

Lower Paxton Township Community Engagement Committee

Meeting Minutes March 22, 2023

Members in Attendance

Jim Seidler
Pat Crawford
Denise Hussar
Bob MacIntyre

Members Absent

Stan Smith

Also in Attendance

Rachelle Scott, Staff Liaison

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Seidler called the meeting to order at 4:07 pm on the above date in Room 174 of the Lower Paxton Township Municipal Center, 425 Prince Street, Harrisburg.

MINUTES

The minutes of the February 15, 2023 meeting were approved with a motion by Ms. Crawford, a second from Ms. Hussar, and a unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

9th ANNUAL ARTS & PARKS 5K 2023

2023 Sponsor Solicitation

Ms. Scott updated the marketing flyer based on feedback from last month. She shared the document and once Highway confirms they will be the title sponsor, then the document can be used to get sponsors for this year. Mr. Seidler would like to update the category listing to say “top three runners in eight categories”. Ms. Crawford suggested something more specific for the ones that get cash prizes.

Ms. Scott will send the sponsor brochure to those we contacted last year and she will make sure that everyone has copies so they have them to solicit new sponsors.

Flyer

Mr. Seidler will forward an updated map to be incorporated into the flyer for runners. He would also add something about a faster fully paved course. Runners in general assume that, but our past runners were used to the challenging course at Brightbill and Devon Manor neighborhood.

Sound Garden at Brightbill Park

Ms. Scott shared the latest design of the playground. Members reviewed the layout, including the concrete courtyard, the musical sound garden projecting towards the playground areas, the 5-12-year-old playground and the 2-5-year-old playground with seating between the two. The equipment colors are bright blue and green. This will be fully ADA accessible with rubber flooring. Ms. Scott noted that she will be meeting with the consultant, the engineer, and a board member with personal experience, to review the

current design. The goal is to have this installed by this fall, so she is working on a timeline to have all the pieces fall into line.

Ms. Crawford asked about security once the project is complete. Ms. Scott stated that the parks are expected to have cameras installed soon. There is some lead time because of bidding but it will be a long-awaited improvement. Ms. Scott shared the demo of the camera system, which will not necessarily be monitored, but will be available should there be issues that need attention. The camera system is also covered by grant funding.

Pace Car

Ms. Hussar contacted Holly Evans last year who was not available at that time, but was very interested in bringing a pace car in future years, so Ms. Hussar will check to see if she is available this year. Ms. Scott added that now that the course will be paved, the path is wide enough for a full-size vehicle. Mr. Seidler has already driven on it and noted it is easy to navigate.

Other Race Discussion

Ms. Hussar suggested asking Second Wind if they have suggestions to improve our participation. She also suggested adding the prize amounts to publications and online posts.

Mr. Seidler suggested flooding the area with flyers and handouts. The year that we did that, was the year we had the best turnout. He suggested making a big effort to get flyers or cards out to local businesses. Another suggestion was to recruit CD/CD East athletic teams; they can use the race as a team building event or just encourage their players to run. The senators or representatives can share the event on their community calendar.

Paving in Lamplight

Ms. Scott shared images and plans for the path that will be paved around Lamplight Park. It will connect the parking lot in George Park to Lamplight, encircle Lamplight, and then connect to Mayfair Drive. A handicap parking space will be marked. Ms. Hussar commented that she walked the 5k route, and there were sections that were very soggy and muddy, after a rain several days prior. There are some runners that bring strollers and they would never make it. Based on her walk, she is very glad to hear the entire course will be paved. The map shows a connection onto Palmer Drive as well. The paving will be complete within approximately two weeks.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Kite Fest

Ms. Scott stated that this is the third annual Kite Festival and asked that members consider helping out. The event takes place at Lingle Park on April 30th from 12 noon to 2:00 pm. There will be four food trucks and about twelve additional vendors. She suggested that CEC members volunteer so they can pass out flyers and talk to people about the race.

Concerts

The summer concert series is a good place to connect with people as well. Ms. Scott listed the concerts that take place prior to the race for marketing purposes.

General Event Info

The Township hired a Public Engagement Specialist who will take care of the Parks & Recreation events as well as events for the other departments in the Township. Ms. Scott will invite her to the next meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business to discuss.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting ended at 5:08 pm. The next meeting of the Community Engagement Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, April 19, 2023, at 4:00 pm in Room 174 of the Municipal Center.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Hiner,
Recording Secretary