

Good Morning,

January began with a good turnout for the Polar Bear Swim on 1/1/22 despite the rain. We saw a smaller crowd as expected due to concerns around the omicron surge and the rainy conditions, but altogether we had 60 registered swimmers a total estimated attendance of 160 and gross concession sales of \$593. The maintenance crew did a lot of work cleaning out the storage areas of the workshop in Memorial Park to add insulation to the workshop crawlspace to increase heating efficiency and decrease department heating bills. This was coupled with an effort to remove old and outdated equipment, so a large number of materials are listed on the municibid website for sale at this time. The department also continued site walks in all parks this January to update the Department Park Comprehensive Plan and identify needs for repair and development. Only 3 parks remain to be visited in the 2022 cycle (Maple, Pollock and Terrace Lane) after which an updated comprehensive plan will be available. We had hoped to have these completed for January, however inclement weather has slowed the process.

The status or ongoing projects is as follows:

- Washington-West Park is slated for playground replacement in 2022 with funds secured from PAHWF and David Yeck Foundation totaling \$50,000. This will include new equipment, improved ADA access to the play area, and a small picnic pavilion. ARPA funds may be utilized as a part of the Borough matching funds. Work will begin in the Spring
- Spruce Street Basketball Court Resurfacing will proceed in the Spring of 2022. The major hold-up has been awaiting word on funding through the PMRPC minigrant program from which we are seeking \$25,000 in funding. The scope of work will include tearing out of the old courts, reinstalling compacted subgrade, paving and painting and installation of two new basketball standards. Existing standards installed last year will be reinstalled at the new court. Player benches will be added between the two courts. There will be two new 84' x 50' courts when the project is complete.
- Work is nearing completion at the Spray Park and Island area in Memorial Park for the installation of new security features which include security cameras serving the island, pavilion, playground and spray park as well as automated locking systems for the restroom doors and the Spray Park backwash features. We anticipate this project will save on significant staffing costs in servicing the area. ARPA funds are being utilized exclusively for the project.
- Riverfront Park streambank restoration at the Manatawny Creek pedestrian bridge is being delayed as we are seeking funding for the project from the MontCo2040 grant program in the amount of \$200,000 we anticipate this will allow us to cover the scope of the stabilization along with repairing the pedestrian bridge itself. The bridge repair involves removal of the existing concrete deck, sandblasting, repainting and re pouring the deck. We feel we have a very good chance of securing this funding given the funding priorities of the program. We will know either way by April of the funding status as which time we will proceed.
- Funding has been secured for the Memorial Park pedestrian bridge replacement for a total of \$350,000 received from MontCo 2040 and DCNR Keystone Fund. Work will proceed this Summer following completion of the design elements and bid postings. Preliminary designs will be delivered in approximately 3 weeks.
- 15 additional bare root trees are being sought through the TreeVitalize Tree Tenders Grant Program for planting in Riverfront Park this April. These trees will replace ash trees and box elder trees removed along the River Walk trail due to disease. The tree variety will consist of Freeman Maples, Red Maple, White Oak, Bald Cypress and Catalpa. This will be completed with the assistance of the Pottstown Tree Tenders group and volunteers. Prior to this planting, the department will seek to have extensive deadfall removed from the area with the rental of a tub grinder.
- Boyertown Area Multi Service is in receipt of grant funds from PAHWF which will be used to rehabilitate the outdoor basketball court area. Parks and Recreation Department is working closely with

the organization to supervise the work. The primary scope will include new site furnishings, new fencing, updated ADA access and court resurfacing.

- Funding in the amount of \$5,514 was secured from Montgomery County Redevelopment Authority to undertake vapor intrusion testing at Pollock Park. Results should be received in February to complete investigations required to submit the soil remediation report for PA DEP approval. In the meantime, our EPA funding request is still pending. Upon receipt of an approved soil plan, we can proceed with seeking funding through the State for remediation.

If you have questions about these projects or others before the February Committee of the Whole Meeting, please feel free to contact me.

Thank You,

Michael A. Lenhart CPRP CPSI
Borough of Pottstown
Parks and Recreation Director
610-970-6608