

West Goshen Township
Park and Recreation
August 16, 2023

Attending: Eunice Alexander, Allison Bonjo, Bob Cifone, Mary Lou Enoches, Jerry Napiecek, Mike Pillagalli, Nancy Pine, and Ed Smith

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

Public Representatives: Jack Enoches and 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, August 14, 2023.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Minutes from the July 19, 2023 meeting were discussed. Eunice Alexander asked that the Pickleball updates be revised as follows:

<Remove> Eunice Alexander informed there was discussion about turning the exiting Dog Park into a Community Garden since this location already has the water source required and a close proximity to a residential area.

<Add> There had been discussions at a prior Park and Recreation Board meeting about turning the existing Dog Park into a Community Garden since this location already has a required water source. Eunice Alexander informed a Community Garden needs to be in a close proximity to a residential area.

Minutes from the July 19, 2023 meeting were approved with revisions on a motion by Mary Lou Enoches and seconded by Bob Cifone.

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

Parks Department: Dorine McClune reported the Parks Crew is busy cutting grass, trimming bushes, and pulling weeds at the various Township parks and the West Goshen Township Municipal Complex. Dorine McClune said the cooler nights are allowing the grass to grow faster. Dorine McClune indicated there were no new instances of vandalism to report at this time. Jerry Napiecek stated the Township's parks look great.

Summer Recreation Program: Tom Steines, reporting on the Summer Recreation Program, informed that the 2023 Summer Recreation Program concluded last Friday (August 11th) stating this year's program was very successful. Tom Steines indicated that the Township was able to hire enough staff to provide adequate coverage for this year's program, providing a safe/healthy environment for the campers. Tom Steines was pleased to inform there were no serious injuries to report.

Teen Program: Tom Steines, reporting on the Summer Teen Program, informed that the 2023 Teen Program concluded last Friday (August 11th). Tom Steines indicated he is looking forward to next year stating registrations for the 2023 program were coming back to pre-Covid levels. Jerry Napiecek offered thanks to Tom Steines and Ken Lehr for offering an outstanding program at a great price. Ken Lehr stated a lot of credit should go to the great staff of counselors assembled for this year's program. Ashley Gagné asked what is the pay structure for these positions and if these salary guidelines were sufficient. Ken Lehr informed the rates are \$18/hour for Head Counselors (ages 18+), \$15/hour for Counselors (ages 18+) and \$7.25/hour for the Junior Counselors (age 16 & 17). Ken Lehr offered thanks to the Board of Supervisors for approving these pay rates after Covid. Tom Steines reported for this year, the Township had 28 Head Counselors/Counselors and 7 Junior Counselors to support the Summer Recreation and Summer Teen programs. Jerry Napiecek suggested the Township should consider bumping up the \$7.25/hour Junior Counselor rate to something more than the minimum wage for next year.

Friends of West Goshen Parks: Jerry Napiecek, reporting for the Friends of West Goshen Parks, informed that the Friends had a presence at the August 6th Motown concert offering a 50/50 raffle. Jerry Napiecek informed the 50/50 raffle netted \$1,000 with half of the proceeds going to the Friends. Jerry Napiecek offered thanks to John Herley, Sally Yoder, Ken Lehr, and Ed Smith for helping to sell the raffle tickets. Ken Lehr reported the Friends will hold their next Board of Directors meeting on Thursday, September 7th in conjunction with the Parks Tour. Ken Lehr informed that Peggy Niemeyer, a longtime member of the Friends of West Goshen Parks will resign after Harvest Day. Ken Lehr noted that Peggy Niemeyer was instrumental in providing support for the Friends for over 28 years and indicated he would suggest some type of formal recognition for all her years of service. Ken Lehr asked the members of the Park and Recreation Board to pass along any ideas/thoughts that they feel would be appropriate. Eunice Alesander stated the entire Park and Recreation Board appreciates the service and dedication Peggy Niemeyer gave to the Township. Mary Lou Enoches made a motion to have the Park and Recreation Board formally recognize Peggy Niemeyer for her service and dedication to the Township. The motion was unanimously approved. Eunice Alexander suggested the Friends volunteer recruiting efforts should target people that use the Township parks. Finally, Ken Lehr informed the Friends will finalize the slate of candidates for their upcoming November election and asked anyone interested in running for a position to let either him or Jerry Napiecek know prior to their September meeting.

Old Business: Ken Lehr handed out copies of the 2023 Fall Bus Trips brochure to the members of the Park and Recreation Board. Ken Lehr informed that the Township would move to online registrations and payment going forward, and warned that the new process may be a little bumpy at first. Training sessions on the new software are planned for next week to make sure everyone is up to speed on the new software. Ken Lehr indicated that later this year, Breakfast with Santa will move to online registration, and picnics will all be registered online next year. This fall's bus trips will include three sporting events featuring the October 1st trip to Citi Field to see the Phillies and the New York Mets, the October 15th trip to MetLife Stadium to see the Eagles take on the New York Jets and the October 29th trip to FedEx Field to see the Eagles take on the Washington Commanders. Additionally, in November and December, the Township will feature bus trips to "New York on Your Own" (December 2nd) as well as trips to Radio City Music Hall (November 19th and December 4th).

Ken Lehr, reporting on the dedication of the Municipal Courtyard in memory of Dr. Robert White, informed that due to availability issues, the formal dedication ceremony has been moved to sometime in the fall. Ken Lehr indicated he would notify the members of the Park and Recreation Board when a new date is determined.

