

The stated meeting of the Public Affairs Committee of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington was held on Wednesday, August 31, 2016 at the Township Administration Building, Abington, PA., with Commissioner Spiegelman presiding.

CALL TO ORDER: 7:57 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Present: Commissioners SPIEGELMAN, BOWMAN, SCHREIBER, ROTHMAN, KALINOSKI

Township Manager LEFEVRE
Township Solicitor CLARKE
Director of Parks and Recreation WENDELL

Also Present: Commissioners LUKER, KLINE, MYERS, ZAPPONE, GILLESPIE, DiPLACIDO

MINUTES: Commissioner Spiegelman made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Kalinoski to approve the minutes of the July 6, 2016 Public Affairs Committee Meeting.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

Parks and Recreation Report:

Director of Parks and Recreation, Mr. Doug Wendell reported that there have been two incidents of closing the pools, and DVIT has assisted in getting both pools tested for cryptosporidium. We expect results from the testing of samples to be completed in a few weeks.

Also, we are getting ready to begin the feasibility study and a meeting will be held on September 30th to discuss developing a survey. The site to take the survey will be shared with the Board as well as shared on Township's Facebook page and Township website.

Also, the Radio City Music Hall trip will be held on December 6th.

Commissioner Spiegelman said when the grant-funded feasibility study is completed there will be a ballpark estimate on costs to modernize the pools. Is that correct?

Mr. Wendell replied that is a large part of it, but it will also look at operation of the pool, our management processes and whether our rates are fair across the board. The scope of work by DCNR is very thorough.

Commissioner Spiegelman clarified that when the feasibility study is executed it may help to get grants to modernize the pools and facilities. Is that correct?

Mr. Wendell replied yes. DCNR requires a feasibility study in order to apply for any grants from that State agency.

PRESENTATION:

Boy Scouts of America, Ryan Martin, District Executive

Ryan Martin, District Executive, introduced Joe Stuckert, Fire Chief of Glenside Fire Company as well as Committee Chairman of Glenside Troop 48 and Ed Trauper, Member of Troop 304. His position with the Scouts is District Executive, and as a professional scout, it is his goal to support and empower local Boy Scouts of America leaders.

Ed Trauper, Member of Troop 304, said he has been an Abington resident for the past 30 years and he is thrilled that the relationship between the scouts and Abington Township still continues. He is involved in the District Committee; he volunteers as a committee member in Troop 304; he is former Committee Chairman; he was an Assistant Scoutmaster and also served in Cub Pack 210 in Jenkintown.

He believes that scouting is the absolute best program for young men and women to help build character, leadership skills and strong values.

In the District Committee, he is the Chairman of the Friends of Scouting fundraiser campaign and helps run our IDIROP, and he is a member of the newly formed STEM (Science Technology, Engineering and Math) Committee.

We are working to begin a STEM Scouting Program, which would be a separate entity within scouting in our area focused on Science Technology, Engineering and Math and work with the schools to help promote the STEM program.

A three-year study done on Cub Scout-age children on those who are involved in scouts and those who are not involved in scouts and they were interviewed. The study showed a statistically significant increase in kindness, community-orientation and happiness and an inspiration of looking forward to the future from those who were in scouting. So scouting really does have a positive impact on youth and on the community in general. Copies of the study were provided to the Board.

We have a tremendous group of volunteers in scouting, so please look to us if the Township needs anything. He thanked the Board and said he appreciates everything that Abington Township has done and continues to do for the Boy Scouts.

Commissioner Spiegelman announced that the Committee had no business at this time, and asked for any general comments relating to Public Affairs.

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, expressed concern about the speaking rules and that she feels she is “not being answered right a way.”

Raymond Bell, 2076 Parkview Avenue, commented that in regards to phone scamming; obviously there is sophistication of thieves in/out of the U.S. and consumers are subject to database breeches. He encouraged everyone to participate in the Federal “Do Not Call” List.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael LeFevre, Township Manager

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