

West Goshen Township
Park and Recreation Board
April 19, 2023

Attending: Allison Bonjo, Bob Cifone, Tim McNally, Jerry Napiecek, Mike Pillagalli, Nancy Pine, and Ed Smith

Township Representatives: Ashley Gagné, Ken Lehr, Tom Steines, and Dorine McClune

Public Representatives: Douglas White

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by chair Jerry Napiecek.

This meeting was advertised in The Daily Local News on December 19, 2022.

This meeting agenda was posted on the West Goshen Township website and at the Township Building on Monday April 17, 2023.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Jerry Napiecek began the April meeting asking for a moment of silence for Township Supervisor Patricia B. McIlvaine who recently passed away.

Minutes from the March 15, 2023 meeting were approved on a motion by Mike Pillagalli and seconded by Bob Cifone

The Treasury Report for March 31, 2023 was reviewed without discussion or questions.

Parks Department: Dorine McClune reported the parks crew is now in full grass cutting mode in addition to supporting weekend picnics at the various Township parks. Dorine McClune said work to replace the retaining wall at the Community Park playground area has been completed and indicated at this time all of the Township athletic fields are open. Dorine McClune reported the parks crew is starting to prepare for the April 29th Arbor Day Tree Planting at Hamlet Crest Park. Dorine McClune informed that Colin Rodriguez from Boy Scout Troop 149 has completed his Eagle Scout project that entailed rehabbing the basketball court at South Concord Road Park. This effort included sanding and repainting the basketball backboard, replacing the wood in the park bench at the site, and filling cracks and seal coating the paved areas of the basketball court. Dorine McClune indicated the parks crew replaced the old basketball rim with a new one as part of this effort. Jerry Napiecek stated Community Park looked great for last week's Easter Egg Hunt. Jerry Napiecek indicated the retaining wall at the Community Park Amphitheater appears to be leaning away from the building. Dorine McClune stated she did not have someone available that does this type of work to address this issue. Ashley Gagné asked if the organizers of the Khelo Holi - Festival of Colors event (U.P. Association of Greater Philadelphia) were charged for using

Community Park for their April 15th event indicating they are a non-profit. Ken Lehr informed their request for the use of the Community Park went through the picnic/pavilion reservation process that does not discriminate for non-profits. Ken Lehr noted the initial request was for a party of 100-150 people and indicated the event grew in size to 350 people. Ken Lehr expressed concern that an event of this size in conjunction with all of the sports fields being in use would put a strain on the parking availability at Community Park. Additionally, Ken Lehr noted the Township should line up a police presence for an event of this size. Ashley Gagné asked Dorine McClune if the parks crew had a large clean-up effort for the event. Dorine McClune indicated there was a lot of dust from the Khelo Holi Festival throughout the pavilion and bathroom areas.

Summer Recreation Program: Tom Steines, reporting on the Summer Recreation Program, informed that the Township is preparing for their first “paperless” registration for the Summer Recreation Program. A two-week priority registration period for West Goshen Township residents will be starting on Saturday, April 22nd with an additional registration period for families residing outside of the Township to follow starting on Saturday, May 6th. Tom Steines indicated that he along with Ken Lehr would be on site to offer computer access and support on April 22nd for anyone needing assistance. Ken Lehr stated that all Summer Camp registrations must now processes through the Township’s new registration software. The new software has logic that can determine West Goshen Township residents and the correct registration fee via the address entered. Registration requests from non-residents will be blocked with a message displaying they will need to wait until the May 6th open enrollment period to register for this year’s program. Ken Lehr reiterated this is a brand-new system so the Township is expecting some “bugs” with the initial roll out. Ken Lehr indicated the new registration system should make things easier Township residents and non-residents as well as the Township’s Finance Department. Tom Steines reported that the Township is still advertising for additional Counselor/Junior Counselors noting a lot of positions have already been filled by staff returning from last year’s program. The 2023 Summer Recreation Program is scheduled to begin on June 20th and run through August 11th.

Teen Program: Tom Steines, reporting on the Summer Teen Program, informed that online registration for this year’s program will be the same as the Summer Recreation Program. The 2023 Teen Program is scheduled to begin on June 20th and run through August 11th.

