



BOROUGH OF NORTH WALES

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PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING Thursday, March 14, 2024 – 7:00 PM

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

MEETING: March 14, 2024, 7:13 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
- Rachel Wise, Secretary – Present

Also present were Borough Manager Christine Hart, Council President Sal Amato, and Council Member Alex Groce.

- **Public Comment**

None

- **Consideration: Approval of Minutes: Thursday, February 8, 2024**

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

- **Park Oversight**

There was discussion of the board's role in park oversight and that there are regulations in place regarding use of and changes to the parks. Discussion included interest in written documentation of these specifics as well as differences in understanding of the board's role based on description in borough code and the role in practice, and difference in board's role during periods of greater changes in borough open space than in recent years. There was also discussion of communication and the possibility for the board to present recommendations to council for consideration.

There was discussion of adding changes to Walnut Square park as an agenda item for next

month's meeting.

There was discussion of the role of positions within the board, as all as legal requirements regarding decisions being made at meetings on items on agenda, and email being utilized for communication on urgent basis or to relay information. There was also discussion about the timing for budget decisions and Christine said that preliminary budgeting is in September, then additional discussion is in October, and it is passed in November.

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

There was discussion of the decision by the executive team to not raise the age groups due to risk of injury with older ages, so age groups will be PreK, K&1, 2&3 – risk of injury with older age groups. There was discussion of different approaches by other municipalities and history of the event, and the board did not express interest in making significant changes to the event. There was discussion of utilizing stakes to mark off the areas.

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

There was discussion of having light refreshments to encourage attendance and Christine said if there is small out of pocket cost for this. There was discussion of board handling getting the seeds and seedlings.

There was agreement that there needs to be informational temporary signage and Christine stated a permit is not needed. Borough would need to see a rendering with size and what it's going to say, and they may have suggestions or revisions before approving.

There was discussion of developing a plan for watering and that the Borough can post/promote messages on social media – i.e. when help is needed and when vegetables are ripe.

There was discussion of the Board trying to figure out balance of getting community involved vs it being a Board-driven venture. Christine clarified Board members are able to utilize email to communicate with interested residents about the garden as long as addresses are provided voluntarily and knowingly for that purpose; she requested that she and Alex be copied.

Gina agreed to draft flyer for this to have on hand to distribute at the Egg hunt

There was discussion about the event being promoted on SavvyCitizen.

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

There was discussion that arrangements have been made with the band and some food vendors have submitted their fees. There has been difficulty finding a vegan food truck due to conflicting schedule with related event in the city. Christine shared that volunteers will be needed to do cleanup at the conclusion of the event as Public Works is committed to working the following day.

Discussion: Old/New Business

Agenda item for next month – discussion of priorities for improvements to Walnut Square park.

- **Adjournment**

Gina motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 PM and Elliot seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Attest: Rachel Wise
Secretary for Parks and Recreation