

EAST WHITELAND TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION
September 24, 2019
MEETING MINUTES – 3 Pages

1. Call to Order – 7:00pm
 - a. **Board in Attendance:** Barbara-Ann Thav, Kristin Thomas, Gail Keyes, Carol Rapp, Tim Phelps, Chuck Barbera **Staff in Attendance:** Steve Brown **Supervisors in Attendance:** none
 - b. **Board Unable to Attend:** Valeri Bocclair
 - c. **Approval of the August 27, 2019 meeting minutes:** Gail Keyes motioned. All approved.
2. Old Business:
 - a. **Housekeeping (10 minutes):**
 - i. Barbara-Ann Thav shared that our 12/3/19 meeting falls on the same night as the Open Space meeting. Steve Brown to find out if Open Space is still meeting that night. Other options is that Parks & Rec attends the Open Space meeting on the same night and starts their board meeting earlier before the Open Space meeting starts. Barbara-Ann Thav shared that Valeri Bocclair will not be continuing on the Parks & Rec board after the new year, and that the Township will want to know others' plans, including officer appointments, for their early January reorganization meeting.
 - b. **Update on Projects (20 minutes):**
 - i. The Township received the grant for the survey and engineering, \$250,000 to be matched by the Township, for the Sidley/Mill to Chester Valley Trail connection. We are still waiting to hear about the CMAQ (Congestion, Mitigation, Air Quality) monies for the construction portion of the project (approximately \$2M).
 - ii. The Township has asked Workspace to fund a connector that eliminates the hillside stairs at Valley Creek Park by building a trail across the top of the park. This would connect to an existing path along the property line and to the future Patriot's Path connector from Atwater into Valley Creek Park. Steve Brown has been working with both Workspace and Atwater on the timing of this work so as not to impact the Friends of the Summer Stage concert series which would start in June 2020 just after school closes. Steve Brown indicates that Workspace is open to the design provided by Arrow, the Township's engineering firm. Atwater will still owe the Township rec fees once the Patriot's Path is completed.

- iii. Chuck Barbera from the Down East Park sub-committee presented a brief to the Supervisors at their recent meeting regarding the plans for a new playground honoring Miss Bitto at the park. They approved the brief. Where Angels Play, who will construct the new playground, plan to meet with the Supervisors at their November meeting to further discuss and present their proposal. They are starting to draft the design. New information from Where Angels Play indicates that the Township may be responsible for site preparation costs. The total project costs could be \$80-\$120k. This could also be provided through fund raising that Where Angels Play would drive. The Parks & Rec board asked who is liable in the construction phase and if equipment warranties transfer to the Township post construction? These are topics that will need to be defined in detail.
 - iv. Plans to clear and grade for the Bryn Erin connection to Chester Valley Trail should occur in October once the leaves are off the trees. Paving and planting would be done in Spring 2020. Haim Salomon has agreed to the location.
 - v. The State Department of Agriculture will be visiting Ecology Park to assess, study, and possibly treat the area for Spotted Lantern Fly. Their focus will be on the Tree of Heaven trees that are in the park.
 - vi. Parks & Rec board is asking for a new, temporary sign/banner announcing the new Bacton Hill park to cover the old broken sign that is there now on Swedesford Road. Steve Brown to work on this.
- c. **2020 Budget Planning, including Parks & Rec fee schedule** (1 hour):
- i. Steve Brown to get more information on the Township's participation with Exton Community Day. We will budget something for a community day in 2020. Steve Brown to reach out to West Whiteland to find out more about their community day and see about inviting them to our October meeting to discuss.
 - ii. Steve Brown shared that park maintenance comes out of Bill Steele's public works budget for the Township.
 - iii. Parks & Rec asked that we add a line item to the 2020 budget forecast for association membership and training for the board.
 - iv. Steve Brown to follow up with Rick Trailles from Natural Lands regarding any 2020 budget carry over for Bacton Hill Park.
 - v. Tim Phelps proposes adding a budget item to improve the walkability from the top parking lot to the playground at Valley Creek Park. This would be a safety improvement.

- vi. We will defer the Parks & Rec fee schedule discussion until our October 2019 to give time for Steve Brown to prepare.
 - vii. As of our September meeting, the Township has not received a budget request from Friends of the Summer Stage. The Parks & Rec board asks that we plan for this funding. Tim Phelps offered to connect with Matt McGuire regarding Friends of the Summer Stage plans for 2020.
3. **New Business:** (20 minutes):
 - a. Tim Phelps shared that TMAC will host a moonlight bike ride on Friday, October 11 at the Brandywine Airport.
 4. **Public Comment:** (10 minutes): no public in attendance.
 5. **Meeting Adjournment** - Next meeting on Tuesday, October 22, 2019 –7pm start time.

Meeting minutes compiled by Kristin Thomas and Barbara-Ann Thav
Minutes approved at the 10/22/19 Parks & Recreation Board Meeting