

## **Birdsboro Recreation Board**

### **Minutes**

**03/25/2021**

#### **Opening**

The regular meeting of the Birdsboro Recreation Board was called to order by President Chruce Godfrey. The meeting was held on the Zoom application.

#### **Pledge of Allegiance**

Present on Zoom Application

Bruce Godfrey, President, Matt Elgonitis, Vice President, Tom Brungard, Secretary, Ryan Acevedo, and Christen Thompson. Absent were Bill Quinley and Nancy Kauffman.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Ryan Acevedo made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of February 26, 2021. Christen Thompson seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

Public comment was asked and none was offered.

#### **Farmer's Market**

Christen Thompson was given the floor to make an update on the upcoming farmer's markets. No farmers were present at the meeting.

Christen had reached out to Rosedell farms, Dirt Blessings, Back Achers, and Elly Wasson farms. Red Rope Farm and Humble farms are a maybe. Fairy Cakes, a baker, is also interested.

Christen contacted Brian Weir of Penn State Agricultural Extension and received a positive response for the market idea. He said the market would fill a need and that the market was not overly competitive.

The farmers who were contacted were very enthusiastic and wanted to know how they could assist in the organizing the market. One of the farmers suggested that the Birdsboro market be done in weeks opposite the Pottstown Farmer's Market where they and other farmers have stands. Since the Pottstown Market is open on May 15, Christen suggested in starting the market on May 22, 2021.

The board would need to provide port-a-potties during the time of the market. The question of closing Water Street for the market will be brought up at the next borough council meeting.

The farmers would be responsible for providing a license from the state to sell their goods at the market. Food inspectors would also possibly be at the market so the board would not have the need to inspect the produce.

The Penn State Extension also offered to assist in promoting the market if there were at least four farms participating.

Chruce Godfrey then summed up the proposal and asked whether it would be held every other Saturday with a possibility of three Saturdays during some months through October. Port-a-potties, use of MainBird Park and asking the opinion of Police Chief Trupp on possible closure of Water Street during the event were the main information and requests to be given to council.

The initial proposal would also be that \$20 per stand be the participation fee. This would be open for future discussion by the board.

Tom Brungard pointed out that the initial dates would not coincide with Second Saturdays.

Christen also was asked about the need for running water to the vendors. There were no farmers that required water.

### **Walk Through Parks**

Chruce Godfrey, Manger Yanos and Keith, the street foreman of the public works department had a walkthrough inspection of the parks in March.

*Rustic Park:* The public works department is going to patch the center area of the tubes along with the Boy Scouts supervising the painting of the outsides of the tubes.

The department also has dismantled the wooden jungle gym due to safety concerns. In the past, the Recreation Board was contacted by the public works department regarding every issue involving playground equipment. It was decided that the board would not need to be consulted if there was a safety issue need immediate attention.

Dead trees have been removed.

No plans are made for upgrading the rest rooms at Rustic Park due to budgetary constraints this year.

Playground mulch was ordered and some already placed at the swing sets in Rustic Park. Monty's Mulch was the provider of the mulch.

The basketball court at Rustic Park will be relined this spring as weather permits.

Based on the recommendation of Matt Elgonitis, one of the three dog waste stations in MainBird Park was moved to Rustic Park so that each park now has two stations.

Matt Elgonitis reported that the girl scout, Caitlin Dillon, will be commencing her painting over of graffiti in Rustic Park. She will delay the start until after the school year ends this year.

*Lincoln Park:* All playground equipment was deemed to be in fine shape for this year. Dog waste is an issue with lack of usage of the dog waste fixture. A fence also needs some repairs. A bench in the park needs some refinishing.

Chruce presented his opinion that Lincoln park standards should be maintained given that the area of town surrounding the park needs something to stand out.

*MainBird Park:* The trees will be watched regarding any disease. Only as a last resort will there be tree removal.

While the gazebo roof has moss growing on it, there does not seem to be a maintenance need currently.

*Vest Pocket Park:* Trees that needed removal were taken out.

All equipment except for a spinner going into Vest Pocket is now out of storage. It was suggested that if Caitlin Dillon had time to work on painting the fence at Vest Pocket Park and the seesaw, that might be an additional project for her this summer.

### **First Street Players**

Matt Elgonitis reported on a call with the First Street Players. Various ideas were discussed such as moving their fundraising block party to MainBird. The Players are willing to participate in many of the Second Saturday programs throughout the year. A stage show might be considered in conjunction with the June Second Saturday Battle of the Bands/Music in the Park.

