

Green Team Meeting

June 10, 2020

5:00 P.M.

- The meeting took place in Community Park – 750 Floral Hill Drive, Washington, PA 15301

Attendees: Bracken Burns (Supervisor), Assistant to the Township Manager Patrick Conners, Public Works Director Russ Grego, William Ursic, Penny Steggles, Janie Deemer, and Mr. Mark McCurdy

Topics of Discussion

- Community Park & Trail Beautification Efforts

- Mr. Burns began by expressing his gratitude and pride in the amenities and green space offered within Community Park. He thanked Public Works Director Grego and his Department for their hard work. He noted there is always room for improvement and the ability to elevate the services/amenities offered by the Township. He outlined the following projects which may be implemented within the Park.
 - Removal of dead trees and vines along periphery of Community Park.
 - Mr. Burns noted that many dead/dying trees are easily viewable while using the walking path in Community Park. He voiced his desire to see them removed by volunteers as well as the Public Works Department.
 - Mr. Burns also highlighted that many of the dead/unhealthy trees are surrounded/covered with vines and other shrubbery. He noted that these growths should also be removed to allow for a healthier canopy. He cited that after cleaning up the “junk” trees, the area left behind will be much more aesthetically pleasing.
 - Development of Arboretum
 - Mr. Burns next discussed the concept of developing a “tree museum” consisting of regionally native species within Community Park. He highlighted that an arboretum would serve many purposes, among them: a wildlife habitat and an educational tool. He stated that funding could be allocated by the Board of Supervisors as well as through community fundraising and donations.
 - Mr. Burns cited that residents could have a tree planted and plaque erected in memory of a loved one, etc. Assistant to the Township Manager Conners noted that in his prior position while working for Edgeworth Borough many trees were planted on behalf of former residents through their families. He highlighted the cost of the tree and plaque were

covered by the donor, while the maintenance and ownership of the tree was the responsibility of the Borough.

- Public Works Director Grego stated that trees with informative plaques could also be placed around the walking trail. Mr. Burns noted that similar tree paths were visible on the campuses of California University of Pennsylvania and Indiana University of Pennsylvania.
- Wildflower Gardens
 - Mr. Burns next discussed a plan to revitalize the landscape and the park's biosphere by planting native wildflowers strategically throughout Community Park. He noted that an assumed influx of birds, bees, etc. would provide additional incentive for patrons to visit the park. Mr. Ursic noted that maintenance (i.e. mowing operations may be lessened with the planting of wildflowers. Ms. Deemer expressed her concerns for the maintenance of wildflower gardens, noting her experience maintaining a large agricultural property. Mr. Ursic next inquired regarding a pond located within Community Park. Public Works Director Grego noted that a former spring and drainage area is located near the Park's boundary. He highlighted that during the summer months it is mostly empty.
- Birdhouses
 - Mr. Burns discussed a number of abandoned bird houses that were installed along the perimeter of the walking trail. He highlighted they are in disrepair. He noted local Scout troops or other volunteers may be able to repair/replace them. Ms. Deemer noted they were installed over 10 years ago for the endangered "blue birds".
- Ticks
 - Mr. Burns relayed many concerns concerning the number of ticks in Community Park, particularly amongst dog owners and users of the Cross-Country Trail. He asked the Public Works Department look further into the situation and explore tick repellent methods.
 - Public Works Director Grego stated that maintaining a mowing schedule is the most effective tick repellent. He noted the lack of a cold winter also contributes to a larger than normal tick population.
- Community Park Kitchen and Bathroom & other Projects
 - Mr. Burns next outlined Community Park infrastructure projects under consideration of the Board of Supervisors. He discussed an addition on Community Park's main pavilion which would include a block structure housing a bathroom and kitchen facilities. Public Works Director Grego highlighted features of the addition, noting it would be constructed with the possibility of expansion in mind.

- Next Mr. Burns noted the high interest in the construction of a dog park within Community Park, highlighting that Staff has formulated a plan which is under consideration of the Board of Supervisors.

- **Review of Recent Events**

- Assistant to the Township Manager Conners noted that during mid-May numerous residential households received an invoice from Waste Management for recycling services. He stated that many residents called the Township understandably confused and frustrated due to the lack of detail/information provided on the invoice. He highlighted that Waste Management conducted an audit on the Pittsburgh region. He cited that even after requesting further information concerning the number of South Strabane households that received the invoice, no further comment has been made by Waste Management.
 - Assistant to the Township Manager Conners noted that on June 9, 2020 the Township Zoning Hearing Board granted a variance for the construction of an 8-foot tall deer fence around the perimeter of Range Resources' proposed forest management project on the site of the William Munce Well Pad (50 Meadows View Road). He provided illustrations of the proposed fencing to member of the Green Team. He noted that due to the relatively short planting season for trees, Range Resources had to select an alternative location for the 2020 project. He highlighted that should Range Resources wish to move forward with the South Strabane project, he would invite them to speak in front of the Green Team to explain the goals and process.
- Attending members of the Green Team walked the ¾ mile walking trail to further discuss and view points of the meeting.

Adjournment: 6:15 p.m.