
COMMISSION ON PARKS AND RECREATION

SUMMARY OF COMMISSION MEETING

NOVEMBER 16, 2011

A meeting of the Commission on Parks and Recreation was held at the Cobbs Creek Recreation Center, Cobbs Creek Parkway and Spruce Streets at 6:00PM.

PRESENT: Commissioner Nancy Goldenberg, Chair
Commissioner Barbara Capozzi
Commissioner Michael DiBerardinis
Commissioner Debra Wolf Goldstein
Commissioner Jeffrey Hackett
Commissioner Pete Hoskins
Commissioner Howard Neukrug
Commissioner Carol Rice
Joseph Palantino, Deputy Commissioner, Public Property
representing Commissioner Joan Schlotterbeck

ABSENT: Commissioner Alan Greenberger
Commissioner Leslie Anne Miller
Commissioner Carlos Rodriguez
Commissioner Sarah Clark Stuart
Commissioner James Straw
Commissioner Clarena Tolson

ALSO PRESENT: Mark Focht, First Deputy Commissioner, Park and Facilities
Susan Slawson, First Deputy Commissioner, Recreation and Programs
Carol Roache, Administrative Assistant

Commission Chair Nancy Goldenberg called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone and asked for a moment of silence to remember Rob Stuart, the husband of Commissioner Sarah Clark Stuart, who passed away suddenly two weeks ago. Commissioner Goldenberg thanked the Parks and Recreation staff for making the meeting possible and introduced Inspector Dennis Wilson of the Police Department.

Commissioner Carol Rice, Chair, Communications Committee, introduced the newest PaRC Star, Sharri Horowitz.. Ms. Horowitz is dedicated to the renovation of the Seger Park Playground. In 2007, she, along with Sabina Erdely, formed the Friends of Seger Playground. Due to her tireless efforts, the Friends group was recently notified of an allocation of \$500,000 in funds from Councilman DiCicco and the Department of Parks and Recreation for playground renovations. Commissioner Rice encouraged others to nominate volunteers who make a difference in their community.

Commissioner Goldenberg recognized Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell. The Councilwoman thanked the public for attending the meeting and Deputy Mayor Michael DiBerardinis and the Commission for their leadership.

Commissioner Goldenberg updated the public on recent happenings. On October 31st, the Philadelphia Police Foundation selected McCarthy Stables, in West Fairmount Park, as the site of the new police equestrian facility. On November 5th, the Love Your Park event (sponsored by the Fairmount Park Conservancy, the PA Horticultural Society and the Parks and Recreation Dept.) was held in numerous parks throughout the City,

with Vernon Park in Germantown as the signature site. Commissioner Goldenberg reminded everyone that during the holiday season, there will be scheduled tours of the historic houses in Fairmount Park.

Commissioner Goldenberg introduced Deputy Mayor DiBerardinis. Commissioner DiBerardinis stressed the Department's and the Commission's commitment to work with sister departments (the Police Department, the Office of the Homeless and others) to create conditions that will allow the community to better utilize and enjoy Cobbs Creek. In two weeks, the Laura Sims Skate House will open, now fully enclosed with the help of Councilwoman Blackwell and the Ed Snyder Foundation. This rink will be open for ten months a year, with more youth development programs and more hours for public skating.

Commissioner Debra Wolf Goldstein, Chair, Land Use Committee, announced that the Committee has been in contact with the Zoning Code Reform Commission regarding amendments to the zoning code that might affect park and recreation lands, ensuring that any changes or proposed amendments protect the park and recreation land to the fullest.

Commissioner Pete Hoskins, Chair, Revenue Enhancement Committee, updated the public on concessions. There are two major concessions that are in the bid development stage, Burholme Golf in Burholme Park and the Bike Rental Concession, which would ultimately be one concession in Center City and another in the Kelly Drive area.

Commissioner Carol Rice, Chair, Communications Committee, informed the public that the Committee is working on a web page, and the Commission is currently on Facebook.

Commissioner Goldenberg stressed that this year, the Commission focused its energies on the issue of safety in the parks and recreation centers. At the last meeting in Tacony, people expressed numerous concerns regarding ATV use. Positive results have already been achieved by the administration and the police as numerous ATVs have been confiscated. With that, Commissioner Goldenberg opened the floor to comments and questions.

Tracy Gordon spoke on behalf of the Southwest Concerned Citizens. Ms. Gordon expressed concern about the number of auto accidents on the Cobbs Creek Parkway, trucks using the Parkway and the lack of guard rails. Ms. Gordon also praised the clean-up at McCreesh Recreation Center, but a new kitchen and computers are still needed.

Karen Gordon, Director of Citywide Youtharama, was concerned that her group was charged a fee to use the Cobbs Creek Recreation Center.

Walter Marlin, of the Finley Advisory Council, commended Captain Daley and Lt. Whalen of the 14th District for responding to their request for more oversight at Finley Recreation Center during the operating hours of early afternoon and early evening.

Hasha Watson, of the Darby Watershed Organization, requested help in getting their trails back to useable condition.

Marthenia Perrin, a resident of the Cobbs Creek area, asked for assistance in stopping the loud music coming from picnickers in the summer, specifically late at night on the weekends.

Thelma Jones, President of the Christy Recreation Center Advisory Council, spoke of the deterioration of the Christy Recreation Center and much needed renovations and lighting.

Julia Chinn spoke about the lack of air conditioning and a poor heating system at Cobbs Creek Recreation Center.

Daniel Hunt, from the Sheperd Recreation Center, requested police presence at men's league basketball games due to recent incidents. Mike McEwan, recreation leader at Sheperd, also spoke of the incidents and commended the police on their efforts to be of assistance.

Commissioner DiBerardinis took notes on the public remarks and offered Departmental assistance where possible.

Jean Hunt, Director of Youth Development for Parks and Recreation, informed the public of numerous programs now being offered at the Cobbs Creek Center.

Beverly Marlin, from the Finley Recreation Center, requested better signage at Finley, especially for "curbing your dog".

Commissioner Goldenberg thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 7:20PM.

The next meeting of the Commission on Parks and Recreation will be held on **Wednesday, January 18th at 6:00PM** at the Simons Recreation Center, 7200 Woolston Avenue.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol J. Roache, Administrative Assistant