

**COLLIER TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION BOARD
MINUTES OF APRIL 19, 2021 MEETING**

- I. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. A quorum was not present.

Roll call: Mary Popeck, Sue Harford, Anna Ewing

Dan Styche (present as both Commissioner/Parks & Recreation Oversight and President/Friends of Collier Parks & Recreation)

Mary Beth Birks, Director/Parks & Recreation

- II. Minutes of the March 15, 2021 meeting were previously approved via email to/from the Board members.
- III. There were no public comments or guests.
- IV. There were no committee reports.
- V. Friends Report by Anna Ewing: Friends anticipates that their first newsletter will be ready for distribution in late-spring. A copy of the newsletter will be provided to Mary Beth Birks for display at the Community Center. Friends has three remaining raffle baskets with available tickets for purchase (Penguins-themed, Pittsburgh Pirates-themed and dog-themed). More information is available on the township website and on Facebook (Friends of Collier Parks & Recreation). A new basket will be raffled off once all tickets for the remaining baskets have been sold. That basket will include -- among many other items -- a Yeti cooler, a \$125 gift certificate for a Kona Ice party which was donated by Kyle Linner/owner, and a gift certificate to Red Lobster. Wild flowers will be planted along the Meadow Path. Friends donated money to cover the cost of the seeds, and Public Works will plant the seeds. Bill Wenger (commonly known as “the birdman”) is looking for volunteers for nest checks/care. He has recently moved from Collier and is hoping someone will volunteer to assume responsibility for this venture. During the April 5, 2021 Coffee Hour hosted by Kyle Thauvette, he announced that the April cleanup will be held this year on April 24. Registration is taking place online via the township website. Following the cleanup, a lunch will be provided at Northeast Paving (previously known as Lane Construction). Kyle also mentioned several other topics of interest. Another glass recycling event will be hosted by Collier sometime during the last week of July. (As an aside, Anna Ewing mentioned that South Park will hold an electronics drop-off on April 24 at their municipal complex. Only one TV per family can be dropped off free of charge. There is no limit on other electronic devices.) Collier Township was again selected as a banner community for the thirteenth year in a row. Under the American Recovery Act, Collier Township will receive \$812,000. However, no spending guidelines were given. Fifty percent of the money will be available for immediate spending and the other fifty percent for spending over the next two years. Parameter spending needs to be defined to

prevent a situation where money was spent outside the American Recovery Act guidelines. On May 13, Collier is hosting a garden planting event at the I-79 and Noblestown Road exit into Collier. Volunteers are needed to assist with the planting. Also, Collier would like to establish a garden club if anyone would be interested in spearheading this program. In 2025, Collier will celebrate its 150th Anniversary (sesquicentennial anniversary). No plans have been initiated, but more than likely a celebration will take place around/during Collierfest. Hopefully, senior activities at the Community Center will be able to commence in late spring/early summer.

Report by Dan Styche: Dan provided some information regarding Collier Township's Emergency Management Preparedness plan. An emergency plan for each Collier community is available on the township website. Currently, there are four designated emergency landing zones in Collier – Webb Park, Collier Park, Char-Valley primary school, and the Rennerdale Presbyterian Church. A Helicopter Safety bulletin is also available on the township website. Anyone who is interested in being trained for this program should contact Dan Styche. An ordinance was passed to regulate the presence of dogs in township parks and prohibiting dogs in certain parks. This ordinance will now enable the police to enforce this prohibition when a violation occurs.

- VI. Parks & Recreation Department Report by Mary Beth Birks: Mary Beth is also in the process of putting together a newsletter which will include information about the senior programs, sports programs, yoga classes, and concerts in the park. Currently, there are several open positions for front desk clerks at the Community Center. Any interested person should contact Mary Beth or submit an employment application online. Mary Beth reported that memberships are up at the Community Center. During the concerts in the park, social distancing markers will be placed in the grass, at the restrooms, and in any other area requiring social distancing. Advertisements for Keep Collier Beautiful have been placed throughout the township. Discounted Kennywood tickets will be sold at the Community Center. A fifty cent profit will be made for each ticket sold. There is a possibility that the Pittsburgh Zoo will also offer discounted tickets. There has been a problem with sports teams overtaking a nearby pavilion which was rented for private use. Mary Beth will place a clipboard at each pavilion advising that the pavilion has been reserved. An emergency contact number will be listed on the notice. Every pavilion in the township has been rented for April 24, and every Saturday/Sunday in May, June and July has been reserved.

VII. Old Business

There are still two permanent positions and two alternate positions available on the Board. Dan Styche again requested that he be notified of potential new members who plan to attend the next meeting. He also clarified that members of the Board serve until they are replaced or re-appointed regardless of their term expiration date. Nevertheless, Dan stated that he will support the reappointment of Board members whose terms have expired at the next meeting of the Commissioners, which is Monday, April 26, 2021. Mary Popeck will email Kyle the information necessary to reappoint herself, Sue Harford and Matt Shipton for four more years.

The cost of a bench with a plaque at the Meadow Path will be \$1,500 and will differ in design from those at Molly's park since one is primarily designed for short rests and the others for longer periods of sitting.

Kyle Thauvette is in the process of updating information on the township website, but since the list is highly intensive, it will take more time to complete the updates.

There was no update on the status of the Grant.

Kyle Thauvette is not able to provide individual township email addresses for each member who serves on a board. However, one email address for the Parks & Recreation Board could be added.

VIII. New Business

Ideas for future projects/activities included volunteers to assist with gardening around the Community Center and possibly other areas throughout the township.

IX. Board Member Comments

Mary Popeck mentioned that she would like to visit each of the township parks. Mary Beth will attempt to coordinate a time/date for anyone who would be interested in doing so.

Some fundraising suggestions to be held during the concerts in the park included the sale of 50/50 tickets or bingo strips and refreshments.

The next meeting of the Board will take place at the Community Center on May 17, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.