



Board of Parks and Recreation

South Whitehall Township
Lehigh County, Pennsylvania
February 13, 2023

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Katrina Idleman, Mark Ackerman, Terry Horn, Jessica Beller (online), Keisha Champagne (online)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

William Glose

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Chris Strohler – Long-Range Planner, Lynn Matula – Park and Recreation Manager

PUBLIC:

"R.B."

Minutes – February 13, 2023

AGENDA ITEM #1 - CALL TO ORDER

A. Mark called the meeting to order at 7:01 P.M.

AGENDA ITEM #2 – ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

- A. Acceptance of the January 9, 2023 - Meeting Minutes
- a. Terry asked about Agenda Item 5.B. Election of Officers. Terry wanted to confirm that there is still an open position on the Board and if that needs to be advertised. Chris confirmed there is one vacancy on the Parks & Recreation Board. Lynn said that the vacancy is advertised and will be highlighted in the Spring Newsletter along with other Board vacancies.
 - b. Terry made a motion to accept the minutes, Katrina seconded. All in favor.

AGENDA ITEM #3 – CORRESPONDENCE

A. No correspondence for this month.

AGENDA ITEM #4 – OLD BUSINESS

- A. Projects Update
- i. Vistas – Lynn shared that this project is in development. After looking at the feasibility of what was proposed, some aspects of the plan may need to be scaled down in order to meet the goals of the plan but still be manageable to construct and maintain. Lynn shared that the upper field is heavily used for soccer games and the lower field is still used as a practice field. The improvements will be focused to the upper area to avoid drainage and wet areas in the lower field.
 - ii. Jordan Creek Greenway – Chris shared that he will be presenting a high-level overview of the entire Greenway at Wednesday's Board of Commissioner's meeting. Chris mentioned beyond the Township's active projects, there has been a lot of development both east and west of the Township. Katrina asked if there was

anywhere to see a map of the entire Greenway. Chris shared that THE LINK Trail Network (www.thelinktrails.com) has an interactive map of all of the regional trails in the Lehigh Valley, including the Jordan Creek Greenway. Chris offered to share more about THE LINK at a future Parks & Recreation Board meeting.

- iii. Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Plan – Chris shared that the draft of this plan is still in development but should be wrapping up soon. The priority has been to move forward towards adoption of the overall Township Comprehensive Plan and the Park & Recreation Plan would be a component of that.
- iv. Winchester Heights – Lynn shared that the Township is looking at quotes and thinks that the cracks can be repaired and painted rather than resurfaced completely. Township is also requesting quotes to replace the fence. This work is expected to be wrapped up in May. The Township is planning to have a tennis program this year, but there will be a change in the tennis instructor.

AGENDA ITEM # 5 – NEW BUSINESS

- A. Introduction to New Park & Recreation Manager.
 - i. Lynn Matula introduced herself to the Board. She was the Parks & Recreation Coordinator at Upper Macungie for 8 years and prior to that was a tennis instructor and a tennis coach. Lynn’s priority has been to schedule the programs that normally run such as Swim and Gym, Concerts/Movies in the Park, Mighty Kicks, Indoor Zumba/Yoga, Little Athletics, and Adult Wiffleball League. A new program this year is Mad Science Camp and Lynn will be looking into one or two larger events later this year. She is working on getting pavilion rentals online and finishing up newsletter/website updates. The Special Event Application will be restructured to make it more efficient to hold events in the park and the Department is updating the social media policy.
 - ii. Katrina asked if Yoga in the Park would occur this summer. Lynn said hopefully yes, she is talking to the instructor. Mark asked about the Parkland Area Summer Rec Camp (PASRC) and whether South Whitehall would take the lead on that again this year. Lynn explained that all three municipalities (North Whitehall, South Whitehall, and Upper Macungie) interviewed together, but hired their own employees. South Whitehall initially took all of the registrations, which became very difficult. Now all of the Townships have the same registration software so that each Township can do their own registration and supply orders. The camps are still under the Parkland Area umbrella which allows for a pool of counselors from another Township if they are needed in an emergency. This also allows for non-residents to register for camps in a different Township if it is more convenient for them. Priority registration will still be given to residents.

AGENDA ITEM # 6 – COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

- A. None

AGENDA ITEM # 7 – ADJOURNMENT

- A. Jessica made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Katrina seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 P.M.