Tom Brungard suggested that the Players could possibly participate in a walking tour of Birdsboro by dressing up in period costumes at various stops.

Matt Elgonitis commented on the successes of the Players in the past such as a show in Rustic Park last year.

Chruce Godfrey felt that including the Players would draw more people and interested in the town. Tom Brungard believed the board's projects should all be inclusive rather than exclusive. He felt that none of the events could be a success without drawing nonresidents to the town.

### **Earth Day**

The board will not have active participation in Earth Day events on April 22 or 24, 2021. It was felt that individuals of the board could participate but that most of the board's efforts will be in the Beautify Birdsboro Second Saturday event May 8, 2021. Some board members will offer to participate in any cleanup after the events on Saturday April 24. Chruce will discuss possible cleanup with Nancy Kauffman asap.

### **Movie Nights**

Christen Thompson reported that and BYS had volunteered to sponsor one Movie Night each this year. Christen looked at movie screens on Amazon. She found one that was 180 inches wide which was about 60 inches smaller than the donated screen from Crestwood Pool last year. No final decision has been made on the purchase of a specific screen. Regarding the movies themselves, Christen is contacting the previous vendor for a list of available films. It was suggested by Matt Elgonitis that Christen look into any possible discounts if buying several at one time. Christen will investigate it but felt that it could not be structured that way.

June, July and August are the tentative months for Movie Nights unless more sponsors are found. BYS will conduct fundraising during their sponsored Movie Night. St. Mark's will be contacted as far as borrowing their popcorn machine.

Chruce Godfrey also suggested that there could be a further Movie Night in September if another sponsor could be found. The Legion might be able to be contacted later in the year. Christen also has inquiries at the gas plant and a local bank that have not responded yet. Matt Elgonitis suggested that various eating establishments in the community might want to contribute to partial sponsorships of the movies.

If another sponsorship is obtained, the first Movie Night of 2021 could be in May. At the April meeting, dates should be finalized for upcoming Movie Nights to facilitate advertising. Ryan Acevedo will assist Christen with the scheduling to not conflict with BYS use of Texas Field.

A review of the Recreation Board's participation at Borough Council was not considered to be of importance at this time.

### **Second Saturdays**

*April: Flea Market/Yard Sale April 10, 2021.*

Advertising options should be decided quickly, appropriate social distancing spacing with the Borough Manager, and a decision about leaving open or closing Water St. are to be considered. Tom Brungard suggested keeping the street open to help customers in transporting their purchases. Chief Trupp's opinion will be solicited at the next council meeting. Chruce said that there were 5 signups so far, but a lot more have expressed interest in participating. 40 spaces socially distant are allotted. Tables will not be provided by the board.

*May: Beautify Birdsboro May 8, 2021.*

Members of the board will be on hand to help with the distribution of materials. Some activities might be available.

Mainbird Park will be the location of a food stand donating food to the volunteers at noon.

The cleanups will start at 9AM with some groups starting at 10AM.

Jeff Kauffman of The Birdsboro Rotary Club and The Hay Creek Watershed Association reported to the board that there have been discussions to participate in this event. Jeff also reported that trash bags and gloves were received from PennDOT for the event.

*June: Battle of the Bands June 12, 2021.*

Ryan Acevedo updated the board on the plans for the event.

Some food trucks have expressed interest. Two or three bands are interested at this point with more to contact. A beer garden could include the Angry Anvil. The Angry Anvil would need one month's notice. Reaching out to H&K for use of a flatbed for a stage is still in progress.

Matt Elgonitis will be reaching out to bands as well. Matt suggested that a posting announcing the event and asking for participants should be started asap. Christen Thompson will put up a notice on the Birdsboro parks and Recreation Facebook page. Matt will also be providing his sound system and act as an emcee.

*July: Walking Tour of Birdsboro or Rock-Climbing Event July 10, 2021.*

Nancy Kauffman who was absent during the meeting is in charge of the walking tour event.

Tom Brungard made two suggestions that might be incorporated into the existing plans.

Local historians could be asked to be available at sites along to path to tell the walkers the significance of the stop. They could also meet at MainBird Park at the end of the walk to answer questions and have an opportunity to sell any books on the subject.

The First Street Players might also be used to dress up in period costumes. They could have skits, reenactments or songs at various stops to reflect the history.

