

A regular meeting of the **PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE** for March 2022 was held tonight via web-conference, Commissioner Ann L. Rappoport presiding. Present were Commissioners Brockington, Areman, Pransky, Holland, and Zygmund-Felt. Also present was Ex-Officio member Norris.

Staff present via web-conference were: Robert A. Zienkowski, Township Manager; Alyson Elliott, Assistant Township Manager; Danielle Pearson, Interim Director of Fiscal Affairs; Kelly Rebitz, Parks and Recreation Administrative Assistant; and Allen Brown, Property Supervisor.

Ms. Rappoport called the meeting to order at 8:34 p.m.

1. Expenditures over \$2,500
  - A. **Recommendation to the Board of Commissioners:** Upon motion of Ms. Rappoport, the Committee unanimously recommended the Board of Commissioners approve a purchase order for Pro Audio in the amount of \$4,000 to provide sound tech for the summer concert series.
  - B. **Recommendation to the Board of Commissioners:** Upon motion of Mr. Holland, the Committee unanimously recommended the Board of Commissioners approve a blanket purchase order for FMI, Inc. in the amount of \$8,700 for postage for the spring and fall newsletter.
2. The Committee reviewed the following reports for the month of February 2022:
  - A. Property Maintenance
  - B. Public Information
  - C. Parks and Recreation

Upon motion of Mr. Zygmund-Felt, the Committee unanimously received the above reports.

3. Receipt of Committee Meeting Minutes:
  - A. Historical Commission – No February Meeting.
  - B. Twinning Committee – No February Meeting.
  - C. Economic Development Task Force Meeting – February 15, 2022
  - D. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Committee Meeting – February 24, 2022

Ms. Rappoport said members of SAMH would like input on their proposed programming. Matthew Abraham, Rebecca Cherry, and Jessica Werner represented SAMH. Mr. Abraham provided a background on the work SAMH has done, particularly over the past two years. Ms. Cherry presented some of the ideas SAMH proposes to bring to the community:

  - Provide an updated list of resources people can access on mental health topics.
  - Focus on anxiety and loneliness.
  - Develop a chair yoga demonstration.
  - Restart community meetings on mental health topics.
  - Match young volunteers with older, isolated community members.

Mr. Zygmund-Felt asked if SAMH has gone after available money from the opioid settlement to help fund a program since there is significant funding available. He offered to help make the connection to this money. Mr. Areman encouraged all citizen committees to dive into their areas of expertise and bring ideas to the Board for consider in enhancing their mission. Ms. Rappoport inquired about a caveat for any work SAMH does so it is not construed as professional advice. Mr. Areman asked that the Solicitor provide language ahead of time. Ms. Rappoport thanked SAMH for its work and ideas.

- E. Civil Rights Task Force Meeting – No February Meeting.

Upon motion of Mr. Norris, the Committee unanimously received the Committee Meeting Minutes listed above.

3. Receipt of Staff Meeting Minutes – February 16, 2022

Upon motion of Ms. Rappoport, the Committee unanimously received the staff meeting minutes as stated above.

4. New Business

- A. **Recommendation to the Board of Commissioners:** Upon motion of Ms. Rappoport, the Committee unanimously recommended the Board of Commissioners authorize submission of a grant under the 2022 National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Delaware River Restoration Fund Program for design and construction of the Robinson Park Stream and Wetland Restoration Enhancement Project.

Ms. Elliott said the Township is in the process of matching available grants to some of its higher impact stormwater projects. The Township has worked with NFWF on the parking lot at Curtis Arboretum, and the Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership utilized this funding source for the stream restoration work at Conklin Pool. If successful, the grant will be used to help fund design and construction of this project. At this point, the project is very conceptual; but it was added to the revised Pollution Reduction Plan presented at last week's Public Works Committee meeting, based on information presented by residents about conditions in and around the Park during a presentation on the Church Road and Greenwood Avenue intersection improvement project.

**Public Comment:**

*Edie Cerebi* – thanked the Township for moving this project forward.

*Poppy Bass* – expressed her support for the project, noting that the bottom part of the community garden is extremely soggy and unusable.

- B. **Recommendation to the Board of Commissioners:** Upon motion of Mr. Zygmund-Felt, the Committee unanimously recommended the Board of Commissioners approve a contract with American Pool of Bensalem, PA to provide Swimming Pool Opening and Maintenance Services for the 2022 Season, in the amount of \$64,020, to clean, patch, and paint the pools; inspect the mechanicals; replace the filter sand at Conklin Pool; and parge the lights at Conklin Pool to help reduce water leakage; with an On-Call Maintenance Rate of \$315/hour during the pool season.

Ms. Elliott said that due to the efforts of Allen Brown and Kelly Rebitz, the contract amount was able to be reduced by \$12,000 for the replacement of the filter sand at Conklin Pool. American Pool is the only company out of 11 that were directly solicited to respond. Cheltenham Township has worked with American Pool in the past and they have done satisfactory work. Ms. Rappoport asked why so few companies responded. Ms. Rebitz said that we plan to solicit contracts this fall for the 2023 pool season to increase the pool of available contractors.

