

**WESTTOWN TOWNSHIP**  
**PARKS and RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**  
Oakbourne Mansion, 1014 S. Concord Road, Westtown Township, PA  
May 12, 2015

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

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

**II. Minutes**

The minutes of April 14, 2015 meeting were approved. Maria volunteered to prepare the minutes of this meeting.

**III. New Business**

**A. Summer Gazette Submission (deadline June 5)**

Deb suggested the following be submitted for the summer Gazette issue to be delivered to residents in July:

- July Movie night – 7/24 “The Sound of Music” preceded by a concert by the West Chester Orchestra starting at 7pm
- August Movie Night – 8/14 “Muppets Most Wanted”

Holding a fall yard sale was discussed, but most favored a Harvest Festival instead. This is not going into the Gazette, as the commission could not decide on the event.

**B. National Wildlife Federation Certification**

Mark spoke to the National Wildlife Federation and received an outline on the requirements for certification as a Community Wildlife Habitat. A few requirements are:

- a. 100 residential backyards need to be certified
- b. 2 schools need to be certified
- c. Township children need to be educated and involved via the schools
- d. The Township is required to offer educational documents on the wildlife and plant life existing in our parks.
- e. Cost is \$75 for the Township and \$25 for a resident
- f. Approval from the Board is needed to proceed

The status on these requirements to date is 2 schools are certified (non-public) and one residence is certified (305 Beechwood Drive). Maria made the motion to approve pursuing certification and Stuart 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion – all approved.

**IV. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Spring Yard Sale Recap**

The net revenue from the sale was \$674.84

**B. P&R Commissioners’ Field Trip – 9:00am, May 16**

The Parks and Recreation Commission, along with the several board members are meeting at

9am to visit each park in the Township. Parks to be visited are:

Oakbourne Park - 1014 S. Concord Rd  
Larchbourne Park – 119 Larchwood Rd  
Tyson Park - 901 Oakbourne Rd  
Penn Wood Park – 1470 Johnny's Way  
Open Space – 1095 Street Rd  
Open Space – 1040 S. New Street

### **C. 2015 Calendar of Events**

1. Movie Nights
  - June 26 – Big Hero 6, sponsored by D'Ascenzo's Gelatto
  - July 24 – Sound of Music preceded by the West Chester Band at 7pm
  - August 14 – Muppets Most Wanted
2. Christmas in July – tabled until 2016
3. Halloween Fundraiser – Slated for Oct. 24
4. Holiday Festival – December 6 from 12-3pm

The Cars & Motorcycles of England show is May 30<sup>th</sup>. This is not a P&R hosted event.

## **VI. PUBLIC COMMENT & NON AGENDA ITEMS**

### **Health & Fitness Report**

Rob stated that the program is suspended until more effective administration of the program is developed. Maria noted that she will only continue the program if the registrations are submitted directly to her, and she compensates the township in a fee of no more than \$9/night (\$72/session per class).

### **P&R Functions & Goals**

Deb suggested everyone give his/her thoughts on the reason or the main objective for the Parks and Recreation Commission functions and goals:

Walt – We are here to get Township residents interested in our parks, and improve and maintain the properties.

Mark - Organize community events to bring Township residents together and educate them on the community parks and mansion.

Seamus – Maintain all parks, while also offering efforts like the geo-caching, but we shouldn't burn ourselves out by trying to do too much with the little resources we have. He suggested we utilize the free opportunities to advertise ourselves and events.

Stuart – In favor of the events, but there are other outlets, like the West Chester Recreation Center that bring the community together.

Maria – We should be educating the Township residents of our parks and they can benefit from these resources. In favor of offering a couple events a year.

Deb – In favor of the events which make people more aware of our parks, and getting more community involvement.

Rob – Need to think how we can make the parks more inviting so they are used, and therefore more valuable to our residents.

Walt brought up the idea of subcommittees to work on the different actions and projects within our commission. These subcommittees would involve resident volunteers to work on a specific cause, such as Community Wildlife Habitat certification and park events.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:28pm.