

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MERION

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

**Wednesday, April 10, 2024
8:25 PM (Approximately)**

Chairperson: Rick Churchill
Vice Chairperson: Maggie Harper Epstein, Louis Rossman

AGENDA

1. **RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZATION OF GRANT APPLICATION FOR CREATION OF A READING GARDEN AT PENN WYNNE LIBRARY**



AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

ITEM: RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZATION OF GRANT APPLICATION FOR CREATION OF A READING GARDEN AT PENN WYNNE LIBRARY

Consider for recommendation to the Board of Commissioners adoption of a resolution authorizing the Township to submit a grant application in the amount of \$141,370 to the PA DCNR Community Conservation Partnership Program (C2P2) Grant to partially fund the creation of a reading garden at Penn Wynne Library.

PUBLIC COMMENT

ATTACHMENTS:

Description	Type
<input type="checkbox"/> Issue Briefing - Penn Wynne Library Reading Gardent Grant Application	Issue Briefing
<input type="checkbox"/> Resolution - PW Library Reading Garden Grant	Resolution
<input type="checkbox"/> Support Letters - PW Library Reading Garden Grant	Backup Material

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MERION

Library Committee

Issue Briefing

Topic: Submission of a PA DCNR Community Conservation Partnership Program (C2P2) Grant for the Penn Wynne Library Reading Garden Project

Prepared By: Lynn Williamson, Director of Libraries
Brandon Ford, Assistant Township Manager

Date: April 2, 2024

I. Action To Be Considered By The Board:

Adopt a resolution authorizing the Township to submit a grant application in the amount of \$141,370 to the PA DCNR Community Conservation Partnership Program (C2P2) Grant to partially fund the creation of a reading garden at Penn Wynne Library.

II. Why This Issue Requires Board Consideration:

The grant regulations state that the application must be submitted by the municipality that supports the library and include a resolution.

III. Current Policy Or Practice (If Applicable):

The Township owns and maintains the Ardmore, Bala Cynwyd, Belmont, Ludington, and Penn Wynne Libraries. Improvements to these libraries, including the Township-owned properties in which they are situated, are typically financed through the Capital Budgeting Process. There are currently no funds budgeted for the proposed Penn Wynne Library Reading Garden, but the request includes no financial commitment from the Township.

IV. Other Relevant Background Information:

In early 2022, the Penn Wynne Library Association (PWLA) came up with a vision to create a reading garden. Their goal was to provide a beautiful and safe outdoor space where generations could interact, socialize, and learn. Through the creation of an outdoor space surrounding the Library, the reading garden would enhance the library experience for all patrons by providing an outdoor space for reading, relaxing, reflecting, learning, socializing, and communing with nature. The reading garden would also allow the library to expand its programming space without increasing its interior

physical space as well as offer additional opportunities for more varied physical activity programs, such as yoga.

PWLA partnered with SALT Design Studio to develop a concept plan for the reading garden that was later used to secure \$50,000 from the Township's American Rescue Plan (ARP) Non-Profit Vitality Grant Program this past fall. Those funds will be utilized to finalize the design for the reading garden, development bid/construction documents, and purchase a few of the furnishings planned for the garden.

The reading garden project is estimated to cost \$282,810. PWLA has secured approximately 50% of the total cost through a \$100,000 grant from PA State Senator Cappelletti's Office, \$15,730 in private donations, and a commitment of up to \$25,710 from PWLA themselves for the project. The grant application to the PA DCNR C2P2 Grant would ask for \$141,370, which represents the remaining 50% needed, from the State to finance the project. No Township funds are being requested for the construction portion of this project.

Given that this grant program is only eligible to municipalities, PWLA requests that the Board of Commissioners adopt a resolution authorizing the Township to submit an application for the Penn Wynne Library Reading Garden on behalf of the PWLA to the PA DCNR C2P2 grant. The preliminary concept design and budget developed by PWLA and the required resolution is included with this issue briefing.

V. Impact On Township Finances:

The project will have no immediate financial impact as the Township will simply act as the fiscal agent for the grant. Once the project is complete, there may be future grounds maintenance costs incurred by the Township due to the anticipated increase in use of the outdoor areas surrounding the Library.

VI. Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the Board of Commissioners adopt the Resolution authorizing submission of a PA DCNR Community Conservation Partnership Program Grant for the Penn Wynne Library' Reading Garden Project.

April 2, 2024

To Lower Merion Board of Commissioners:

Penn Wynne Library is seeking your authorization to pass the attached resolution and authorize submission to the DCNR C2P2 program in an effort to further secure funds to develop the Penn Wynne Library Community Reading Garden.

The Lower Merion Library System Board strongly supports the development of the Penn Wynne Library Community Reading Garden. This community reading garden would enhance the library experience for all patrons by providing an outdoor space for reading, relaxing, reflecting, learning, socializing, and would also allow the library to expand its programming space without increasing its interior physical space.

We thank you for your consideration of this very important project.

Sincerely,

Lower Merion Library System Board of Directors



Anna Durbin
President, At-Large Member



Rick Churchill
Vice-President, Township Commissioner

March 14, 2024

To Lower Merion Board of Commissioners:

Penn Wynne Library is seeking your authorization to pass the attached resolution and authorize submission to the DCNR C2P2 program, in an effort to further secure funds to develop the Penn Wynne Library Community Reading Garden.

The Penn Wynne Library Association strongly supports the development of the Penn Wynne Library Community Reading Garden. This community reading garden would enhance the library experience for all patrons by providing an outdoor space for reading, relaxing, reflecting, learning, socializing, and would also allow the library to expand its programming space without increasing its interior physical space.

We thank you for your consideration of this very important project.

Sincerely,

Penn Wynne Library Association Board Members

Julie Baxter, Co-President

Matt Pushinsky, Co-President

Josiah Boyer, Co-Treasurer

Christin Kim, Co-Treasurer

Christina Miller-Smith, Recording Secretary

Seth Oltman, Corresponding Secretary

Elisa Ludwig, LMLS Liaison

Kate Cronin, LMLS Liaison Alternate

Jeremy Bub

Claudine Cohick

Justin Davis

Vicky Dougherty

Ivy Harris

Elaine Johnson

Snehal Kadam

Matt Nixon

Katie Pultman

Ray Solis