

# EAST WHITELAND TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION

March 27, 2018

## MEETING MINUTES - APPROVED

1. Call to Order – 7:00pm: Board members in attendance: Barbara-Ann Thav, Chuck Barbera, Gail Keyes, Tim Phelps, Valeri Boclair. Township staff in attendance: Steve Brown. Board members not in attendance: Matt McGuire and Kristin Thomas.
2. Approval of the February 27, 2018 meeting minutes – Motion to approve the minutes with correction to implement pavilion fee increases as soon as possible this year was accepted.
3. Discussions:
  - a. GVCO Report – Keith Walsh (this is a standing slot for Keith if in attendance) – Keith was not in attendance.
4. Public Comment: Residents in attendance were: Martin Lutz, Bryan Brook, and Padmaja Thatikonda. Martin Lutz recommended that Parks & Rec be represented at the upcoming Planning Commission meeting where the Flat Road subdivision was being discussed since this area is identified as a trail connector. Update: Barbara-Ann Thav did attend this Planning Commission meeting. He also shared that there is a neighbor meeting at the Desmond Hotel on April 16, 2018 to discuss some sort of development that may be planned at the driving range. Steve Brown indicated that the Township had not been invited to that event. Padmaja Thatikonda has been booking pavilions at Valley Creek Park for sizeable group events for Chester County Families and was asking if there is a park with more parking. Because there is not, we shared with her what Friends of the Summer Stage does with extra parking working through Workspace to use the parking

lots up in the back of the park. Tim Phelps offered to share with Padmaja the contact at Workspace that she would need to contact. She has another event scheduled at the park in the afternoon of April 14.

5. Old Business:

- a. Open Space & Trails Plan RFP for VPP grant – open space subcommittee to meet with Steve Brown independent of Parks & Rec board – Tim Phelps reiterated the goal of this plan: a) what does EWT need for open space given our size and growth, b) how might it connect, c) how does the township pay for acquiring open space (possible tax referendum to citizens). Tim stated we have \$25K approved for the study and are also applying for a VPP grant.
- b. Battle of the Clouds play equipment replacement – Valeri Bocclair, Gail Keyes and Kristin Thomas are the subcommittee to look into this and discuss with Steve Brown who can give direction on budget. We discussed that three ideas come to our April meeting so we can narrow it down to a recommendation to get approval from the supervisors in May. Tim Phelps proposed and all agreed that the subcommittee can make the recommendation and it should follow the color selections we selected as a group in 2017 for the Valley Creek Park play structure.
- c. Spring Mill Farm/Chester Valley Trail connector – discuss project – Steve Brown proposed that we use EWT contractor, McMahon, to do the research since the Supervisors approved our request for a design consultant at their March meeting. He will explore the idea to integrate using the wood-chipped path at St. Gobain. Guest, Marty Lutz, reminded the board that Penn Dot pledged to widen the guard rail on Sidley Road across from the fire house once the township had a trail

connection from these neighborhoods. Steve to share this with McMahon.

Motion to use McMahon accepted. Update: At their April 2018 meeting, the Supervisors approved the proposal from McMahon to research these options.

d. Bacton Hill Park (Swanenburg Property)

- i. Final update on contest to rename park – thanks to everyone who participated in this project. Bacton Hill Park won, with Woodyard Park a close second.
- ii. Update on Phase 1 bidding status – We were not able to go in front of the supervisors on this topic at their March 2018 meeting just yet as Arrow, the EWT civil engineering contractor, still needs to secure the NPDES permit for storm water management. The project is continuing to move forward.
- iii. Update from February 2018 BOS meeting on design of future use phases – the supervisors at their March 2018 meeting did not approve our request to move forward with a designer to assist us with this process. Gail Keys to schedule a f/u meeting with a subcommittee prior to our April 2018 board meeting to brainstorm on ideas and overall project plan. The subcommittee to include: Gail Keys, Matt McGuire, Kristin Thomas, Barbara-Ann Thav, & Valeri Boclair.
- iv. Continue discussion on Mom’s Club Proposal for all access playground – once we have a full-blown picture of future use of this park, we will be able to firm up ideas with the Mom’s Club on the all access playground.

- e. Date to implement new fees for Pavilion rental – as we were not able to get this topic in front of the supervisors for their approval in March 2018, we will bring forth in April 2018. Update: our recommendations for moderate increase were approved by the supervisors at their April 2018 meeting. New fees to be implemented immediately.
  - f. Summer Camp – update on registration – Topic pushed to April meeting agenda.
6. New Business:
- a. Bryn Erin trail connector to Chester Valley Trail – This will be reviewed in overall McMahon project assessing connections from Sidley area.
  - b. New Topic: 2018 Participation in GoWilma program – Motion to approve \$1500 for EWT to have two locations in the GoWilma program. Locations to be in Valley Creek Park & Ecology Park. <http://www.willistown.pa.us/gowilma>
  - c. New Topic: Community Involvement – Chuck Barbera expressed an interest in getting community organizations more involved as possible donors. We shared a bit of the history of how Friends of the Summer Stage was formed and what it entails. Chuck and Valeri Boclair to form a sub-committee to brainstorm on options.
7. Meeting Adjournment - Next meeting on Tuesday, April 24, 2018 – Meeting adjourned at 9pm.

Minutes compiled by Barbara-Ann Thav  
Minutes approved at 4/24/18 Parks & Rec meeting