- C. Ms. Rappoport discussed an email she received from Mayors for Monarchs, sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation (NWF). She said participation in the program does not appear to be too onerous and many of the action items suggested are being pursued by the Township or groups within the Township, such as the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC), Library, Friends of High School Park, and Friends of Curtis Arboretum. Participation in the program requires the Township to pledge to implement three items from a list of 25 items provided by the NWF (see attached). She asked staff to review the action items to determine what items make sense and prepare a pledge for the Commissioners to consider at its March meeting next week.

It was a consensus of the Committee to have staff review this program and present a reasonable pledge at the Board of Commissioners meeting next week.

5. Old Business
  - A. Ms. Rappoport mentioned the stairs that are blocked off Glenside Avenue to Ralph Morgan Park due to hazardous conditions, may not be able to be fixed. She suggested the Township consider a more permanent barricade since the current barricaded is an eyesore.
6. Announcements
  - A. Mr. Areman announced that the Glenside Arts Festival is next month on April 23, 2022.
  - B. Mr. Areman also announced that the Glenside Farmers Market at the Glenside Train Station will open at the end of April: <https://www.facebook.com/glensidefarmersmarket/>.
  - C. Mr. Holland welcomed Hip City Veg to the Township out of the Fresh Grocer in Wyncote. The grand opening is Saturday, March 12. Hip City Veg is owned by Township residents and has multiple locations in the area.
  - D. Ms. Elliott announced that there will be many Earth Day activities sponsored by community groups in the Township during April. Information about activities in the Township can be found on the Township website: <https://www.cheltenhamtownship.org/pview.aspx?id=40870&catid=0>.
7. Citizens' Forum – None.
8. There being no further business, upon motion of Mr. Pransky, the Committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 9:26 p.m.



Robert Zienkowski  
Township Manager

Per Alyson Elliott, Assistant Township Manager



## Mayors' Monarch Pledge Action Items

Mayors and local government chief executives who have taken the Mayors' Monarch Pledge must commit to implement at least three of the 25 following action items within a year of taking the pledge. At least one action must be taken from the "Program & Demonstration Gardens" section. Mayors and local government chief executives taking more than eight actions will receive special recognition as part of the National Wildlife Federation's Mayors' Monarch Leadership Circle. NWF will follow up with all mayoral points of contact with a quarterly survey (1/1, 4/1, 7/1, 10/1) to monitor progress. Please visit [www.nwf.org/mayorsmonarchpledge](http://www.nwf.org/mayorsmonarchpledge) to take the pledge and access resources.

### **Communications & Convening:**

- 1) Issue a Proclamation to raise awareness about the decline of the monarch butterfly and the species' need for habitat.
- 2) Launch a public communication effort to encourage citizens to plant monarch gardens at their homes or in their neighborhoods.
- 3) Communicate with community garden groups and urge them to plant native milkweeds and nectar-producing plants.
- 4) Convene city park and public works department staff and identify opportunities for revised mowing programs and milkweed / native nectar plant planting programs.
- 5) Convene a meeting with gardening leaders in the community to discuss partnerships to support monarch butterfly conservation.

### **Program & Demonstration Gardens:**

- 6) Host or support a native plant sale or milkweed seed giveaway event.
- 7) Facilitate or support a milkweed seed collection and propagation effort.
- 8) Plant a monarch-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent location.
- 9) Convert abandoned lots to monarch habitat.
- 10) Plant milkweed and native nectar plants in medians and public rights-of-way.
- 11) Launch a program to plant native milkweeds and nectar plants in school gardens by engaging students, teachers and the community.
- 12) Earn recognition for being a wildlife-friendly city by expanding your action plan to include other wildlife and habitat conservation efforts through a program like the NWF Community Wildlife Habitat program
- 13) Create a monarch neighborhood challenge to engage neighborhoods and homeowners' associations within the city to create habitat for the monarch butterfly.
- 14) Initiate or support citizen-science efforts that help monitor monarch migration and health.
- 15) Add milkweed and nectar producing plants in community gardens.

- 16) Expand invasive species removal programs to make it possible to re-establish native milkweed and nectar plants to the landscape.
- 17) Host or support a city monarch butterfly festival.

**Systems Change:**

- 18) Remove milkweed from the list of noxious plants in city weed / landscaping ordinances (if applicable).
- 19) Change weed or mowing ordinances to allow for native prairie and plant habitats.
- 20) Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed where appropriate.
- 21) Direct city property managers to consider the use of native milkweed and nectar plants at city properties where appropriate.
- 22) Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city's Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.
- 23) Change landscape ordinances to support integrated pest management and reduced use of pesticides and insecticides.
- 24) Ban the use of neonicotinoid pesticides, or plants and seeds treated with neonicotinoid pesticides, on city lands.
- 25) California Specific: Pass a resolution to protect over-wintering monarch butterfly habitat on public and private lands.