

EAST WHITELAND TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION
March 26, 2019
MEETING MINUTES – 2 PAGES

1. Call to Order – 7:00pm
 - a. **Board in Attendance:** Barbara-Ann Thav, Valeri Bocclair, Chuck Barbera, Gail Keyes, Carol Rapp, Kristen Thomas (arrived after meeting started)
 - b. **Staff in Attendance:** Steve Brown
 - c. **Supervisors in Attendance:** Scott Lambert
 - d. **Board Unable to Attend:** Tim Phelps
 - e. **Approval of the February 26, 2019 meeting minutes:** Motion to approve minutes was accepted.

2. **Bacton Hill Park Master Plan Process: Presentation of Conceptual Master Plan for Public Input.** Rick Trailes, Natural Lands, to present (7pm-8pm): Rick Trailes and Kate Robin from Natural Lands were present. Rick provided an update. Work is being done to put together our submission for the DCNR grant. They also spoke with Judy Thomas from Chester County Open Space. There are no wetlands on Bacton Hill Park but it is wet down by the Chester Valley Trail. We received approximately 25 additional responses to the Natural Lands survey via the EWT website. Rick is looking into any historical significance of the area such as the details surrounding a railroad there. The goal is to make the paved trail in the park ADA compliant. Rick showed a preliminary concept plan showing a 5-acre developed area and a 12-acre natural area. The preliminary plan shows a 75-space parking lot. (For reference, Valley Creek Park has a 115-space parking lot). It also showed 8 pickle ball courts, 2-3 pavilions (one could become a bathroom), 2 basketball courts, moveable chairs, adult fitness area near a playground using Compan playground equipment, & adult swings. Keith from GVCO shared that they have 4 indoor pickleball courts. Rick led the residents in attendance through his presentation and took input on the preliminary plan via a written questionnaire. Questions/comments from the audience were around: insurance, maintenance, quantity of pickle ball courts, exploring creative play and not just a playground, water feature, putting the developed park area away from the industrial area and provide fencing around all the industrial area. Kristen from Parks & Rec shared that Ashbridge Park by Rosemont Train Station has this type of free play equipment.

3. Old Business:
 - a. **Update from GVCO (Keith Walsh):** GVCO has purchased the grounds and raised \$150k since the settlement. They are securing financing and the construction company. Working with Chester County Economic development for tax-free monies. 50,000 square foot indoors. Surrey Services will provide their senior programming. GVCO is for the local community more so than the larger region.
 - b. **Valley Creek Park –Patriot’s Path connection from Atwater:** The walkthrough to explore options for the path will be on Thursday, 4/11/19 at 12:30pm. Steve has updated the Board of Supervisors with the northern path correction. He will also invite Bill Steele from Public Works to the walkthrough.
 - c. **Update on Summer Camp:** Steve provided an update that as of the Friday before our meeting, there were 50 children enrolled and 4-5 others committing. This is ahead of last year’s enrollment at this time. Michelle, Camp Director, is interviewing counselors next week. Resident Mike Bell who was in attendance offered that he is a professor in the early education at West Chester University and may have student teachers who would be a source for counselors. We will connect him to Michelle.

- d. **Update on other trail projects:** Steve provide updates. St. Gobain path – there are some grant opportunities. McMahon & Associates still working on this. Bryn Erin connection to CVC – Steve met twice with Adam Levine of Haym Salomon as some of the path is on their property. The surveyor is moving ahead with putting stakes where the path would be. Steve will get final go ahead from Adam and start next week. Steve is exploring a \$100k grant from a private foundation for this work.
 - e. **Update from Open Space Committee:** Chuck and Scott provided an update. This new group has been meeting the 1st Tuesday of every month at 7pm at the Township building. Rick Trailes from Natural Lands is the consultant working with this group also. They will have a public meeting seeking community input on May 7 at 7pm at Covenant Presbyterian Church. At their March 2019 meeting, the BOS approved doing a letter to go after grants to help fund purchase of open space. DCNR has grants to help fund acquisition with 90% coming from the grant and 10% coming from the township.
 - f. **Update from March 2019 Board of Supervisors' Meeting relating to Parks & Rec:** The BOS approved the \$10k contribution to Friends of the Summer Stage. Steve to invite Matt McGuire to our April meeting for an update on the 2019 summer concerts. Scott asked if there was to be a beer garden again as this would need to come up before the BOS for approval once again.
4. New Business:
- a. **Pedestrian and bicycle standards - Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance:** This will be discussed at our April meeting. There will be a possible workshop with the Planning Commission & Parks & Rec to discuss this further.
 - b. **Bacton Hill Park DCNR grant application - letters of support:** The Parks & Rec board motioned to approve a letter of support on the project. The DCNR grant is due on April 10. Steve will inquire with Rick about how he wants Parks & Rec comments to the preliminary plan.
 - c. **Valley Creek Park - disc golf proposal:** The person who approached the Township about this was not present. The Parks & Rec board asked Steve if it was confirmed that they were a resident. It was uncertain. Example of disc golf may be found at the French Creek State Park.
5. **Public Comment:** None other than during the Bacton Hill Park presentation
6. **Meeting Adjournment** - Next meeting on Tuesday, April 23, 2019 –7pm start time.

Minutes compiled by Barbara-Ann Thav
Minutes approved at 4/23/19 Parks & Rec board meeting