

## **PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**UPPER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP  
PARKS & RECREATION BOARD  
Thursday, August 3, 2023  
7:30 PM**

**Members Present** - Joe Sena, Sylvie MacKenzie, George Plotts, Adam Lusk. Township staff Marielle Watson joined partway through the meeting, as staff was conducting scheduled interviews.

**Call to Order** - Joe Sena called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m.

**Announcements** – The board would like to congratulate the Media Little League 12U team on winning the state championships and wishes them the best in Williamsport.

**Public Forum** –N/A

**Prior Meeting Minutes** – Motion by Adam Lusk to approve prior Meeting minutes; seconded by George Plotts. Board Approved 4-0

**Old Business** –

- **Recreation Board SWAG** – The Board voted 4-0 to approve a request to the Council for a \$1,500 expenditure to order branded UPT Recreation Board frisbees to hand out at community events.

**UPT Community Day updates:** Mareile Watson provided updates on entertainment and food vendors for the event. Food Truck applications are still being accepted. Joe Sena to develop and send out a sign-up sheet to staff the Rec Board table. Board to consider table dressing for the event and come to the next meeting with suggestions to finalize.

- **2024 Plan Brainstorming:** Board continued to brainstorm about potential activities for 2024 Plan, including annual Parks Tour with Township Staff; summer “passport” (see below); seniors bus trip; stipend/credit for students to create content for webpage or newsletter; sponsorships; summer camp support; joint sessions with Environmental Board (see below); support for Mineral Hill strategic plan implementation; support for granted Ray Roche Park improvement project; community survey on desired park improvements and recreational activities; community trunk or treat; organized nature walks; yoga classes. Members were asked to come to the next meeting prepared to create a specific 2024 plan from a brainstorming list with the “owner” for each proposed activity.

**New Business/Public Comment** –

- **Cherry Street Field Permit Applications** – Board Approved 4-0 Fall applications from Media Providence Friends School and Rose Tree Soccer Club.
- **Parks Tour** – Board members Adam Lusk and Sylvie MacKenzie participated in a walking tour of the six (6) Upper Providence Township parks with Township staff and an Environmental Board member, reporting that the parks were in good condition overall.

- **Louis Scott Park** – The Board expressed its concern regarding the maintenance of the park, particularly as the Open Space group has retired the services previously provided to maintain this space. The board seeks input as to whether the Council is accounting for this responsibility in the upcoming budget. The board is also interested in how the strategic plan for Mineral Hill impacts Scott Run Park and its maintenance.
- **Thompson Park** – The Board reported that this park is only accessible by crossing a stream Board questioned whether this space is intended to be more easily accessible to the public. Sylvie MacKenzie informed that a member of the community, Steve Goetzler, had posted a video on YouTube about the park and suggested reaching out to him to ask about what current use is being made of the space and how the community might like it to be used.
- **Weldon Street Tot Lot** – The Board reported that there are new benches and equipment in a fenced-in playground, but that the slide looked rusty and may need replacement. The Recreation Board commented that if equipment from the Ray Roche Park improvement project was going to remove age-appropriate and useable equipment, it may make sense to consider installing it in the Tot Lot.
- **Berman Playground** – The Board noted that there was space available at this park for some sort of activity court (e.g., pickleball, etc.).
- **Ray Roche Park** – The Board noted that this space has been granted funds for improvement and would like an update on plan progress, including with respect to the ground cover options discussed at a previous meeting.
- **Cherry Street** – The Board noted that a bathroom upgrade may improve this space.
- **Discussion/Miscellaneous:** Joe Sena suggested including a question on the Community Day survey with respect to desired park and recreation activities and improvements sought by the community as well as considering a passport program next summer, where the Board could partner with a local business to provide rewards for those who visit each park and provide some sort of insight on their experience or answer a trivia question which would require a visit. Board members also agreed that bi-annual joint sessions of the Environmental and Recreation Boards may make sense to align on plans and leverage shared impact.
- **Modification to Field Use Applications:** Adam Lusk briefly presented revisions to the permit application for Cherry Street Park, including a revised fee structure, a one-time use fee opportunity, a priority review notice, etc. Adam will draft proposed revisions to the document and present for consideration and vote at the September Meeting.

**Adjournment:** George Plotts motioned to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Sylvie MacKenzie. Joe Sena adjourned the meeting at 9:13 p.m.

NB: Meeting Minutes were recorded by Joe Sena in Ryan McQuade's absence.