

THE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD OF RADNOR TOWNSHIP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2021

Meeting Held at the Radnor Township Building Radnorshire Room (televised)

PRESENT:

Bill Remphrey, Chair; Mary Coe, Vice-Chair; Clare Girton; Bill Quinn; Howard Childs; Andrew Babson
Commissioner Sean Farhy
Tammy Cohen, Director of Recreation & Community Programming

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MINUTES

Minutes from the July 8, 2021 meeting were approved 6-0.

REPORTS

Tammy Cohen gave an update on the recreational programming, projects, and initiatives taking place.

Commissioner Farhy announced Bryn Mawr Fire Company's upcoming 9/11 Ceremony.

Andrew Babson updated that students are back in school in-person.

Clare Girton updated on the Shade Tree Committee and their recent work on the Township Shade Tree Ordinance; Annual Tree Planting; and pursuance of various grants.

OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Bill Remphrey provided updates on the Odorisio Park & Cowan Park Basketball Court Renovation Projects; the Cowan Park Transfer Bridge Replacement; and the Park/Playground Communication Boards.

NEW BUSINESS

Fenimore Woods Park Renovations Project

Chairman Bill Remphrey provided comprehensive background on the Fenimore Woods Park Renovations Project and outlined the goals for public input and the process moving forward.

Public Participation

Resident, Camrin Azzarano, commented on the project and need for additional sit-down meetings; the diversity of the Friends of Fenimore Coalition and the members' respective goals; and the importance of the pond, stable, accessibility, and natural landscaping.

Resident Jim Higgins, Jr. discussed the need to preserve all healthy trees at the park at all costs; the park cannot be a park that is all things to all people; repair vs. replace where needed and use the stable's shell for bathrooms; no paving at the parking lots; the value of the ecology and natural areas of the park; and the preservation of the park's historical nature.

Resident Paul Vernisi discussed the need to save every healthy tree; the desire to design the park for what the people want; need for a roundtable dialogue.

Resident Marla Neeson posed various questions including use of the bond dollars towards maintenance; treating sick trees vs. removal of trees; the infrastructure issues at the park and what they are; and the impact on the Willows Mansion losing business from rentals at the Fenimore Woods Pavilion.

Commissioner Sean Farhy discussed that the view of the BOC is that unhealthy trees can pose risks and would be taken down (he cited examples that took place at the Radnor Trail and Encke Park) and that it is important to understand the priorities to the improvements at the park.

Resident Michael Kerney described the history of Fenimore Woods' landscape and woodlands since 1875 and the trees, stable, and bridge integral to the history still there; in addition, the need for a roundtable meeting to facilitate development of the new plan.

Resident Doug McCone discussed the importance of the vision for the park in 25 years which should entail preservation of the tree canopy; rebuilding of the carriage house (stable) with a detailed study; and preservation of the trees.

Resident Paul Vernisi stated there is a need to be cautious with any type of 'study' or questionnaire for the park vs. having a town hall meeting, due to the possibility that it would lead to undesired outcomes.

Resident Christina Peters expressed the importance of preserving the tree canopy; the need to look at alternative Township locations for pavilion space vs. Fenimore Woods; the need for the park's tree attention and planting of native trees and landscaping to support the eco system and nature lovers vs. focusing on the infrastructure development.

Resident Holly Herverson inquired about who rents and uses the pavilion, as well as the maintenance planning for the park.

Resident Terry Lindsay expressed the importance of the Odorisio Park Basketball Court Project and keeping it moving quickly.

Resident Jeremy Ferguson raised concerns for the use of the mulch at the park by commercial landscapers.

Resident Brooke McGinnis raised the issue of a dead turtle and trash around the pond.

Commissioner Farhy commented on the swift response of the Township staff and importance for when residents see something, they should say something and contact the Township or call 911.

Resident, Camrin Azzarano, commented that sending a survey at this point might not be effective and rather to have a conversation with the Coalition; she discussed the Township's lack of maintenance of the stable over the years as well as the lack of maintenance to the area around the creek that has become a vegetation war zone.

Commissioner Farhy commented on the need to get the park right through this process for the future with a possible ranking system of the community input points. He further discussed the project's communication strides throughout the process.

Resident Jim Higgins, Jr. stressed that a survey would not be effective at this point because the community has discussed their input.

Resident Christina Peters discussed the importance of the trees and that their removal was not clearly communicated.

Resident Marla Neeson commented on the lack of clarify with regards to the trees on the prior plan in terms of removal and growth.

Resident Steven Fletcher spoke about his time at Fenimore Woods in the past and voiced support for the Coalition. He also raised concerns about the nearby development of the park and the addition of sidewalks and how they would impact the park.

Resident, Camrin Azzarano, commented on the importance of the maintenance at the park and the impacts/interaction of Gulph Creek with the park pond and how the water flows through the pond. She also commented on the needed maintenance with regards to trash removal.

Andrew Babson commented about his aspiration of maintaining the tree canopy as well as the historic stables.

Bill Quinn urged everyone to put their egos aside to move forward with the important items desired, which have been vocalized as being the trees, stable, and pond.

Clare Girton discussed the evolution of the project moving forward in a positive direction. She stated that the Shade Tree Committee has also evolved into an action-board working to make the Township better, as others have been; that environmental impacts have grown in terms of need; that maintenance has also grown in terms of needs tremendously; and that stewardship will also be an important part of the park moving forward.

Mary Coe supported Bill Quinn's comments and emphasized the importance of the trees at the park. She stated that the process moving forward will be a positive and productive one.

Howard Childs stressed that the park should be preserved for future generations.

Chairman Bill Remphrey stated that the Parks Board will continue their discussion and solicitation of public input in October.

There being no further business, on a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tammy D. Cohen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tammy Cohen
Director of Recreation & Community Programming