

A regular meeting of the **PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE** for October 2021 was held tonight via web-conference, Commissioner Ann L. Rappoport presiding. Present were Commissioners Brockington, Areman, Holland, and Zygmund-Felt. Also present was Ex-Officio member Norris. Commissioner Pransky was absent.

Staff present via web-conference were: Robert A. Zienkowski, Township Manager; Alyson Elliott, Assistant Township Manager; Nathan Crittendon, Director of Fiscal Affairs; and Brian Hinson, Director of Parks and Recreation.

Ms. Rappoport called the meeting to order at 9:20 p.m.

1. The Committee reviewed the following reports for the month of September 2021:
 - a. Property Maintenance Supervisor
 - b. Public Information Officer – Ms. Rappoport noted that a stakeholder survey was completed as part of the website upgrade. She asked what was on the survey and who it went to. Mr. Zygmund-Felt said it was an internal stakeholder survey of staff and the Commissioners who were part of the proposal review to talk about structure, redesign and internal usability. This is not the full upgrade, the content upgrade will involve a much larger group of stakeholders.
 - c. Director of Parks and Recreation – Ms. Rappoport said there was a lot positive feedback about the fireworks from the community. Mr. Hinson said a drive by Trick-or-Treat event will be held at Rowland Community Center, lower parking lot, on Saturday, October 30th, at 6:00 p.m.

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

2. Receipt of Committee Meeting Minutes:
 - a. Historical Commission – September 9, 2021
Ms. Rappoport congratulated the Historical Commission on the successful re-opening of the Wall House on September 26th, after being shut down during the pandemic. It included new exhibits and updated exhibits. The building and grounds were cleaned up and looked great. A descendent of Tobias Leech also visited Wall House.
 - b. Twinning Committee – No September Meeting
 - c. Economic Development Task Force Meeting – September 21, 2021
Ms. Rappoport praised the EDTF on the Business Spotlight videos on the Township's YouTube channel and their efforts to reorganize the Business District Liaison program.
 - d. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Committee Meeting – No September Meeting
 - e. Civil Rights Task Force Meeting – No September Meeting

Ms. Rappoport asked that the minutes listed on the Public Affairs Committee agenda be attached to the agenda like other committee meetings on other agendas.

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

3. Receipt of Staff Meeting Minutes – September 8, 2021 and September 15, 2021

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

4. Report from Cynthia Blackwood, Restoration Manager, on Friends of High School Park (FSHP)

Ms. Blackwood provided an update on the projects being managed by FHSP, including the meadow, raingarden, grant applications, maintenance by the parks department, and other initiatives being pursued by FHSP. Ms. Blackwoods's report is attached.

FHSP will host Barktoberfest, a dog costume parade at 3:45 p.m. on Halloween at the park.

Upon motion of Ms. Rappoport, the Committee unanimously received the report from the Friends of High School Park.

5. New Business

- a. Tookany/Tacony-Frankford (TTF) – Ms. Rappoport said she attended the TTF Watershed Stakeholders Meeting and noted a project at Keneseth Israel that will help improve water quality and reduce road surface flooding. TTF is also doing a lot of work upstream of the Township, which should provide some benefit to the Township. In addition, they are working to increase funding support from other municipal partners in the watershed and getting grant money for other infrastructure projects.

TTF recognized John Raisch, member of the Township’s Environmental Advisory Council for his work on trails and sustainable yard/gardening efforts.

- b. Columbus Day/Indigenous People’s Day – Ms. Rappoport asked the Committee for their thoughts on revising the Township’s calendar to replace Columbus Day with Indigenous People’s Day. Mr. Areman said he agrees that indigenous people should be recognized and noted that Cheltenham sits on land formerly inhabited by the Lenni/Lenape people. He also wanted to recognize the contributions of Italian Americans to our community and country, which is also one thing that Columbus Day also recognizes. Mr. Norris said we could recognize it as both days since the President of the United States recognized both holidays by proclamation this year. Mr. Holland said the Township should not recognize Christopher Columbus specifically because of the not so nice things he did; Columbus Day should become Indigenous People’s Day and Italian Americans are recognized with Italian Americans month in October.

Upon motion of Mr. Areman, the Committee unanimously agreed to replace Columbus Day with Indigenous People’s Day and celebrate Italian-American Month with a proclamation.

6. Old Business

- a. Election Day – Ms. Rappoport noted that the polling places Rowland and La Mott Community Centers will be open for Election Day on November 2, 2021. The Drop Box for mail in ballots outside of the Tax Office will be available starting Saturday, October 16th.

Mr. Zygmund-Felt noted that Elkins Park Middle School will continue to serve as a consolidated polling place for three locations in the sixth ward: Elkins Park Middle School, Samuel Green House (6-2) and Kol Ami (6-1).

- b. Army Corps / DEP Project / SEPTA Flood Control Projects – Ms. Rappoport asked for an update on the SEPTA projects. Mr. Zienkowski said staff has been reaching out to SEPTA through various channels and has not received a response. He said he would like to have an Executive Session to discuss the acquisition of the properties required for the DEP Flood Control Project in the near future.
- c. Ms. Rappoport asked for an update on the status of the Street Light and Traffic Signal Superintendent’s bucket truck, since it was out of operation. Jim Slade, the Township’s Fleet Superintendent, said it was sent out for repair Monday and should be back by Wednesday next week.

7. Announcements

- a. Mr. Areman said the newest installment of the Arcadia Public Art Project, *Let Us Show You Around*, will open on October 20th. The audio walking tour will kick off at 3:45 p.m. at the Glenside Train Station. If you cannot attend this event, you can enjoy at your leisure by using your cell phone to capture the QR Code on the website or the sign at the train station to start your tour. It takes about 40 minutes.
- b. Ms. Rappoport said that Judith Gratz will host the final Environmental Tour sponsored by TFF this season on Saturday, October 16th from 10:30 a.m. to noon at Rock Lane Park. The tour will discuss identification of trees from their barks and leaves.

- c. Ms. Rappoport announced that time is winding down to complete the community survey for the Township's Comprehensive Plan. The survey can be found on the Township's website, accessed via QR Code via flyers around the community, or you can get hard copies at the Township Libraries or Township Building.
 - d. To follow up on the previous meeting, Mr. Zienkowski reported that the Fire Marshal visited SoFive and determined that the lights do seem too bright and will bring a light meter to the site; the security person was sitting in their car on site, but got out to move people along when he saw Township personnel arrive on site; Township Police Officers will assist with the exiting of patrons from the site at 10 p.m. They will continue to follow up on this issue until it is resolved.
8. Citizens' Forum – None.
 9. There being no further business, upon motion of Ms. Rappoport, the Committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 p.m.



Robert Zienkowski
Township Manager

Per Alyson Elliott, Assistant Township Manager