



BOROUGH OF NORTH WALES

300 School Street, North Wales, PA 19454
Phone: 215-699-4424 • Fax: 215-699-3991
<http://northwalesborough.org>

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING **Thursday, September 14 2023 – 7:00 PM**

MEETING: September 14, 2023, 7:15 PM, EST

CALL TO ORDER made by Elliot Sadlon.

ROLL CALL:

- Gina Calhoun, Chair – Absent
- Lynne Fitzgerald – Absent
- Martha Lottes – Present
- Robin Parker – Present
- Elliot Sadlon, Vice-Chair – Present
- Kathy Schweitzer – Present
- Rachel Wise, Secretary – Present

- **Public Comment**

None.

- **Consideration: Approval of Minutes: Thursday, August 10, 2023**

Motion to approve the minutes of the August 10, 2023 meeting was made by Member Wise. The motion was seconded by Member Lottes. There were no changes or comments regarding the minutes. Motion passed with all in favor.

- **Prize Drawing for Summer Park Tour**

Park Tour entry boxes were opened and 8 entries received; 1 entry was voluntarily excluded due to conflict of interest. Random drawing was held to distribute the 7 donated gift cards received from local businesses. Winners were as follows:

Everything Bagel – Alex and Ben
DivaDova – Sadie Zavada
DivaDova – Aaron Eaddy
NW Running Company – Ashley Horan
NW Running Company – Olivia Eaddy
Local Barber – Bodhi & Asher Lindmont
Empanada Noshery – Xyla Jacobs

Board discussed ideas and feedback for next year. Member Lottes suggested the pictures be printed larger and to include text about being part of Park Tour/not removing. Member Sadlon shared input he received that it could be beneficial to include some technological aspect, such as a QR code. Another suggestion shared was that more marketing could be beneficial. Member Wise shared that it could also be of benefit to request prize donations earlier (as done a year or two prior) and that may prompt more promotion by local businesses as well. Member Wise said

she will send thank you notes to the businesses that provided gift cards and to the library for their continued and valuable partnership.

- **November Clean up event – Walnut Square Park**

Board discussed the possibility of November Park Clean Up event at Walnut Square Park, location suggested by Manager Hart. There was a question raised about whether TexMex is still sponsoring/responsible for this space and if so, what their role is as the board did not want to step on toes or duplicate efforts. There was also discussion about what the specific focus of the cleanup would be as there may be conflicting priorities (i.e. aesthetic preference and ecological benefit of habitat for insects). Member Schweitzer mentioned that at some point the perennials height can impact traffic but was not certain how recently that was a concern. The board had questions about who would be directing this project. Member Lottes said she expects there may be a need to transplant some of the perennials to thin it out. Member Lottes said she will take a look at the park and assess, and requested others take a look as well. Members Schweitzer, Wise, Lottes and Sadlon voiced potential availability to attend/volunteer at this event.

- **Community Garden Event 2024**

Member Wise shared that the speaker who was present the past 2 years reached out and inquired about next year. Member Wise made a motion to invite Leigh Keiser, Master Gardener, to return for 2024 and Member Lottes seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed. The board discussed the list of popular topics that Leigh had provided and selected topic “Native Plants: a Case for Butterflies, Bees, Birds, and Bats.” Member Wise will contact Leigh and inform her of board’s request that she return with this topic as focus. Board discussed and agreed on changing event time to 9:30-11AM.

- **New Business –**

The board discussed the possibility of a printed calendar of events to be distributed at Community Day as this was done last year. The board reviewed the list from last year to update the specific dates and revise as needed:

- Jack-O-Lantern Crawl (would need to be inserted as this is new event) – description on Borough website could be pasted
- Park Cleanup 11/18/23
- Donation collection for soldiers – deadline 12/11/23
- Easter Egg Hunt – 3/23/24; description could be shortened to remove some of the detail, keeping “arrive at 10:45, hunts are broken into age groups and start times will be staggered” as the focus.
- Community Garden event – 5/18/24, 9:30-11AM, description should now include the topic selected as that may help garner interest: “Native Plants: a Case for Butterflies, Bees, Birds, and Bats.”
- Summer Kickoff – 6/8/24, 5-9PM
- PickleBall – Board discussed that before this is included, would like confirmation of whether this would still be happening as the board is not aware whether this took place as planned for 2023.
- Summer Park Tour – 8/1/24-8/31/24

- **Community Day Volunteerism**

The board discussed that there are two time slots open currently from 12-1:30, and one from 3-5PM. No members present at the meeting were able to commit at this time besides Member Schweitzer who has signed up 3-5PM.

- **Jack O Lantern Crawl**

The board discussed the event to confirm details of timing. Member Schweitzer discussed the benefit of the event being posted online multiple times so that it gets traction. Member Lottes suggested for future years, Board could request getting signs to put in the park to advertise. Board discussed that this year, posting the flyer at local stores could help spread the word as well. Board discussed to request Borough print some of the flyers that Member Schweitzer could pick up to post and distribute. There was discussion of advertising the event at Community Day by distributing flyers there, either as separate sheet or potentially attached to the voucher for discounted pumpkin at County Line Nursery. Member Schweitzer will discuss with Manager Hart to make sure voucher can be distributed before this handout is drafted/produced. There was discussion of whether to seek to distribute the Jack O Lantern Crawl flyer as separate from the upcoming event list or how to space that out given the amount of events now included. Decision deferred until input is received about whether Jack O Lantern flyer can be distributed on sheet with voucher or not.

- **Other Old Business/New Business**

Member Lottes reported that Empanadas Noshery said they will participate in Summer Kick Off 2024.

- **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn was made by Member Parker. Seconded by Member Lottes. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 8:32 P.M.

Attest: Rachel Wise
Secretary for Parks and Recreation