Friends of West Goshen Parks: Jerry Napiecek, reporting for the Friends of West Goshen Parks, informed that the next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for May 4th at 6:00 PM. Ken Lehr noted the May 4th date conflicts with the proposed Park Tour with the Board of Supervisors and indicated he has notified John Herley of the conflict; Ken Lehr stated he would follow-up to see if the Friends’ May meeting can be rescheduled. Jerry Napiecek indicated members of the Friends of West Goshen Parks were at the Easter Egg Hunt as well as the March 16th “egg-stuffing party” in the West Goshen Township Community Room. Finally, Jerry Napiecek asked if the Summer Concert Series sponsor letters have gone out. Ken Lehr indicated the sponsor letter have not gone out yet.

Old Business: Ken Lehr, reporting on 2023 spring Bus Trips, informed that the trip to Washington, DC for the Cherry Blossom Festival was on April 15th noting most of the blossoms had already fallen off most of the trees. Ken Lehr indicated he would have a report on this bus trip once he receives all of the evaluation forms. Ken Lehr indicated for personal reasons he needed some help supporting this trip and offered thanks to Township resident John Corporal for stepping up and offering to help. Ken Lehr informed that as a result, John Corporal was refunded his registration fees for attending the trip. Ken Lehr reported the May 17th trip to see “Hamilton” has filled and indicated there are still spaces remaining for the June 24th to “New York on your own”.

Ken Lehr, reporting on the new gazebo at West Goshen Community Park, informed that the rededication ceremonies for the ‘J. Arnold Bair Gazebo’ planned for Friday, March 31st at 6:00 PM were cancelled due to inclement weather. Ken Lehr indicated he has been in contact with Chris Bashore discussing the feasibility of incorporating the gazebo rededication ceremonies with the proposed Parks Tour that includes the Board of Supervisors and the Friends of West Goshen Parks. Ken Lehr stated in order to save time for the rededication ceremonies, the Parks Tour could have “drive-by” visits for the smaller Township parks. Dorine McClune indicated she thought it was too much to schedule the rededication ceremony and the Parks Tour on the same night. Ken Lehr suggested an option of scheduling the rededication ceremony prior to the June 11th “Children’s Concert”. Jerry Napiecek suggested scheduling the rededication ceremony prior to one of the “adult” Concerts. Allison Bonjo suggested scheduling the rededication ceremonies prior to the June 25th Greaseband Concert. Nancy Pine asked if it would be feasible to start the Parks Tour a half hour earlier at 5:30 PM and have the rededication ceremonies at the end of the night. At this time the new date for the gazebo rededication ceremony is to be determined.

Ken Lehr, reporting on the dedication of the Raymond H. Halvorsen Little League Field, informed that the Board of Supervisors have approved to request to utilize the Little League Field at Cloud Park for the honor. The dedication ceremonies are being planned for Monday, July 3rd at noon. Dorine McClune indicated she would talk to Chris Bashore about getting the new plaque ordered for the dedication ceremonies.

Ken Lehr, reporting on the dedication of the Municipal Courtyard in memory of Dr. Robert White, informed that the Board of Supervisors have approved this Memorial Naming request. Douglas White indicated he is working to get the plaque updated for the dedication ceremonies. The time and date for the formal dedication ceremony still needs to be finalized.

Jerry Napiecek began a discussion on the Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society Annual Conference by offering congratulations to Ken Lehr for his appointment as PRPS president. This appointment is an honor for Ken Lehr and West Goshen Township. Ken Lehr stated that he along with Allison Bonjo and Bob Cifone attended this year’s Annual Conference. Allison Bonjo indicated attending the conference was a great experience noting the trail funding presentation was of particular interest. Bob Cifone found the session on connecting trails very interesting but does not believe the models discussed would fit the trail development required at the Jerrehian property.

Ken Lehr, reporting for Eunice Alexander on the Arbor Day planting at Hamlet Crest Park, encourages anyone interested to stop by on Saturday, April 29 from 9:30 AM until 2:30 PM. Volunteers are needed to assist with the planting of 120 trees/shrubs that include 40 overstory trees, 40 understory trees and 40 shrubs during this first stage of the “reforestation” efforts at Hamlet Crest Park. A complimentary sapling will be offered to everyone attending the event. Dorine McClune distributed a copy of the planting diagram for the event that shows what the finished product will look like.

