

A regular meeting of the **PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE** for July 2020 was held tonight via web-conference, Commissioner Ann L. Rappoport, Chair, presiding. Present were Commissioners Brockington, Pransky, Areman, Holland, and Zygmund-Felt. Also present was Ex-Officio Member Norris.

Staff present via web-conference were: Terry Fedorchak, Interim Township Manager; Alyson Elliott, Assistant Township Manager; Bruce Rangnow, Director of Fiscal Affairs; Lisa McClure, Cheltenham Township Library System President and CEO; and Joseph Bagley, Esq., Township Solicitor.

Ms. Rappoport called the meeting to order at 8:52 p.m.

1. The Committee reviewed the following reports for the month of June 2020:
 - a. Property Maintenance Supervisor
 - b. Public Information Officer
 - c. Director of Parks and Recreation
 - d. Director of Community Centers
 - e. Facilities Event Coordinator

Upon motion of Ms. Rappoport, the Committee unanimously received the monthly reports as stated above.

2. Receipt of Committee Meeting Minutes:
 - a. Historical Commission – No June Meeting
 - b. Twinning Committee – No June Meeting
 - c. Economic Development Task Force – June 16, 2020
 - d. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Committee – No June Meeting

Mr. Brockington added that the Human Relations Committee met on July 2, 2020, for the first time since September 28, 2010 to discuss civil and human rights issues. The next meeting will be August 13, 2020.

Upon motion of Mr. Zygmund-Felt, the Committee unanimously received the meeting minutes of the Economic Development Task Force, as stated above.

3. Receipt of Staff Meeting Minutes – June 23, 2020

Upon motion of Mr. Norris, the Committee unanimously received the monthly reports as stated above.

4. Quarterly Report
 - a. Lisa McClure, President and CEO, provided the Quarterly Report for the Cheltenham Township Library System (see attached).

Ms. McClure, who started working for the Library 10 weeks ago, just after the start of the pandemic shut down, has had an interesting start to her tenure. She provided information about her background as well as some information about how the Library System is adapting to the pandemic through virtual programming and services, and curbside pickup. The Library is working through the Governor's recommended phasing for reopening.

Ms. McClure is working on budget adjustments to address the financial realities of the Township during and after the pandemic. She said it is important to maintain a strong financial baseline so the Library can serve the vulnerable populations in this time of crisis since a significant amount of the population does not have access to resources to help with education.

Ms. McClure said she takes a data-driven approach in developing goals, working plans and strategic plans for the Library System:

- 1) Communicate the value, impact and relevancy of the public library
- 2) Develop system-wide thinking and best practices
- 3) Increase access to informational and recreational resources, especially with vulnerable populations
- 4) Forecast and fund a prosperous financial future; where we are to where we want to be
- 5) Transform library facilities to meet public need
- 6) Meet community needs in a pandemic
- 7) Create a strategic plan

Mr. Zygmund-Felt asked about utilization rates of virtual programs and services during the pandemic. They have seen an exponential increase in Overdrive for e-books, which is more expensive than purchasing a regular book.

5. New Business – None.

6. Old Business

- a. Continued discussion on recommending the Board of Commissioners adopt a Resolution authorizing Township Staff to submit a grant application under the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development's Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program and committing to provide a 15% match for the preparation of design specifications for the construction of a new shell at Conklin Pool and Glenside Pool.

Mr. Pransky asked if the Board of Commissioners had decided that reconstructing one or both pools is the appropriate course of action given the Township's financial position and the pandemic. It was a consensus of the Committee to take advantage of the grant for the design work and look at this proposal more carefully during the 2021 budget process.

Recommendation to the Board of Commissioners: Upon motion of Ms. Rappoport, the Committee unanimously recommended that the Board of Commissioners adopt a Resolution authorizing Township Staff to submit a grant application under the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development's Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program and committing to provide a 15% match for the preparation of design specifications for the construction of a new shell at Conklin Pool and Glenside Pool.

- b. Continued discussion on the proposed Public Art project for the Glenside Free Library by Kelly Cave, Arcadia University.

Ms. Cave discussed the concept for a seating area and art space for the open space at the corner of Keswick Avenue and Waverly Road, along the Tookany Creek. It will have an amphitheater feel, consisting of several benches with a 12 foot by 8 foot center platform, serving to bring the library outside. There will be light boxes under the seating area to mimic the light on the trolley line that used to run through this area.

Mr. Areman wanted to ensure that the lighting would not be too bright for the neighbors. He also asked if the lights would utilize solar power. Ms. Cave said solar-powered are being considered and the site sits a little lower than the surrounding residences, so it should buffer the neighbors from the lights. Mr. Areman also advised Ms. Cave to consider that the seating might be used by bicyclists and skateboarders as ramps.

Mr. Brockington asked if the lights would be on a timer. Ms. Cave said they can be on a timer or maybe not have the lights on every night.

Ms. Rappoport asked if Ms. Cave had communicated with the Library about this project. Ms. Cave said the Library was one of the first groups the students connected with. Ms. Rappoport wanted to ensure that all environmental regulations were adhered to since the site is in close proximity to the Creek. She also asked if there would be trash receptacles on the site, who

would control the lights, and the material of the benches and platform. Ms. Cave said control of the lights would likely be in the Library and that the bench tops and platform would be made out of wood – cedar is currently being considered.

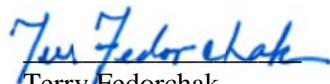
Bob Feenan, 6 Beryl Road, Cheltenham, PA, expressed concern that the project would be affected by flooding since it is close to the stream. Mr. Areman and Mr. Holland said flooding usually occurs downstream from this site.

Tom McHugh, 127 Hewett Road, Wyncote, PA, said he likes the proposal and mentioned that it would be inexpensive to power LED lights through the electrical grid.

Robert Hyslop, 211 Harrison Avenue, Glenside, PA, said solar lights would be problematic due to the trees and expressed the following concerns: 1) the channel will be overtopped in storms larger than the storm experienced this week; 2) ensuring that trash receptacles are located in convenient locations; and 3) proximity of the structures to the Creek and their ability to withstand flood events. He also added that functionality is important and stressed that Ms. Cave needs to ensure that the project is sturdy and will last. Ms. Cave said she is working with engineers to make sure everything is very solid and safe.

It was a consensus of the Committee to have Ms. Cave and her team work with Township staff as it proceeds with the design to address the comments and concerns identified by the Committee and public before bringing the final design back to the Committee.

- c. Ms. Rappoport inquired about the status of the Enbridge pipeline and relocating from the bridge to another property that was discussed at last week's Public Works Committee meeting. She expressed concern that the issue needed action at this meeting. Mr. Zygmund-Felt said that staff and the engineer are still working out details on the proposed easement.
7. Announcements- None.
8. Citizens' Forum- None.
9. There being no further business, upon motion of Ms. Rappoport the Committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 10:23 p.m.



Terry Fedorchak
Interim Township Manager

Per Alyson Elliott, Assistant Township Manager