



Board of Parks and Recreation

South Whitehall Township
Lehigh County, Pennsylvania
April 11th, 2022

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Bill Glose, Mark Ackerman, Jessica Beller, Katrina Idleman, Terry Horn, Keisha Champagne

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Mike Kukitz, Park and Recreation Manager,

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Tony Tallarida and Stewart Pidcock, The Pidcock Company, Diane Kelly, SWT Commissioner, Monica Hodges, SWT Commissioner, David Kennedy, SWT Commissioner Randy Cope, SWT Interim Twp Manager, Michael Hirsch, Parkland Press, Elizabeth

Minutes – April 11th, 2022

AGENDA ITEM # 1 - CALL TO ORDER

A. Katrina called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

AGENDA ITEM # 2 – ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

- A. Acceptance of the March 14th, 2022 - Meeting Minutes
- a. Mike K. mentions a correction on the March 14th, 2022 Meeting Minutes. Flood mitigation and 2022 DCNR grant information is transposed.
 - b. Bill G. questioned Agenda #4 reads opposing, and it should be proposing.
 - c. Mark moves to accept the minutes with changes, Terry seconded.
All in favor.

AGENDA ITEM # 3 – CORRESPONDENCE

A. N/A

AGENDA ITEM # 4 – OLD BUSINESS

- A. Projects Update
- a. Vistas – The Pidcock Company is doing the engineering work needed to bring this plan together. Mike K. does a quick recap of the Business Park Improvement Plan. They will be going with the Big Backyard Concept. The lower field is not heavily used. The land is wet, and many have parking concerns. The township solicited people to get feedback. Proposed improvements included trails, natural play area and expanding the walking path around the soccer field, then connect it to walking trails. Plans to connect Clauser Road to Chapmans Road to improve the walkability for the residents in the area.

Tony and Stewart from The Pidcock Company, currently represent the township and board as township engineers. Tony states that, at this point, they are looking at the high-level view of this plan before beginning the necessary engineering work. Tony and Stewart displayed a sketch with 5 main points, which is used to highlight the project. The plan is to cut certain areas, by reducing the number of trees, plants, and trails from the initial design. Questions were brought up about the Pickleball courts. Such as this area is close to Macungie and South Whitehall who would use it more? If 2 or 3 courts are added will tournaments be held there? Is it possible to shift the basketball court to add additional space? Mike K. states there is a large drop off of about 6 to 8 feet, by the soccer field. Tony says it's a 2-tier system currently, and it may be a possibility to shift and trim the fields a bit. Another suggestion by Tony was to add a sidewalk along Chapmans Road.

Mike K. summarizes the discussion as follows:

- Expand the parking lot
- Shrink the soccer field
- Add 2 to 3 Pickleball Courts
- Keep the basketball court
- Stick with the big backyard theme by added hammocks and slides
- Sidewalks that connect

Mike K. asks Tony to use the new changes to update the cost estimate.

- b. Kohler Ridge – No new updates.
- c. Jordan Creek Greenway – Phase 2 will be starting survey work. BOC and school district approved the easement. Phase 1 is on River Road is designed, but they are looking at potential options to alter the shared road section.
- d. Comprehensive Park, Recreation, Open Space & Trails Plan – Mike K. supplied a revised timeline. A public meeting will be held on 4/28/2022 at 7PM. After that, surveys will go out to the residents and social media posts will be scheduled. This information was also printed on the utility bills.
- e. Flood Mitigation RFP – It was decided that the township is not moving forward with this project and the money was returned. Looking for a different way to expand options and make a bigger impact.
- f. 2022 DCNR Grant Update – Board gave permission to move forward with submitting a grant to support further Covered Bridge Park Master Plan improvements. It was submitted in the beginning of April, and we will find out possibly by November or December 2022.
- g. Mill House roof – This project was completed 2 weeks ago.
- h. Covered Bridge Park Restroom – Clear coating to the inside was done. The outside was started and should be complete by the end of the week.

- i. SW Chase Playground – Equipment is ordered but delayed. Construction fall 2022.
- B. Open Space Fund Report – Print out was provided. Cedarbrook Nursing was added 3/25/22. The balance is \$428,660.46

AGENDA ITEM # 5 – NEW BUSINESS

- A. Sponsorship Materials – The remembrance tree process was reviewed. It was suggested we offer a certificate instead of a letter. Mike K. said there has been many requests for this program. A commissioner requested the first tree to be planted in memory of former township manager Harold Kutzler. Mike K stated that the money for this program is TBD. He will meet with the finance department and discuss it.
- B. Way Finding Signage – Wehrs Dam and the Mill House signs have been added. Mike K. says there has been talk of restoring the Mill House. Updates to follow.
- C. 501c3 – Commissioner Kennedy is on the finance committee and brought this up a few months ago. He received a lot of positive feedback, Scott Boehret said he was working on it. This will be added to the agenda until it gets done. Too many people want to contribute, but they are not getting deductions. Mike K. will speak with Scott and follow up next meeting.

AGENDA ITEM # 6 – COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

- A. Mike K. mentioned he is looking into Pickleball line striping at Winchester Heights. The courts that are there need repairs. Suggestions were made for more indoor space for the senior residents. Mark A. showed an old plan from 2008 which shows the proposed development off of Cedar Crest Boulevard/Jeras Corporation. Mike K. shares a positive email from a resident thanking the township for having a great park.

AGENDA ITEM # 7 – ADJOURNMENT

- A. Katrina motioned to adjourn meeting. Terry seconds that. The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 P.M.