



**COUNTY OF DELAWARE
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**COUNCIL
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RICHARD R. WOMACK**

**PARKS AND RECREATION
MARC J. MANFRE
DIRECTOR**

**ANNE P. STAUFFER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR**

**Delaware County Park Board Meeting
May 10, 2023
12:00 p.m.**

Location: Hunt Club

Attendees:

- **Board:** Marc Manfre, Director of Parks & Recreation; Kathy Lopez; Parker Snowe; Bridget O'Donnell; Anne Stauffer; Beth Chapman; Kelly Johnson
- **County:** Councilperson Elaine Paul Schaefer, County Council Liaison; Steven Beckley, Planning manager, Open Space and Trails
- **Not present:** Nicholas Furman; Nicholas Hoyt; Barron Lacy; John McMullin; Trish McFarland
- Minutes by Carol Tustin
- **Call to Order:** 12:03 pm

Meeting Minutes from March 8, 2023 were approved by the board.

- **Call to Order**.....Chair Kathy Lopez
 - The meeting was called to order by Kathy Lopez, new Park Board Chair.
- **Directors report**.....Marc Manfre
 - Phase 1 of the Little Flower Manor is being planned to start. We will be giving it a facelift in Phase 1. Phase 1 of Little Flower Manor consists of making it more accessible, user friendly, safer, thereby eliminating our liability that's there, like fixing the wall and improving byways into the park. The easements should be complete by the end of the year.
 - Rose Tree Park is in full use. The playground is coming along, should be done by June, hopefully could be finished for the Juneteenth event. The Juneteenth event will end with a concert, which will be the opening concert this year. The Summer Concert Series will officially start June 21.
 - The Earth Day events were very successful this year. At the Upland Park Earth Day event, there was a kitchen herb garden class given by Penn State Master Gardeners. They discussed and taught a lot about kitchen herb gardens and then they helped event participants to plant their own herbs with pots and small plants that were supplied by the Parks & Recreation Department. Everybody there had a great time. There was also an Earth Day event at Clayton Park for the County Employees to volunteer their time and

celebrate Earth Day. They picked up trash and generally cleaned up and planted some trees along Featherbed Road.

- The thing I'm most proud about are the Eagle Scout projects that were done. There were a few Eagle Scout projects this year that were very productive and turned out well. One scout group project that was completed was to build some steps at Chester Creek Trail. Another young scout replaced our old message board with a new, very nice message board that she built for Rose Tree Park. We have now put that in use. Another scout group recently made some nice picnic tables.
- We will be starting the Summer Concert Series in June.
- Upland Park's new playground will be complete between the 12th and the 23rd. The Redwood building will be getting a new roof. It should start next week and will take about 2 weeks. We don't have anything scheduled in the Redwood during the 2 weeks.

- **Discussion**

- Councilperson Elaine Schaefer joined in to discuss The Woodburn mansion at Little Flower Manor. The county needs to decide what to do with it. There is a historic group that is very interested. Could the Park board come up with a recommendation for this building. Marc suggested that he and Danielle go look at the condition of the building and other buildings on the property, maybe before the end of April.
- Kathy Lopez asked if everyone could introduce themselves and give a little information about themselves starting with the new board members. After introductions were complete, Marc gave a little information as a way of introduction about the board members who were not in attendance this month.
- Marc talked about the Chamber of Commerce honoring the Delaware County Parks & Recreation Department with an award this year at a luncheon.

- **Guest Speaker**.....No guest speaker this month

- **Old Business**

- County Park Visit: In April, we had our visit to Little Flower Manor & Woodbourne Mansion.
- Don Guanella Committee update: Marc gave a report on Don Guanella. He is excited about managing Don Guanella. He is focused on improving the park, looking closely at expectation vs reality. The meeting at Cardinal O'Hara was run well. It was very well organized; they did a great job. They got a lot of input and suggestions from the community. Nobody requested building athletic fields, which was very surprising. A lot of the surrounding communities are looking more at keeping it closer to its natural state. There was input into the outdoor trails portion. Our maintenance team has been doing some work over at Don Guanella.
- The model for Friends groups would be Friends of Glen Providence Park Alliance. We don't have a Friends of Park Alliance here at Rose Tree Park. We do have the trail

alliance with a gentleman by the name of Pat Ackroyd. Friends' groups are priceless, they know things that we don't hear about and the know what's needed.

- We are still soliciting applicants from District 6, which is Chadds Ford, Bethel Township.. Please if you hear of anyone, please let us know.
 - Our next park visit will be Catania Park on June 14. We are going to hold off on discussing or voting on the board picnic until we have more members in attendance.
- **New Business**
 - It is nice to have our 3 new park board members now involved.
 - Park visits for 2023 are listed at the bottom of the minutes. In June we're going to Catania and we were going to have a picnic for our board members, but we are going to hold off on discussing the board picnic until we have more members in attendance. In August we were going to revisit Don Guanella and in October we'll visit Upland.
 - The naming of the new park at Little Flower will be done within the park board members.
 - The Senior Games are coming up. Pre-COVID, we had 700 – 800 athletes participate, but for the last two years, we've had around 500 athletes, so hopefully that number will go back up. We are having Bocce Ball at Rose Tree opening day this year. Track and Field will be run out of Cardinal O'Hara this year.
 - Kathy introduced Anne Stauffer, the new Deputy Director of Parks & Recreation to the Park Board. This is a new position in the Parks Department. We would like to thank Elaine Schaefer for moving this forward to make this new position possible. Anne came to us from the Planning Department and Parks is happy to have her as a colleague . First, we would like to thank her for accepting the position. She has a background in Recreation management. Her background is working with environmental programs and grants. She did great work on the Municipal Grant Program. She is going to be a great asset to the department, and we look forward to her working with us.

- **Meeting adjourned: 12:55pm**

Meetings:

January 11 – Zoom

March 8 – Zoom

May 10 – Hunt Club

July 12 – Hunt Club

September 13 – Hunt Club

November 8 – Zoom

Park Visits:

February 8 – Mineral Hill

April 12 – Little Flower & Darby Creek Trail

June 14 – Catania

August 9 – Don Guanella

October 11 – Upland

December – Rose Tree Festival of Lights on opening night