

EAST WHITELAND TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION
June 25, 2019
MEETING MINUTES – 3 pages

1. Call to Order – 7:00pm
 - a. **Board in Attendance:** Barbara-Ann Thav, Carol Rapp, Kristin Thomas **Staff in Attendance:** Steve Brown **Supervisors in Attendance:** None
 - b. **Board Unable to Attend:** Valeri Bocclair, Gail Keyes, Chuck Barbera, Tim Phelps
 - c. **Approval of the April 23, 2019 meeting minutes. (No minutes from May 2019 to approve as meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather.):** Minutes approval delayed to next month’s meeting and until we have a quorum.

2. Old Business:
 - a. **Update from recent Board of Supervisors’ Meeting relating to Parks & Rec:**
Supervisors approved at their June 2019 meeting the installation of a gaga ball pit at Battle of the Clouds park. The Township will be going back out to bid on resurfacing of the tennis courts at Valley Creek Park and the basketball court at Down East Park due to low number of bids received.
 - b. **Update from the May 2019 joint meeting with Planning & Parks & Rec regarding the Pedestrian and bicycle standards - Subdivision and Land Development**
Ordinance: Parks & Rec board asked what the status was of seeing an updated map reflecting the input gathered at the above-mentioned meeting as there has been no follow up since the joint meeting. Steve Brown to connect with Zach Barner (Planning) for follow up information.
 - c. **Update from Open Space Committee regarding Places of the Heart open house & plan development:** No update provided as there wasn’t anyone from Open Space present. Parks & Rec asked that the Open Space Committee meetings be put up on the Agenda Center as they are not currently listed.
 - d. **Bacton Hill Park** – contract status & next steps: Parks & Rec board have been asking about what occurs next with Natural Lands. For example, we had expected that they would work with Mom’s Club to sort out how their help fundraising for the all abilities playground could be incorporated into the plan. Steve Brown confirmed that Natural Lands is not under contract for further design work, but that they still have some deliverables due under their current contract such as maps, site analysis, summary of meetings & comments, etc. Barbara-Ann Thav asked that the subcommittee reconvene their meetings to review. Steve Brown shared that we should hear sometime in the Fall

regarding receipt of the grant we applied to for the park phase one. Steve Brown will send Barbara-Ann Thav the final Natural Lands contract.

- e. **Valley Creek Park –Patriot’s Path connection from Atwater – next steps:** Steve Brown shared a new design showing the path connecting through the wood line utilizing the current foot path there. This is less intrusive to the park design and trees than the previous southern design after all. We will still need a quote for the path being either 6’ or 8’ wide. Steve Brown and Barbara-Ann Thav will email the rest of Parks & Rec to share the plan for their comments on the new design and suggested width of the path so that it can be brought forth to the Supervisors at their July meeting for their approval. Those present felt this new design was night and day better than previous designs.
- f. **Summer Camp – update on enrollment and first few days of camp:** We have 104 campers registered this year. Parents are telling us that they like the 4 weeks versus 5 weeks as it gives them time for their own family vacations and other activities before school starts. There is another camp onsite at Charlestown Elementary with our camp.
- g. **Bryn Erin & Sidley/Mill to Chester Valley Trail – update:** We do have Haim Saloman’s approval to access their property for the Bryn Erin connection. The contract from DVRPC is still due the Township. Regarding Sidley/Mill connection, we have the support of St. Gobain and getting support from 2 other property owners about using their paths. Steve Brown to confirm the status of the engineering grant.
- h. **Down East Park – update:** Resident Tim Bitto presented the draft plan of their survey to neighbors for Parks & Rec to comment on. Steve Brown will share this out to all of Parks & Rec who were not in attendance so that we can get back to Tim Bitto with any final suggestions. Only concerns Tim Bitto has heard from neighbors are not to have lights at the park. The Bitto’s have raised approximately \$30k so far. Tim Bitto introduced us to William Lavin of Where Angels Play Foundation (whereangelsplayfoundation.org) who they would like to partner with to update the Down East park in honor of their daughter. Mr. Lavin presented a bit about the work they have done with other nationally-recognized situations such as Sandy Hook and MIT/Boston. Barbara-Ann Thav asked Mr. Lavin to provide a more detailed PowerPoint presentation on how this would work/how they work with municipalities so that she could share with the other Parks & Rec board members who were not present at the meeting.

- i. **Policy for donations, including labor donations:** We had a brief discussion about this, but we need more Park & Rec board members in attendance to discuss. Barbara-Ann Thav suggested this be designed more like a program than just a policy.
 - j. **Little Lending Library at Battle of the Clouds:** Parks & Rec board are wondering what the status is of this Girl Scout project as it was to have been launched in the Spring. Barbara-Ann Thav shared that the girl scout did not reach out to the Children's Librarian at Malvern Public Library whose contact information she had shared. Steve Brown has not heard from the girl scout and will follow back with her on status of her project.
3. New Business:
 - a. **Social Media Policy training:** More information will be coming out from the Township about this. Barbara-Ann Thav asked that we all are compliant to this once it is communicated. Kristin Thomas asked what is the status of the Townships Facebook page usage as there are lost opportunities to communicate this way without it being utilized.
 - b. **Park Signs:** Signs are rotting and need fixing at Bacton Hill Park and Ecology Park. Parks & Rec board would like to put a vinyl banner over the current sign at Bacton Hill Park saying Coming Soon with the name of the park. Ecology Park needs to be fixed. General consensus is that the park sign graphic is out dated looking.
 - c. **Request to stripe Valley Creek tennis courts for pickle ball:** Steve Brown shared that bids are already out for this project. Parks & Rec board discussed that pickle ball nets are lower and striping causes confusion for tennis players. This will need longer term discussion given this and the fact that our Valley Creek Tennis courts are heavily used by tennis players. There are plans to put pickle ball courts in the new Bacton Hill Park and they are currently available at the Greater Valley Community Organization (GVCO) facility.
4. **Public Comment:** Resident Suzanne Clancy attended the meeting to ask if the Morstein/Hershey Mill Road area could have a bike lane or shoulder for more safety for bikers, walkers and runners there. Steve Brown will address this concern with Bill from Public Works.
5. **Meeting Adjournment** - Next meeting on Tuesday, July 23, 2019 –7pm start time.

Meeting minutes compiled by Barbara-Ann Thav
Minutes approved at the 7.23.19 Parks & Rec Board Meeting