

Recreation Commission
City of Lambertville
Meeting Minutes – July 10th, 2019

- *Call to order and statement of compliance with Open Public Meeting Acts : 8:00pm*
- *Roll Call:*
 - Present: Megan, Mary Anne, Scott C., Scott H., Jim T., Zach & John
- *Pledge of Allegiance*
- *Approval of June 2019 Minutes - **Approved***

Old Business:

LPS Teaching Garden – Chelsea Gardner

- Reached out to Lambertville Education Foundation for grant
- Lowes to potentially donate materials

Jamie Fox Mary Sheridan Park Memorial

***Introduction given by Rick Buscavage regarding \$25,000 gift by estate of Jamie Fox to the benefit of Mary Sheridan Park:** Friends of Mary Sheridan Park (FoMSP) could not accept funds directly as no 501C3 or formalized organization has been established to legal accept transfer. Lambertville Recreation Commission was in agreement to accept the gift on behalf of the Jamie Fox Estate with the intention of the gift to benefit the upkeep and development of Mary Sheridan Park.

***Wishes of Jamie Fox –** Jamie who had lived on Lincoln Ave had always loved and held Mary Sheridan Park as a special place in his heart. Jamie had always believed the park to have been an underfunded and underutilized asset to Lambertville.

One of the noted stipulations by Jamie Fox Estate is that no gift related funds are to be used to repair or replace the existing gazebo. Rick Buscavage who was designated in Jamie Fox's will to oversee how the bequest is used has suggested a memorial statue/sculpture which had originally been suggested by the Fox family. In addition, Rick suggested the development of a Master Plan that can be used to identify key items for the park, with input from FoMSP.

Additional Public Comments from members of Friends of Mary Sheridan Park:

Deborah Galen: Was worried about the grant for jail by historic society could potentially delay initiatives specifically mentioning 3 trees that might need to be removed, due to the risk posed on either pedestrians or powerlines

Lou Toboz: 25 years back on park. Open to master plan. FoMSP to maintain park. Only passive park in Lambertville.

Bob Croft: Suggested reaching out to nurseries to see if obtaining plants at cost to save money.

Heather Martin: Presented an original master plan she had completed for the park. Suggested updating existing plan to help identify initiatives. Suggest mural on side of building and grants offered for such public art works programs.

Karen Taylor Ogdren: Member of FoMSP. Suggest keeping in mind expanding the planting beds as volunteerism is low weeding the expanded beds could be quite onerous given the limited resources available.

Mary-Anne Ransome : Suggest maintenance and upkeep to current park plantings, benches, bricks and monument maintenance. Also noted limitation of space.

Megan Ruf Concluded: **If additional funds are needed for the park beyond the Fox bequest, the** Rec commission will look into grants. Mentioned insurance liabilities related to tree removal as part of master planning initiatives. FoMSP to designate one or two representatives to continue discussion and coordinate with Mary Anne Borge and Rick Buscavage.

Rec Commission – Summer Program

- Average enrollment estimated to 25 children a day
- Plans in process to create new programming and marketing for 2020

Community Planting/Work Day

- Cavallo Park – Sept 21th – Tentative
- Cherry Street Park – Oct 12th - Tentative

New Business:

- Facility Use:
 - Great Big Day – July 12th 2019 – Ely Park - Approved
- City Wildlife Habitat
 - Certify Cavallo & MSP - Approved
 - Purchase signage – Mary Anne to review Cost
 - Possible event at Cherry Street Park on Community Planting Day
Tentative Date

- Emerald Ash Borer Tree Tagging - Ely Park & Lambertville Nature Trail
 - Jim T. to look into cost to tag and identify Ash trees in park behind Ely Park

- Summer Lunch Program
 - Program successfully funded approx. – 20 lunches a day for children& families in need.
 - Program to be rolled over into “Weekend Backpack” initiative.

- *Public Comments:*
 - No additional public comments recorded

- *Meeting Adjourned: 9:41pm*