the fundraiser, Rob will raise with the BOS.

The Cars and Motorcycles of England (CMoE) Show is May 30th.

The date for the Winter Festival is still TBD pending the Eagles schedule. Deb shared that a representative from the Westtown Historical Commission has already reached out concerning participating again this year.

Christmas in July will be postponed until 2016.

E. Other New Business

Mark suggested planning and applying to make the Westtown community or Oakbourne Park a Certified Wildlife Habitat through the National Wildlife Federation. He will research and present findings at the next meeting.

Mark raised that during a Google search there is only one comment concerning Oakbourne Mansion as a wedding facility and it is quite a negative one. For the future P&R needs to wage a campaign to have more positive feedback accessible – perhaps from couples who have had their wedding at Oakbourne and were very pleased.

P&R Commissioners agreed to start future monthly meetings at 7:00PM. instead of 7:30.

E. Report Outs

1. Frisbee Golf

Stuart expressed concerns about the cost to establish a disk golf course at Oakbourne Park. After researching the subject, he felt that the cost would be prohibitive. The group also expressed concern with the number of people walking or hiking in the area as golfers throw their disks.

2. Geo Caching

Jennifer provided some additional insight on the concept of geo caching. Additional research is needed, but all agreed the concept is promising.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Health & Fitness Report

Maria reported that there is a sincere need for advertising. We are having trouble obtaining participants. Maria suggested dropping the age requirement from 18 to a younger age, so teenagers can attend. Rob will explore further.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:28PM.