



BOROUGH OF NORTH WALES

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PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING Thursday, February 8, 2024 – 7:00 PM

Gina Calhoun, Chair
Jeffrey Fazio
Lynne Fitzgerald
Robin Parker
Elliot Sadlon, Co-Chair
Kathy Schweitzer
Rachel Wise, Secretary

MEETING: February 8, 2024, 7:10 PM, EST

CALL TO ORDER made by Gina Calhoun.

ROLL CALL: Gina Calhoun, Chair – Present
Jeffrey Fazio - Present
Lynne Fitzgerald – Present
Robin Parker – Present
Elliot Sadlon, Vice-Chair – Present
Kathy Schweitzer – Absent, participated by phone
Rachel Wise, Secretary – Present

One member of the public was present – Dan Levy of 213 Church St.

- **Public Comment**

Dan shared that he reached out to Christine and Alex about Instagram account, and they informed him posts have to be approved by Alex and Christine, but they are open to parks-related updated to be included as posts.

- **Consideration: Approval of Minutes: Thursday, January 11, 2024**

Rachel made a motion to approve the minutes from January; Elliot seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Discussion: Easter Egg Hunt – March 23rd**

Gina brought up discussion of age groups, which Christine had contacted her about when she was drafting the flyer. She said Christine raised concerns of whether the new proposed age groups are too broad and if supplies will be adequate for the extending age range.

There was a question about what Board's involvement has been in selecting the supplies and members discussed that Christine has handled the specifics for the orders in the past, and there was an estimate of about 500 per age group for last year, which is what was tentative plan for this year. The only previous differentiation for age groups in the past has been no candy and toys

in the lowest age group. The Board discussed that the motivations for extending age range and adjusting groups that was proposed at last month's meeting (4&under, 5-8, 9-12) was to be more inclusive and avoid excluding the several elementary-age children who attended but were outside of the official range. Robin mentioned she feels that the current prizes are age appropriate as any children are participating in an egg hunt should expect candy/trinkets rather than anything "older." Others agreed. Jeff raised a question of general process for the egg hunt and Gina gave description of the event. Elliot asked question of whether there is a concern that the older age group will be competitive? The Board discussed that there are not expectations of it being very high turnout for the older age group. Rachel mentioned that she would hope people come for the experience, not with an expectation of bringing home large quantity of eggs/prizes. Board discussed and agreed that it there has not been a concern of scarcity of prizes in the past. Gina mentioned looking at other egg hunts in neighboring municipalities and seeing upper age limits of 12 or 10. The Board discussed age groups 2-4 year olds, 5-8 year olds, 9-12 year olds. Dan commented that if there are challenges this year, there could be adjustment next time. Dan asked question about registration and records, which Board said have not been kept formally. Gina said there tends to be highest turnout for youngest age groups. Rachel suggested someone be designated to take rough tally of attendance this year.

Elliot made a motion to approve age groups 2-4 year olds, 5-8 year olds, and 9-12 year olds. Rachel seconded motion – motion passed unanimously. There was discussion of whether there needed to be other changes to the prizes or format. Elliot made a motion to keep other details the same as previously discussed – three sections, same number of eggs per section, same prizes as have been used. Gina seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Gina raised discussion of supplies for roping off and whether Board should plan to supply. Lynne said she has survey tape. Rachel said she has a stake pounder and can bring that. Lynne and Jeff both voiced availability to come early for set up. Rachel brought up discussion from last month about having signs as reminders to check inside eggs, and mentioned these signs could be affixed to each post surrounding roped off areas.

Gina raised the question of whether to have rain date of Sunday (next day) and all agreed.

- **Discussion: Community Garden – Spring Planting – May 18th**

Elliot called Kathy Schweitzer to join the conversation by speakerphone due to being out of town. Kathy said she had drafted possibilities for expanding Community Garden at 4th Street Park and understands Christine does not want to consider converting all of the space in that park. Lynne said she sees Community Garden as allotted some of the space, but not the main section of the park. Rachel voiced some concern about expanding number of garden beds when currently struggle with getting engagement to maintain and utilize smaller number of beds. Lynne brought up idea of choosing vegetables that produce higher quantity, using example of eggplants that did well last year but only produce a few specimens over the summer. Gina shared that Christine said Savvy Citizen and Instagram can be utilized to share updates about harvesting and watering to get exposure and community involvement. Kathy said maybe there could be opportunities to learn about how to handle produce and recipes. Dan offered several ideas to increase engagement:

- Partner with the elementary school partner to design the sign
- Have a sign for each vegetable that gives details about growth, likes (sun, water, etc)

- Have a QR code that goes to a recipe book, which could be compiled of favorite recipes
- Encouraging other organizations to have events there i.e. exercise classes, cooking classes
- Have community members sign up to water, which could enter them in a raffle as an incentive

