

# EAST WHITELAND TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION

May 22, 2018

## MEETING MINUTES (3 pages) **APPROVED**

### 1. **Call to Order** – 6:00pm

Board members in attendance were: Barbara-Ann Thav, Kristin Thomas, Gail Keyes, Chuck Barbera, Valeri Bocclair, and Tim Phelps. Staff in attendance: Steve Brown. Scott Lambert (Supervisor) and residents Martin Lutz and Ken Bigelow also attended. Board member, Matt McGuire, was not in attendance.

### 2. **Approval of the April 24, 2018 meeting minutes**

The Parks & Rec board discussed the need for our meeting minutes to better reflect our discussions and recommendations as our minutes are public documents. This will provide better detail for residents, other parks & rec board members and Supervisors unable to attend our meetings. Tim Phelps asked where Parks & Rec fits into the land development process. Steve Brown suggested that we should be part of that process. We asked his assistance with a better integration of this for Parks & Rec.

The April 24, 2018 minutes were approved with minor changes for accuracy. Barbara-Ann Thav made the necessary edits before posting to the EWT website Agenda Center.

### 3. **Public Comment:** Marty Lutz brought it to the Park & Rec board's attention that there is an existing sidewalk on Route 401 between the High School driveway and Moores Road that could be incorporated into the broader trail connection plan.

Another resident, Ken Bigelow, who lives along the trail in the neighborhood off of Mill Road on the other side of 401 and 202 asked for more information about the Rubino Tract. We suggested that he follow the Planning Commission agendas, because no plan has been presented to the township or to Parks & Rec to date. We were able to inform him that the developer did meet with neighbors whose properties border/touch the Rubino Tract and the developer collected feedback on potential development ideas from those residents off of Lapp, Oak Glen, etc. The only reason that the parks board was informed was because a trail along the creek to connect parks was discussed during that meeting with property border neighbors. The parks board has not heard directly from the developer and does not have any more information to share.

### 4. Discussions:

- a. **Meet Finance Director, Cathy Kleponis** who will provide an overview of the Parks & Rec budget. Cathy was introduced to the Parks board and provided a high-level overview of the park development budget. The team discussed that it should be public open/rec space (versus private space) that developers offer versus the fee in-lieu of.

5. Old Business:

- a. **Update on Open Space & Trails Plan & grant:** RFP going out on 5/25/18 to hire an Open Space Consultant. We received \$42k from the county grant to date.
- b. **Status of Battle of the Clouds play equipment replacement:** The Board of Supervisors (BOS) approved the recommended climbing equipment from our board (\$12k). The use of a local contractor for installation was approved by the BOS. We recommended that Steve Brown and township staff choose colors that are both complimentary to the equipment already in Battle of the Clouds and indicated that we had a preference for natural colors, such as what we did in Valley Creek Park recently. Steve did not have details on timing for installation but will update us at the June meeting.
- c. **Update on costs to fix the wall by the tennis courts at Valley Creek Park:** Following up on a question from the parks board last month, Steve Brown reported that there isn't any insurance claim that can be submitted. The bid was awarded for just under \$55k to repair the failing retaining wall at the Valley Creek Park parking lot above the tennis courts. The contractor will be on site in early June and the job will take 2-3 weeks.  
The courts and the surrounding area will be blocked off during the first Friends of the Summer Stage concert if it's not finished on time. The parks board asked if any parking spots would be blocked. Steve will find out. He is also checking into "no parking" signs along Route 29 at the request of Tim Phelps.
- d. **Spring Mill Farm area/Chester Valley Trail connector – update on project**

- i. **Bryn Erin trail connector to Chester Valley Trail**

McMahon Associates has been awarded the job of recommending trail connections for the neighborhood. The parks board will likely see the results of their work in June/July 2018. McMahon Associates will be walking the area with the township staff on June 5th. Steve Brown requested a meeting with Saint Gobain after the area exploration is complete. The parks board asked Steve to look into the multi-modal fund to see if an easement on the Saint Gobain property would be eligible for a match from the fund.

Gail Keyes asked that Steve Brown add the K.D. Markley connection to the list. Marty Lutz brought it to the board's attention that there is an existing sidewalk on Route 401 between the High School driveway and Moores Road that could be incorporated into the broader trail connection plan.

- e. **Summer Camp – update on registration & promotion:** Registration is lower than normal. At their May meeting, the BOS approved for the camp to be opened to all Great Valley School District students. Registration is now up to 54. The goal is 100. The parks board mentioned the township using other marketing options such as the firehouse sign, GVTV, facebook parent pages for the elementary schools, etc. The parks board stated to the BOS that we would like to be more involved next year to help with the marketing strategy for the camp. Kristin Thomas mentioned that Malvern Borough residents do not have any camp options and might appreciate the invitation and partnership next year. This might

fill spots but not over crowd the camp, which has space limits at K.D. Markley, where it is held.

- f. **Update on Friends of the Summer Stage concerts: concert dates and beer garden:** Barbara-Ann Thav shared that the BOS approved the beer garden at their May meeting.
- g. **Work Session on Bacton Hill Park (previously known as Swanenburg**

**Property)**

- i. **Update (if any) on Phase 1 bidding status:**

Storm water permit not submitted as of our May meeting. Arro has been asked to put this on their priority list.

- ii. **Discuss sub-committee process for future development phases:** The parks board reviewed the notes and timeline from the subcommittee and the survey results to date. The board motioned not to have a public meeting at this time to share survey results but work on having a project design consultant lead such a meeting. At the June BOS meeting, Parks will present a summary of survey data, share the process taken to date, and request their approval to move forward with an RFP for a project design consultant.

- h. **Update from Community Involvement sub committee:** This was tabled until our June meeting.

6. New Business:

**a. King Road**

Barbara-Ann Thav shared that McMahon presented to the BOS at their monthly meeting recently about work potentially to be recommended at King Road and Rt. 352 to make that intersection better. This would be in conjunction with PennDOT and the other townships in that area. Barbara-Ann would like to see a safe way (sidewalks perhaps) for residents to walk down King Road and get to the Malvern train station as right now there are no sidewalks and it is very dark at night.

7. Meeting Adjournment - Next meeting on Tuesday, June 26, 2018 at 6pm.

Minutes compiled by Kristin Thomas and Barbara-Ann Thav  
Minutes approved at June 26, 2018 Parks & Rec board meeting