

Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting
Tuesday, March 21, 2023
6:00 pm

MINUTES

Committee: Chairman, Mr. Moore, Mr. Carminito, Ms. Dugan, and Mr. Weiss

Public Members: Janet Hunter

Staff: Mr. Krack, Ms. Gibbons, Ms. Getzfread, and Mr. Watson

- I. Call to Order at 6:02pm. Ms. Dugan excused.
- II. Public Participation on Non-Agenda Items - None
- III. Presentations – Mr. Krack shared an update on grants received including The Phoenix Wheel in the amount of \$750,000. There are a lot of site improvements needed at the site with a cost of approximately \$450, 000.
- IV. Committee Member Updates/Discussions
- V. New Business
 - A. Consider a Temporary Community Event Application for the Borough of Phoenixville Fireworks display at Pat Nattle Field on Sunday, July 2, 2023 from 6:00 pm to 10:30 pm. Fillmore Street to be closed from Franklin Avenue to South Street from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm.

Mr. Carminito made a motion to recommend Borough Council approve the application.
Seconded by Mr. Weiss.

Mr. Weiss asked about a rain date.

Ms. Gibbons stated there is no rain date at this time.

Mr. Moore asked about parking at Renaissance Academy and Franklin Commons.

Mr. Krack stated we have historically asked to park there. Their decision under the new ownership was not given to have cars parked there. If the lot is posted the Police can act. Parking there is at the risk of the vehicle owner.

Motion passed 3-0.
 - B. Consider a Temporary Community Event Application for the 37th Annual Phoenixville Run 5K and 10K Running Races from Reeves Park to the Schuylkill River Trail on Saturday, October 28, 2023 from 7:30 am to 11:30 am. Second Avenue to be closed between B Street and Starr Street from 7:00 am to 12:00 noon. Conditioned upon receipt of valid Certificate of Insurance naming Borough as Additional Insured.

Mr. Weiss made a motion to recommend Borough Council approve the application.
Seconded by Mr. Carminito. Motion passed 3-0.

- C. Consider a Temporary Community Event Application for the Patriotic Celebration at Reeves Park on Friday, May 26, 2023 from 9:30 am to 12:00 noon. No parking on the north side Third Avenue between B Street and Main Street from 830 am to 12:00 noon to allow school buses to park.

Mr. Weiss made a motion to recommend Borough Council approve the application. Seconded by Mr. Carminito. Motion passed 3-0.

- D. Consider request from the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life of Chester County request to waive or reduce the \$1,455 in fees associated with their event on April 30, 2023.

Mr. Moore explained the request from the Relay for Life of Chester County. He stated he appreciates their request and the work they do and he feels the fees are costs and not a profit. He feels the request should not be approved.

Mr. Krack explained that Council does not typically waive fees for any events. We have real costs for the events to occur. He explained the next steps for the request.

Mr. Weiss agrees that the costs are not a profit item and most events are for fund raising efforts.

Mr. Moore asked how the fees are calculated.

Ms. Getzfred explained the tabulation of the fees and how Staff explains the fees.

No Action was taken.

VI. Current Focus Business

- A. Review Parks and Recreation Rules and Regulations.

Ms. Hunter stated the Recreation Board is recommending no changes to the Rules and Regulations. She expressed her concerns about usage of the trail and parks beyond the hours are ready permitted.

Mr. Moore clarified they are asking for no changes to the Rules and Regulations.

Ms. Gibbons confirmed there are no recommendations for changes from the Recreation Board.

Mr. Krack explained the reasoning behind the need for the review. He stated the usage of the trails is of particular concern with hours currently permitted. He cited many residents use the trail as their connection to the downtown.

Ms. Getzfred stated the trail is intended to be an additional mode of transportation. She expressed her concerns as it relates to the use of e-bikes on the trail and that regulations for this need to be established.

Mr. Carminito expressed his concerns with the park hours starting at 8am. As an example many residents use the parks to walk their dogs before 8 am and he indicated he is aware

of residents and visitors using the trail to get to and from work outside of the dawn to dusk time frame.

Ms. Hunter stated the times in the park is not normally enforced and the hours of operation coincide with the times the Recreation Department have Staff available.

Mr. Weiss expressed his concerns with not enforcing the rules and feels not enforcing negates the validity of the additional rules. He lives close to the Fisher Tennis courts and knows that Pickle Ball is played there all the time out side of the park hours.

Ms. Gibbons stated the Noise Ordinance would cover the use of the park out side of the set park hours.

Mr. Krack explained the Noise Ordinance covers 7am to 10 Pm during the week and goes until 11 pm on the weekends. He suggested moving this item to the Policy Committee for review.

Ms. Hunter expressed her concerns with changing the hours on the trail as some sections are very dark and changing the rules and regulations will be costly as all the signage in the parks will need to be changed.

Mr. Moore stated he has used the trail at night and the last stretch of the trail to the Mowere Road trail head is dark.

Mr. Carminito made a Motion to refer the Rules and Regulations review to the Policy Committee. Seconded by Mr. Weiss

Motion Approved 3-0.

VII Public Participation

Eric Schmidt provided an update on the Beautification Advisory Commission current projects including Iron Pot Planters, Colonial Gardens maintenance of the plantings at Heartwood Park and the Mowere Road Trail Head Pollinator Garden. He suggested when it comes to e-bikes other areas like California enforce speed limits on the use of them on their trail systems.

Mr. Krack stated the funding for the BAC projects remains in the 2023 budget. It will be requested each year to fund the work started by the BAC.

Dr, David Saneck stated his concerns on the extended trail hours and asked if the trail is under some sort of surveillance in the evening hours.

Mr. Krack stated the Police Department's Bike Patrol monitors and enforces the use of the trail.

VIII. Adjournment at 6:42 by Mr. Carminito.

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 at 6:00 pm