

## COMMISSION ON PARKS AND RECREATION

### SUMMARY OF COMMISSION MEETING

NOVEMBER 18, 2015

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A meeting of the Commission on Parks and Recreation was held at the Shepard Recreation Center at 5700 Haverford Avenue at 6:00PM.

**PRESENT:** Commissioner Nancy Goldenberg, Chair  
Commissioner Andrew Denison  
Commissioner Matthew Perks  
Commissioner Carol Rice  
Commissioner Sarah Clark Stuart  
David Kanthor, Designee for Commissioner Gary Jastrzab

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Michael DiBerardinis  
Commissioner Derrick Ford  
Commissioner Debra Wolf Goldstein  
Commissioner Bridget Greenwald  
Commissioner Jeffrey Hackett  
Commissioner Howard Neukrug  
Commissioner David Perri  
Commissioner James Straw

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mark Focht, 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy Commissioner

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Commission Chair Nancy Goldenberg called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance. She thanked the staff of the Shepard Recreation Center for hosting the meeting. Commissioner Goldenberg informed everyone of upcoming events and groundbreakings. The Christmas Village opens at Love Park on November 21<sup>st</sup> and the Historic Houses of Fairmount Park tours run from December 2<sup>nd</sup> through the 20<sup>th</sup>. There are numerous greens sales thorough out Fairmount Park. There were several groundbreakings throughout the city including Vernon Park, the Rail Trail over Manayunk Bridge and the Phillies Urban Youth Academy at the Marian Anderson Recreation Center.

Commissioner Carol Rice presented the PaRC Pathfinder Award to Gary Rodriguez for his volunteer work with children at the Shepard Recreation Center.

First Deputy Commissioner Mark Focht presented an update on the World Meeting of Families. This was a very successful event for the City of Philadelphia. 130 PPR employees worked throughout the entire event, with the cost to the Department of \$328,000. There was substantial impact to the turf, but immediate care was taken by grounds maintenance to restore the land. Nic Esposito, Park Manager 2, spoke on sustainable land care training. 131 staff attended the six session training. Four gardens were installed at recreational facilities and 250 plants were potted as part of integrated training with Power Corps. Patty Pat Kozlowski presented an overview of the Stewardship Team. Ms. Kozlowski stated that the neighbors of local parks are the eyes and ears of the parks. Local Friends Groups hold numerous clean-ups throughout the year to keep their parks clean. Several parks had movie nights during the summer, and all were well attended. Special events included a summer bus tour, National Night Out, Concerts in the Park, Zoomba in the Park and Read-A-Thons.

Commissioner Goldenberg then asked for Committee reports. Commissioner Andrew Denison, Chair, Communications and Civic Engagement Committee, said that the Committee met with the Pitch Your Passion winners, Game of Thrones and Beach Volleyball. The Game of Thrones finalists are considering

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several locations in East Fairmount Park. Their season will run from February through October. The Beach Volleyball finalists are interested in a location near Mt. Pleasant Mansion. Meetings with both finalists will be ongoing.

Commissioner Matthew Perks reported on Art Commission action from their recent meeting. Commissioner Perks stated that the Commission gave final approval to improvements to Love Park. There will be much more green space and trees, however, the Visitors Center and the LOVE Statue will remain in the park. Construction will begin in the Spring of 2016.

Commissioner Goldenberg called for Partners Reports. Kathryn Ott Lovell, Executive Director of the Fairmount Park Conservancy announced that the Conservancy was awarded a \$3 million grant over the next three years to establish new art programs throughout the City. Ms. Ott Lovell gave an update on the Parkside project. There will be \$7 million in improvements including spray grounds which will be turned into ice rinks in the winter months. The Parkside project is currently in the design phase, with groundbreaking scheduled for Spring of 2016.

Commissioner Goldenberg then opened the meeting to comments or questions from the public. An unnamed resident of the Cobbs Creek area expressed her concern over noisy picnickers and picnic permits not being enforced. A member of the local Friends group thanked Commissioners for coming to Shepard Recreation Center. Gwen Cobb, a member of Councilman Curtis Jones' staff, thanked Commissioners for coming to the recreation center and stated that Councilman Jones always budgets money for parks and recreation centers and would like all recreation centers in the City to be multi-purpose.

Commissioner Goldenberg thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 7:40PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol J. Roache,  
Administrative Assistant