The issue of having water supply was raised and Elliot brought up whether a funnel could be utilized for gathering rain in the rain barrel (on site but not connected to any roof/surface area). Jeff said he will check in with Wissahickon Trails to see if they have information or suggestion about gathering rain via funnel. There was a discussion of the possibility of adding pollinator friendly native plants in the back (where annuals have been in previous years) and what that process is to make a change within park. Elliot said he understands the process being to recommend a specific change to Council and then they vote on it. Kathy said she understands information as being provided to Council ahead of time rather than proposed on the spot. There was discussion of timing of sun, with Lynne reporting the raised beds get a lot of morning sun, then shade by afternoon. Kathy said she would suggest adding two more boxes to increase diversity but would want to be mindful of the spacing and arrangement to avoid increasing the difficulty of maintenance for Public Works. Jeff mentioned possibility of compost pile in the park. There was discussion of Community Garden signage needing to be seasonal and temporary due to borough code, and that any seasonal signage would still need to be approved by Council. Board discussed ideas of which vegetables to plant, with suggestions of peppers, tomatoes, squash, cucumbers, as well as herbs. Dan asked how people can stay involved and informed once they do become familiar with the garden, and there was discussion of SavvyCitizen and Instagram; currently no other system set up for tracking/communicating with volunteers. Jeff offered to take time lapse pictures to use on social media for promotion. Elliot talked about hope of seeing community take over the garden rather than it all being stewarded by the Board; Dan and Kathy agreed and expressed similar sentiments.

The Board discussed the Community Garden planting event and interest in increasing turnout. Rachel suggested having table at Community Garden event related to cooking, utilizing the food produced by the garden. The Board discussed the question of where supplies came from previously – whether Borough will provide, or if Board members should plan to obtain the seedlings. There was an agreement to decide on which seedlings to plant at the next meeting and to iron out more details next month as well. Kathy mentioned successful promotion of Pumpkin Carving event on Facebook, especially when it included info of providing free snacks. Elliot made motion to ask Borough about food for Spring Planting event i.e. donuts, Jeff seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Rachel raised previously discussed idea of having flyer for Community Garden event ready to give out at Egg Hunt.

Kathy raised the idea of Parks and Recreation having a table at the Summer Kickoff to spread information on Community Garden. Kathy said she will continue working on ideas for main sign for Community Garden. There was discussion of having smaller, more detailed signs for each vegetable.

● Discussion: Summer Kick-Off of June 8th 5-9 PM

Robin said she hasn't heard back from Alice; Kathy has not heard back from Empanadas Lab either. Lynne plans to stop in to TexMex. Rachel just recently stopped into Green Fork and

Everything Bagel, will follow up after some time. Elliot plans to stop in to Whoa Nutrition. Gina emailed the Boy Scouts, waiting for response.

Elliot shared that he contacted 8 vegan/vegetarian trucks with no positive responses as there is a vegan/veg fest that same day. Gina said she will continue to make efforts to find other food truck options, and Elliot will continue to search options too.

Gina gave update that the band "A Common Thread" (members are borough residents) agreed to come with negotiated price. They will play 3 x 1 hour sets, conclude music before fireworks start and will play music between sets. They will do their own set up and tear down. Gina said she got the band in touch with Christine directly about logistics like stage. Rachel raised the topic of lack of light at teardown being mentioned as being an issue last year. Gina said it could be suggested to the band to teardown earlier for the purpose of light.

Robin raised the idea of using vendors from Lansdale Farmer's Market if food vendors still needed. Lynne said she will look and ask more too. Jeff said he will look for options too.

Gina said some vendor registration fees have been received, some still outstanding.

Discussion: Old/New Business

Rachel brought up the questions discussed last month about Board interest in obtaining more details about the parks due to oversight role, and relayed Christine's preference in having Board consider what questions they have so Christine and Alex could share information directly with the group at a meeting rather than an individual discussion. Rachel read the broad questions developed previously:

- For each park, are there specific factors Parks and Rec should be aware of?
- Which parks have restrictions on them in terms of any changes being made? For example, there has been previous mention of limitations on what species of tree can be planted in Weingartner and mention that some parks qualify under environmental regulations/grants that impact what changes can be made.
- Do parks that were donated have other considerations?

Gina asked whether there is any other resources where these answers could be found. Rachel said she has looked and not found it at on website at this point. Jeff brought up wanting it role in parks to be ongoing discussion and these questions to be a start. Jeff asked for time to consider questions and follow up before submitting. Dan raised question of what events happen at what park, and whether there are restrictions on that. Dan also asked about what is the relationship between Parks and Recreation and Public Works, and is/should there be communication between the two? There was discussion of some ongoing role confusion of Parks and Recreation not being clear or confident in roles.

The Board agreed on taking a week to consider questions to add to the list and Rachel will then email to Christine and Alex with this information. Rachel expressed interest in having the information that is obtained documented so it is accessible as resource to Board on an ongoing basis no matter the personal makeup.

● Adjournment

Lynne motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 PM and Elliot seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Attest: Rachel Wise
Secretary for Parks and Recreation