No information at this meeting was available on a possible July rock climbing event.

*August:* Back to School Water Themed Event or carnival event for August 14, 2021.

Chruce Godfrey reminded the board that the travelling carnival should probably be slated for one time during the months of August through October. Chruce and Christen will contact the owners of the carnival to work out possible dates.

The possible Back to School water carnival is put on hold pending the travelling carnival's availability.

*September:* Carnival or rescheduling one event from earlier in the year to September 11, 2021.

*October:* Fall Harvest Event, carnival or rescheduled event to October 9, 2021.

*November:* Open Date November 13, 2021.

*December:* Birdsboro Hometown Christmas December 11, 2021.

### **Fundraising Proposal Updates**

Moe's has not been contacted as of yet. BYS is having a Moe's event on April 4, 2021 so it was suggested by Christen Thompson that a board fundraiser with Moe's not be scheduled too close to the BYS fundraiser.

Christen also reported on her research into theme park ticket sales by the board. Hershey Park tickets are being sold by another organization. Dutch Wonderland has a nonprofit rule that would preclude the board's participation are possibilities.

Knoebel's Grove offer \$18 ticket books which would be purchased by the board at \$15. A minimum of 200 books would have to be bought in advance by the board or borough in order

to participate in the offer. \$3000 would have to be bought by the board to yield a \$600 profit. Borough Council would have to give approval to the outlay of \$3000 in order for the event to go forward. It was the general feeling of the board that this idea be brought before council at a future date. An alternative route may be to solicit commitments from the general public. If there is enough interest to be able to sell 200 ticket books then council would be approached to authorize \$3000 for prepurchase of 200 ticket books.

Tom Brungard presented a fundraising idea based on the UK comedy quiz show "Would I Lie to You". The game would involve two teams of three players plus an emcee. Each member of the teams would be presented a card which has either a truth or lie about themselves. They are then to explain by the other team's questions whether they were saying a truth or lie. The object of the game is to fool the other team who would state whether the panelist was telling the truth or lying about what was on the card. The only real props need would be posters with "true" or "lie" on them. Participants should be locally know people such as the mayor, fire chief, police chief, business owners or council members, among others. Perhaps the mayor would be a good emcee. The game could be held at a Rustic Park pavilion with donations from the audience solicited. It was felt the game would be a good plan for times late May going into the summer. If it were successful, the game could be played on a regular basis. Tom Brungard will begin to contact possible participants.

Tom Brungard also brought up an idea to make and sell buttons with "I Love Birdsboro" or "I Love Birdsboro Parks". Chruce Godfrey will contact local button makers to see if this would be feasible. Buttons could be sold at all Recreation Board events.

### **Public Comments**

Stephen Kincaid of the newly formed Berks Trail Works made a presentation. The organization would be responsible for trail maintenance in Berks County. Locally in Birdsboro, the benefit of the maintenance could be added interest in the Hay Creek watershed. This could bring more foot traffic to the area and increase interest in Birdsboro's parks. The added benefit would be an increase in use of Birdsboro businesses, especially eating establishments.

Berks Trail Works has offered to partner with the Birdsboro Recreation Board on future projects. Contact information would be shared to talk about ways to work together in the future. Trail Works includes members from outside the borough which would add to the local park's exposure. Some members could join an upcoming proposed "Friends of Birdsboro Parks and Recreation".

Stephen offered to help with any future bmx events. The organization also includes many youth members. This would be a way to encourage participation by younger members of the local

community. Berks Trail Works is still in the organizing stage. They are obtaining permits and liability insurance.

Jeff Kauffman suggested to Stephen that the Trail Works present a talk at the Birdsboro Municipal Authority and other watershed organizations.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by Chruce Godfrey at 8:31pm.

The next meeting will be held Thursday, April 22, 2021 at 7pm by Zoom.

-Tom Brungard, Secretary

### **Disclaimer**

The minutes are a transcript of discussions during the March 25, 2021 Birdsboro Recreation Board meeting. They do not reflect any revisions to activities that may be necessitated after the meeting. An example might be changing the procedure or rules of an event when future information is determined to affect the event.

The minutes also do not encompass any decisions made by Birdsboro Borough Council at meetings following the Birdsboro Recreation Board meetings.

The recreation board does have a presentation at most council meetings. The public is encouraged to follow our meetings and the council meetings on Zoom calls.