



Board of Parks and Recreation

South Whitehall Township
Lehigh County, Pennsylvania
May 10, 2021

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Gregg Spence, President, Katrina Idleman, Secretary, Mark Ackerman, Bill Glose

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Dave Keppel N/A, Steve Walck N/A

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

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

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Diane Kelly, SWT Commissioner, Terry Horn (PASD), Jessica Beller (PASD), Elizabeth

Minutes – May 10, 2021

AGENDA ITEM #1 - CALL TO ORDER

- A. Gregg Spence called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

AGENDA ITEM #2 - ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

- A. Acceptance of the April 12, 2021, Meeting Minutes
 - a. Motion by Bill G. and seconded by Katrina I.

AGENDA ITEM #3 - CORRESPONDENCE

- A. N/A

AGENDA ITEM #4 – OLD BUISNESS

- A. Projects Update reported by Mike K:
 - a. Covered Bridge Park Playground –Park renovations are near complete, minor setback with the bathrooms, so they will not be ready for the ribbon cutting.
 - b. Vistas Park – Last year we received a \$200,000 grant from DCNR and just received \$85,966 from DCED, leaving a short fall of \$114,034 to complete the project. We have 3-4 years to exhaust the funding received from the grants.
 - c. Kohler Ridge – No real update, public meeting went well with around 30 people on the call. Just about all comments and input supported the idea keeping this more of a passive park.
 - d. Jordan Creek Greenway – No archeological issue was found during the recent study. We will be submitting for our permit shortly.

- e. Covered Bridge Park Restroom – Restroom are not quite complete, minor setback with the construction.
 - f. Jacoby Park – We received a rendering from Burke for a second option for building the new playground. Total cost for the Burke playground is \$48,620, which is more expensive than the first rendering from Playworld which came in at roughly \$41,500. The board agreed that Burke looked like a better option and the Burke structure is still under budget. To make use of the sale price, we need to move fast on the purchase which will save us roughly \$14,000.
 - g. Comprehensive Plan – Mike sent a draft on May 3rd for the board to review. We are hoping to have this ready when the township wraps up its Comprehensive Plan by the end of June or end of July. The board had no additions or corrections to the original draft.
 - h. Community Garden –No new updates, still in the early stages in collecting potential costs.
 - i. PASD Board Members – Terry H. and Jessica B. have both expressed interest in joining the board. The next steps for this would be for the Parkland School Board to recommend these two individuals. At that point, our Board of Commissioners needs to accept the recommendation and then they will be official members.
 - j. 2021 Summer Playground Program – We are continuing to look for additional counselors and have over 200 children on the waiting list. We are also not allowed inside the facility during the 2021 Summer Playground Program due to school district Covid restrictions.
- B. Open Space Fund Report
- i. The Open Space Fund Report – No new updates from the April meeting. Balance remains at \$350,782

AGENDA ITEM # 5 - NEW BUSINESS

- A. Quality of life grant- Lehigh Valley County announced they are accepting applications for a 2022 Quality of Life grant. We are working with the chamber of commerce, planning to write a grant which will support a new event in the park for the residents.
- B. Received a Lehigh Valley Greenways grant for \$1,500 to help cover the costs of some minor park improvements. Specifically, it will help fund the purchase of new publication racks and message boards to make it easy and convenient for park users to find information.
- C. Covered Bridge Park – This park is seeing more and more use which is a true measure of success of all the recent improvements. We are also looking to add additional classes to our programming in the future including a drumming/cardio exercise program. Lastly, we are working with a local resident to possibly add a 4th pavilion in the park as pavilion rentals are up. Randy C. added that we are also looking to build a small parking lot out of stone for trail users on the north side of the covered bridge off River Road and a mowed walking trail loop around the recent buffer plantings near the boardwalk section of trail.
- D. We have more counselors now, 10 returning, 3 new, 3 awaiting paperwork, and 3 interviews to come. Looking to keep the numbers around a 15/1 ratio from kids to counselors. If we get more counselors, we could reopen registration to people on the waitlist. We have hired two new interns to help run our program. We will not be allowed to use the inside of the schools this year and there will be portable bathrooms at each school.

AGENDA ITEM # 6 - COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

A. N/A

AGENDA ITEM #7 – ADJOURNMENT

A. At 7:47pm, Katrina I. made motion to adjourn, Bill G. seconded the motion.