

EAST WHITELAND TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION

April 23, 2019

MEETING MINUTES – 4 pages

1. Call to Order – 7:00pm
 - a. Board in Attendance: Barbara-Ann Thav, Carol Rapp, Gail Keyes, Kristin Thomas, Tim Phelps, Chuck Barbera, Valeri Bocclair
 - b. Staff in Attendance: Steve Brown
 - c. Supervisors in Attendance: Scott Lambert
 - d. Board Unable to Attend: None
 - e. Approval of the March 26, 2019 meeting minutes – Motion to approve minutes was approved.
2. Old Business:
 - a. Update from April 2019 Board of Supervisors' Meeting relating to Parks & Rec
 - i. Earth Day clean up
 - ii. May 7th Places of the Heart open house
 - iii. Announced money for Balderston/Spring Ridge preserve project
 - iv. Donations to People's Light and GVCO
 - v. Discussed streetscape, trail, etc plan
 - vi. Approved DCNR grant acquisition plan for Bacton Hill Park
 - vii. Approved Social Media policy
 - b. Bacton Hill Park – next steps
 - i. Request for DCNR grant was submitted on April 10th
 - ii. Ball is in the court of Natural Lands to acquire the grants and make revisions to this plan
 - iii. Phase 1 (\$650,000): driveway, parking lot, storm water mgmt., mowed trails, all abilities, eight park benches, 1 pavilion, and landscaping. All else is Phase 2.
 - iv. Parks & Rec would like Natural Lands to provide a summary of the feedback cards collected during the meeting and to take us through public communications and discussions for Phase 2 planning. Steve Brown will look at the contract to see how much longer Natural Lands can work with us per our agreement.
 - c. Valley Creek Park –Patriot's Path connection from Atwater – next steps
 - i. A walkthrough at the park was held and it was decided the south side along the tree line would be the option to take. Some Parks & Rec members that attended

felt the decision had already been made prior to the walkthrough. The path may tuck into the wood line on this side. Still open if it will be 6 foot or 8 foot wide.

- ii. The developer is funding this project and according to Steve Brown should take 2-3 weeks to produce a plan. Steve will follow up with the developer on the status.
- d. Summer Camp – update on enrollment, counselors, advertising
- i. As of last Friday, we had 74 campers registered. Counselors are applying and we likely have enough to hire. Michelle, camp director, is conducting 3 nights of interviews. Max that we can accept into camp is 120 kids.
- e. Bryn Erin & Sidley/Mill to Chester Valley Trail – update
- i. Bryn Erin: we received a \$120,000 grant for the connection. Work will begin this year once we receive the final approval from the cemetery, Haim Salomon.
 - ii. Sidley/Mill: Now that St. Gobain is on board let's secure the easements on their property sooner rather than later. McMahon & Associates will do to the advanced preliminary engineering for easements at St. Gobain. We'll need another \$35,000 from the board to add to the approved \$90,000 to move forward with preparation of the engineering plan. Steve Brown will ask for additional funding at the May supervisors' meeting.
 - iii. We will need more grants to build this trail connection. Natasha Manbeck from McMahon & Associates is helping us identify which ones to go after. There are two coming up (Greenway Trails and CMAC) by the end of May and June. Steve Brown will also ask Natasha Manbeck about the Multimodal grant, because it's connecting to Saint Gobain as a commuting option.
- f. Update from Open Space Committee
- i. Places of the Heart community meeting is on May 7th. There are 35 RSVPs to date.
- g. Policy for donations
- i. Steve Brown started to draft a policy to dedicate trees and benches. Give Steve Brown feedback by the May meeting. Steve Brown will check on donations allowing for tax write off. Steve Brown suggests that we wait until this is part of the overall parks plan that is being developed.

- ii. Tim Phelps proposed creating a fund/foundation to fund future park projects. He suggested hosting a memorial annual event for donors. Tim Phelps suggests creating a list of what is needed and use funds for those items.

3. New Business:

- a. 2019 Friends of the Summer Stage Update:
 - i. Bands are scheduled. Concerts are June 12, June 19, June 26 and July 3 starting at 6:30pm and going to dusk.
 - ii. Tim Phelps is not sure if the Beer Garden is confirmed.
 - iii. The beer garden would need approval from the Supervisors for this year
 - iv. Scott Lambert asks that rain plans be communicated in advance.
- b. Pedestrian and bicycle standards - Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance
 - i. Zachary Barner from Planning is asking us to come together on May 15th at 7pm to review the plan, map, and ordinance for the June Supervisors meeting. It's a joint public meeting between Parks & Rec and Planning Commission.
- c. Requests for park amenities – disc golf and gaga pit
 - i. Steve Brown has not heard back from the gentleman proposing disc golf at Valley Creek Park.
 - ii. The board motioned and approved a gaga ball pit for Battle of the Cloud, no greater than \$1,500, (15-20' diameter)
- d. Down East Park – Bitto family project (see below)

4. Public Comment:

- a. Tim Bitto is proposing updates to Down East neighborhood park to honor his daughter with a lasting memorial (her picture, plaque, biography, her artwork for example).
- b. The Bitto family has raised \$20,000 so far.
- c. They have a fund set up through the Foundation at Great Valley – 501 (c) (3)
- d. We are resurfacing the basketball court and backstop this year. Mr. Bitto indicates that picnic tables need to be fixed and that the mulch is taking over equipment.
- e. The board in general felt that they would like to partner with the Bittos to improve the park.

- f. Parks & Rec suggested that Mr. Bitto go back to his community to gather feedback on what the neighborhood would like to see at the park. He'll come back to us with an update.
5. Meeting Adjournment - Next meeting on Tuesday, May 28, 2019 –7pm start time.

Minutes compiled by Kristin Thomas and Barbara-Ann Thav
Minutes approved at the 7/23/19 Parks & Rec Board Meeting