



## Board of Parks and Recreation

South Whitehall Township  
Lehigh County, Pennsylvania  
June 8, 2020

### BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Gregg Spence, President, Katrina Idleman, Secretary; Mark Ackerman, Dave Keppel, Keisha Champagne,  
Bill Glose, Steve Walck

### BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

N/A

### STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Mike Kukitz, Park and Recreation Manager, Randy Cope, Director of Township Operations

### OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Richard Brooks; Jason Engelhardt, Additional Unknown Callers Via GoTo Meeting

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## Minutes – May 11, 2020

### AGENDA ITEM #1 - CALL TO ORDER

Gregg Spence called the meeting to order at 7:02pm. This was a virtual GoTo meeting.

### AGENDA ITEM #2 - ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A. Acceptance of the March 9, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Accepted by Mark Ackerman and seconded by David Keppel

Roll call vote – Passed unanimously

(Gregg Spence and Bill Glose abstained)

### AGENDA ITEM #3 - CORRESPONDENCE

a. N/A

### AGENDA ITEM #4 – OLD BUISNESS

A. Projects Update reported by Mike K:

- a. Covered Bridge Park Playground – Concrete bid specs were recently put together. Received permission to advertise at the last Board of Commissioners meeting and will be going out to bid shortly.
- b. Vistas Park – We have applied for a \$250,000 grant from both DCNR and DCED to support the Penn Praxis plan that was created a few years ago creating a ‘big backyard’ theme for residents. We will hear back from both DCNR and DCED regarding if we were successful or not around November/December of 2020.
- c. Kohler Ridge – this project is on hold

- d. Jordan Creek Greenway – The design RFP process has been completed. We had six firms submit a proposal which will be reviewed in the weeks ahead. This is for designing and permitting the trail from Wehr Mill Road to Cedar Crest Boulevard.
- B. Friends of SWT park is being postponed due to Covid 19. Information about becoming a Volunteer in the Park (VIP) is on our website. We will revisit the SWT Friends group idea in 2021.
- C. Field Usage Update - Nothing to report, fields closed due to Covid 19.
- D. The Open Space Fund Report – current balance is \$136,073.54. Projected revenue from Crackersport Road DC project should be added to Open Space account by next board meeting.

## **AGENDA ITEM # 5 - NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Gregg Adams explained three land development projects:
  - a. Reviewed new attraction at Dorney Park. This project is not eligible for land dedication or for fees in lieu of.
  - b. Ruhe subdivision is a four-lot subdivision which was reviewed by the Park and Recreation Board in 2013. At that time, fees in lieu of were recommended. Greg explained that the project was moving again, and he asked that the park and recreation board revisit it. Greg explained that land dedication would be quite small and/or on sloped wooded land. Gregg Spence made the motion to keep this project under fees in lieu of, seconded by Mark Ackerman, passed unanimously.
  - c. Ridge Farm Plan was reviewed and presented by Richard Brooks and Jason Engelhardt. Richard Brooks stated that the majority of open space would remain with the Homeowners Association but they would like to offer the open space in the mixed use commercial main street area to the township which includes a patio, pavilion, walking trails and a fountain. After much deliberation, the consensus from the Park and Recreation board was that the proposed land is very close to some of the homeowner's associations buildings and is very spread out. There is not much opportunity to use the land for passive or active recreation for residents. Randy asked if all land will be open space or if some portions are only for HOA members. Richard Brooks stated that there is some private open space in the northern residential area that were by for HOA members. Greg A. will double check if the clubhouse, pool, tennis courts are not available to the public if they can be used as part of the open space dedication. Jason E. stated that the total land being offered to the township is a little over 4 acres. Dave K. asked that the presenters show a plan of the open space along with a topographical map to see if any of the proposed open space land would be usable for recreation. Mark A. made a motion to postpone making a recommendation of this land development set until we can get more information and for all board members to receive hard copies of the plans. Seconded by Dave K., vote passed unanimously. Greg A. will get hard copies of the plans to all board members. Randy C. expressed concern that the proposed land is not large enough to support programming such as movies in the park, concerts in the park or even a farmer's market. Greg A. asked if the open space calculations being shown take into account the 100 or so dwellings that are not part of the TND. Jason E. stated that the 64 units on the southwest corner are a part of the TND and that the only units that are outside it is the 64 twins and 26 singles. The last units on

Huckleberry are part of an RR2 with a large open space behind them but the twins and the lots on the West side do not have any designated open space. Jason then stated that his initial thoughts are to propose fees in lieu of for these units however there may be opportunities for the single units coming off of Ridge Lane for land dedication. Richard stated that there may be also be an opportunity for the donation of the Farmhouse on the left-hand side of Cedar rest Boulevard, Jeras Farm, to the township as part of the land dedication process. A tour of this building will be coordinated. To be discussed further.

- B. Summer Playground Program – Mike K. gave a brief description of what this year’s Summer Playground Program could look like if we were to operate but not utilize the school district facilities as in past years. Bill G. recommended that we not run the program this year due to Covid 19. There was additional discussion regarding weather concerns, statewide restrictions, possible shorter camp sessions and other variables. Randy C. stated that ultimately the decision will be made by the township manager. Bill G. made a motion to cancel the 2020 Summer Playground Program, seconded by Kiesha C. Vote passed unanimously. Katrina I. asked that we stay creative and offer programming to the community if and when it is safely possible.
- C. Directors Report – Mike K reported on monthly highlights:
  - a. Capital improvements, the Covered Bridge Park concrete bid and the Jordan Creek Greenway Design RFP are all moving along. All website and social media continue to be updated. We continue to look 30 days out with our program and event cancelations, with many programs and events being cancelled due to COVID 19. We have been participating in multiple statewide webinars each week and staying up to date with the most current CDC and Department of Health guidelines. We are looking to hopefully be creative and start programs such as socially distancing Yoga, drive in movies, one-week camps for the youth, special presentations, etc. for residents.

**AGENDA ITEM # 6 - COURTESY OF THE FLOOR**

- A. N/A

**AGENDA ITEM # 7 – ADJOURNMENT**

- B. At 8:15pm, Mark A. made motion to adjourn, Bill G. seconded the motion.