Ken Lehr, reporting on the 2023 Summer Concert Series, offered thanks to Jerry Napiecek and Ed Smith for helping with the process to select “Whiskey Logic” as the act to perform at the August 20th concert. Ken Lehr indicated he is still trying to line up food trucks for this year’s Summer Concert Series.

Ken Lehr, reporting on the proposed Park Tour with the Board of Supervisors and the Friends of West Goshen Parks, indicated discussion on this topic occurred in the Friends of West Goshen Parks discussion.

Ken Lehr, reporting on the Registration Software initiative, indicated discussion on this topic occurred in the Summer Recreation Program discussion.

Ken Lehr, reporting on the Parks Improvement Planning and Splashpad, informed the Grant Funding request for this project has been submitted to the PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources’ (DCNR) Community Conservation Partnership Program (C2P2).

Ken Lehr, reporting on Pickleball, informed he would like to schedule a meeting with the Pickleball sub-committee that consists of himself, Jerry Napiecek, Ed Smith, and Tom Steines and determine how to move forward. Additionally, Ken Lehr stated he would also like to include Township resident and Pickleball expert Dan Dixon in any meetings scheduled. Tim McNally informed he went to the Pickleball facilities at Main Line YMCA and came away very impressed. Jerry Napiecek suggested adding Tim McNally to the Pickleball sub-committee. Jerry Napiecek reported there is a new senior complex in Lionville that appears to have 3-4 Pickleball courts. Tim McNally stated that if the Pickleball courts are near a residential area, there may be complaints due to the loud sound the Pickleball makes when being struck by the paddle. Ken Lehr expressed concern with the option of replacing some of the tennis courts at Community Park for Pickleball usage, stating that the USTA utilizes all of the tennis courts at the Community Park for some of their activities. Douglas White asked how residents would feel if some of the tennis courts at Community Park are converted to Pickleball courts. Bob Cifone asked if the Township could put down a black-top pad that could be lined for Pickleball usage. Jerry Napiecek stated this option would be reviewed at the next meeting of the Pickleball sub-committee. Douglas White asked if it is easier to play Pickleball or Tennis. Tim McNally stated Pickleball is like Tennis with a paddle. Jerry Napiecek indicated he would like to see the Pickleball sub-committee meet before the next Park and Recreation Board meeting.

Ken Lehr, reporting on the Dog Park and Skate Park, informed that the Township would be partnering again this summer with Fairman's to offer 3 skate camps at the Skate Park.

Ken Lehr, reporting for Eunice Alexander on the Goshen Tree Tenders (GTT), informed that seedlings have been planted that will eventually be used at Coopersmith Park.

Ken Lehr, reporting on the Shirts and Jackets for Park and Recreation Board members, informed that the items have been ordered and should be in by the end of the month.

Ken Lehr, reporting on the Egg Hunt and Decorated Hat Parade, offered thanks to everyone involved with the event for their flexibility that allowed the Township to utilize the rain date this year. Ken Lehr reported the weather was perfect and a good crowd turned out for this year's event. Ken Lehr indicated one complaint he heard was there were too many eggs in the area for the smaller (2-3-year-old) children. Allison Bonjo suggested bringing back orange cones to keep children from jumping the start of the event. Dorine McClune indicated if this is an issue, the cones can be brought back for next year.

New Business: Ken Lehr, reporting on the Parks Tree Coverage Analysis Presentation, informed the presentation will be done at the May Park and Recreation Board meeting.

Ken Lehr, reporting on the Whiffleball request from Eoghan McNamee, indicated Eoghan McNamee was invited to attend the April Park and Recreation Board meeting but did not respond to the invitation.

Ed Smith asked if there have been any decisions made regarding to the staffing of the Snack Bar at the Community Park. Ken Lehr indicated he would set up a meeting to discuss this topic.

Allison Bonjo indicated she has a list of Food Truck Vendors that she will pass on to Ken Lehr.

Jerry Napiecek indicated he had spoken with John DeSantis, the owner of Ingrid the collie. Ingrid recently was given the "Shining Star Ambassador Award" for 2023 as the top service dog from the Collie Club of America. John DeSantis would like to have a table at one of the Township's Summer Concerts to allow people to meet Ingrid. The members of the Park and Recreation Board gave their unanimous approval of this request.

A motion to adjourn was made by Bob Cifone and seconded by Nancy Pine at 7:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward T Smith