Ken Lehr, reporting on the 2023 Summer Concert Series, informed that around 200 people attended the July 23rd concert featuring the West Chester Concert Band. Around 750 people attended the August 6th Motown Concert featuring Blue Philly Magic. Allison Bonjo asked how the parking was with 750 people attending the concert. Ken Lehr informed he notifies the police when a large crowd is expected and they provide the required crowd controls. Additionally, Ken Lehr indicated seven vehicles owned by members of the band were blocking the entrance to the amphitheater. Ken Lehr stated he would need to be more explicit with time guidelines allowed for loading and unloading equipment for the concerts. Next up is the August 20th concert featuring Whiskey Logic. This is the final concert for 2023. Jerry Napiecek asked if the Township has been able to line up any food vendors for the upcoming concert. Ken Lehr informed he has not been able to line anything up at this time. Ken Lehr indicated he was introduced to West Goshen Township resident Mabel Spann who owns Mabel's Barbeque and discussed the idea of having Mabel's Barbeque food truck come out to a Township event in the future. Nancy Pine suggested lining up the food truck for Harvest Day. Information on the Summer Concert Series is listed below:

Date	Theme	Featured Performer	Location	Attendance
June 11 th	Children's Concert	Steve Pullara and Cool Beans Music	Community Park	70+
June 25 th	Party Band	Greaseband	Community Park	200
July 9 th	Latin America	De Tierra Caliente	Fugett Middle School	15
July 23 rd	Big Band	West Chester Concert Band	Community Park	200
August 6 th	Motown	Blue Philly Magic	Community Park	750
August 20 th	Party Tunes	Whiskey Logic	TBD	TBD

Ken Lehr, reporting on the proposed Park Tour with the Board of Supervisors and the Friends of West Goshen Parks, indicated the tour is scheduled for Thursday September 7th at 5:30 PM. Those attending will be asked to meet at the West Goshen Municipal Complex at 5:15 PM with the tour beginning at 5:30 PM.

Ken Lehr, reporting on the West Goshen Township Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan Committee informed that he along with Township Manager Chris Bashore have sent out invitations to roughly fifteen contractors to provide proposals for developing a new Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan. Ken Lehr indicated the Township would accept proposals through the end of this week (August 19th). A new Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Planning Committee will be created comprised of three Park and Recreation Board members, one member of the Board of Supervisors, and 1-2 members of the Planning Commission. Ken Lehr stated at this time that Jerry Napiecek, Allison Bonjo, Bob Cifone and Ed Smith have shown an interest in serving on this committee. Ken Lehr informed the last Plan was created in 1990 and last modified in 1993. Mike Pillagalli indicated he has a copy of this Plan which he forwarded to Ken Lehr to scan so it is available to everyone. Eunice Alexander asked if there should be representation from the Goshen Tree Tenders (GTT) on the committee.

Ken Lehr provided a pickleball update, informing that he visited Lower Makefield Township which was recently honored for outstanding Parks and Recreation services. Ken Lehr indicated he was particularly interested in seeing their courts for both tennis and pickleball and noted it was an outstanding facility. Jerry Napiecek informed that per Dan Dixon, the lining of the Lambert Park tennis courts for pickleball usage was not done correctly and may need to be re-lined. Ken Lehr indicated funding to re-line the Lambert Park tennis courts will be in next year's budget.

Ken Lehr, reporting on the dogpark and skatepark, informed that 24 skateboarders registered for the third and final Skatecamp scheduled for August 21st through August 25th. Ken Lehr noted that around 14-15 skate boarders participated in each of the first two Skatecamps this summer.

Eunice Alexander reporting on the Goshen Tree Tenders (GTT) offered thanks to Dorine McClune for getting extra mulch on the two new trees recently planted at Hamlet Crest Park. The American Chestnut Cooperators Foundation is still supporting efforts like the one at Barker Park toward helping restore the American chestnut tree to its former place in the eastern hardwood forests. Eunice Alexander informed that a bald cypress was recently planted at Community Park. At Coopersmith Park, Eunice Alexander reported that the serviceberry planted by the Community Park sign is starting to leaf out and indicated a boost to the roots may be needed to get the tree ready for the winter. At Hamlet Crest Park, Phase 2 of the Arbor Day Tree Planting is scheduled for November 4th. Eunice Alexander stated that members of the Park and Recreation Board are encouraged to attend this event. Eunice Alexander indicated members from the Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC) may put together signage for Community Park explaining this dense style of tree planting. The (SAC) will want to run the proposed signage by the Park and Recreation Board members.

New Business: Ken Lehr, reporting on the Fall Movie Series, informed that the Township will present five movies at the Community Park showing at 7:30 PM on Saturday September 16th, September 23rd, September 30th, October 7th and October 14th. Ken Lehr noted the Township will keep with their tradition of asking Township residents to vote for the movies they would like to see be part of this year's program by September 1st. Ballots will be available at the final Summer Concert on August 20th. The winning movies will be announced the week of September 5th. Ken Lehr reported two parents had expressed concern over the PG-13 rating on several of the movies on the ballot for this year's program. Ken Lehr indicated people can vote for the non-PG-13 movies as an option. Additionally, Ken Lehr informed that for the PG-13 movies he looks at the MPAA rating to determine what content is causing the movie to get the PG-13 rating and will see if the "Airplane Version" is available in which questionable content is edited out. Finally, Ken Lehr indicated the Township typically displays the movie rating up front so patrons can decide if they want to attend the presentation or not.

Ken Lehr, reporting on the Resident Art Exhibit, informed that amateur and professional artists residing in West Goshen Township are invited to submit their works for display in the West Goshen Township Administration Building during the months of September and October.

Ken Lehr, reporting on the Harvest Festival, informed that this year's event is scheduled for Sunday, October 22nd from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM at Community Park. Ken Lehr indicated he would line up Mabel's Barbeque food truck to come out for this event. Dorine McClune informed we do not need to line up Hicks' haywagon.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mike Pillagalli and seconded by Nancy Pine to adjourn the meeting at 6:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward T Smith