



MINUTES

WARRINGTON TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

December 22nd, 2022

7:00 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting Held In-Person at the Township Building and Via Zoom

ATTENDEES: Andy Oles, Rick Weiss, Lise Dietz, Elizabeth Illg, Jim Keyser (zoom) Joanne Mancini, Dan Mertz, Ernie Rehr

BOS Liaison: Eileen Albillar (zoom).

7:09 PM - CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND POSTING TO WEBSITE

October 2022 – Beth notes she was not in attendance at this meeting. Ernie notes he was in attendance. With these updates; Joanne motioned to approve, Dan 2nd, (Beth abstain) all others in favor and approved

PUBLIC COMMENTS (*The Board will hear from any interested resident or taxpayer who would like to comment on an item not on this evening's agenda. Respondents are asked to keep their comments to 3 minutes.*)

- Mike Diorka: Would like to recognize long-time years of service of Carol Rice and Bob McNulty. Will verify with Board of Supervisors (BOS) exact years of service for each.

PRESENTATIONS BY GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS

Eagle Scout Candidate Ryan Easterly - Presentation to build a kicking wall at IPW (presentation share by Andy to all)

- Proposal to
 - Build a kicking wall for kicking practice for soccer.
 - Planned with support of Warrington Soccer Club. They acknowledge need for and benefit to soccer players
 - Drawings and plan submitted
 - Defined acceptable distance from walking paths, homes, and playing fields
 - Costs will be supported by donations

- WSC has agreed to maintain via existing maintenance agreement
- Note that Ryan can write article for the e-Link and indicate he is accepting donations for project
- Motion to recommend project to Board of Supervisors (BOS) – Dan motion, Joanne 2nd, all approve

LIAISON REPORTS

1. Bike and Hike Trails Committee

- a. Eagle Scout Project – Roger Tang -updated plan for implementation Spring 2023 of one side trail to be cleared and make more accessible and usable for community with discussion of hours and supervision of work, tools, safety, etc.
- b. New Trail updates
 - i. B and C connector work has begun and with impressive progress
 - ii. Andy to check/verify if there will be a flashing light at the crossing
 - iii. BOS approved trail from Pickertown to segment A (between 202 and through Weisel and Pickertown) and along tree line - responsibility of developer to do
- c. Plan for Next Year –
 - i. Scott to prepare annual report with monthly breakout of anticipated goals/activities
 - ii. Priorities include
 1. INFORM via e-link, newsletter, etiquette information, advantages of trail system for community – health, community spirit, meeting neighbors, etc.
 2. Improved trail markers and signs – work on Bradford dam area first and then evaluate
 3. Formalize trail-naming conventions

2. Open Space and Land Preservation Committee

- a. Rick reviewed different levels of protection for different areas of open space
 - i. Three different levels. Parks and Facilities have “least” protection because they are most developed (i.e. buildings, trails, sports fields).
 - ii. Most protection for areas with no improvements. Three to five areas under consideration such as Mill Creek, Weisel, and Emerson Preserve, Laurel Gardens, Grove Valley
- b. Warrington has ~ 1400 acres of open space and parks
- c. Costs are associated with original designation of area with most protection via Heritage Conservatory Group
 - i. Deed restructure needed
 - ii. Cost is for zone “easement” between Warrington and Bucks Co
 - iii. Fee is one time and area will be monitored once designated
 - iv. Any changes once designated would require public input
 - v. New ordinance passed last year so open space is more “cherished”
- d. Rick notes that he did not consider EAC to funnel through P&R
- e. Recycle test at IPW seems to be doing very well
 - i. Two different cans with different designs
 - ii. This will be expanded with public works assisting with the implementation

3. Environmental Advisory Committee

- a. Did not meet for two months prior to last meeting
- b. Project presentation by Eagle Scout Danny Jacobsen
 - i. Habitat for Chimney Swifts of 12' free standing tower at possibly IPW or John Paul
 - ii. Will do fundraisers to cover costs of supplies
 - iii. Rick notes that as this is a development to a park, the presentation needs to be made to the P&R Advisory Board (not EAC). Rick will communicate with EAC that scout will need to schedule presentation to P&R
- c. Project presentation by Eagle Scout Josh Sieto for tree planting at Weisel Preserve (Rt 202 to Bradford Dam connector trail)
 - i. Approx. 16 trees with mulch, top soil, tree guards
- d. Tree planting at Willow Knoll basin (~220 trees and shrubs, 16 volunteers)
- e. Folly Rd and Hidden Court Basin maintenance
- f. King Park grant application for tennis and basketball court redo and to include native plants additions to recreational parks
- g. Trail segments B and C work has begun.

4. Communication Advisory Board

- a. No updates on the franchise agreements
- b. Applications for cell phone towers that were denied and no further discussion to occur for this topic

5. Mary Barness Community Pool Committee;

- a. See below New Business item 1

6. Open Space Master Plan Ad Hoc Committee

- a. Four community members and on alternate added
- b. Focus will be on Mill Creek area
- c. Next meeting will get into more of the topics

7. Directors Report, (BOS Actions), (Works in Progress), (Presented Studies/Reports), (Programs Update) (Annual Budget Status) (End Of Year/Season Reports)

- a. Board of Supervisors (BOS) approved Young Lungs at Play signs for parks to be posted mostly around playgrounds and sports fields.
- b. Program Update –
 - i. 11 attendees for babysitting class
 - ii. 13 attendees for medicare class
 - iii. 3 new programs in Jan for Lego, dinosaurs, autism
- c. Lion's Pride – the Pond to Wetlands project is out to bid
- d. New vacancy on Veteran Affairs committee
- e. Pool Feasibility group working with consultant
- f. Baseball – old backstop removed and permit process for tower is progressing

OLD BUSINESS

1. Community Room Update and Committee Recommendation to BOS; Open Discussion

- a. Lots of questions about how the PROCESS of the recommendations are to occur and what the role of the P&R board is.

- b. The pathway document has comments about a community “hub”. These include comments that any project should include maintenance costs.
- c. Open discussion included the following comments
 - i. Approval of the “idea” of a community room is very different from approval of a specific budget that appears to be 140% over the budget proposed is not the same thing. Need to be responsible financial stewards for all members of the community.
 - ii. The current board has not approved this project, despite the fact that the “idea” of a community room is very favorable with everyone.
 - iii. It seems that most thought that after the ad hoc committee reviewed the new bids, this would come to the P&R board for review/approval before going to the BOS.
 - iv. The “landscape” several years ago where the “idea” of the community room may have been approved is very different from the world we live in now.
 - v. Major budgetary projects, especially ones that may have been in proposed stage for a while, need to be re-evaluated with respect to current economic environment, which is very different from just 2 -3 years ago,
 - vi. Question of whether the proper process for approval of the budget for the community room was followed. What is the proper process? How is the P&R advisory board to be involved? If we are not involved, what is the purpose of the P&R board?
 - vii. Review of prior P&R minutes, going back many years (from website) do not record any approval of recommendation to the BOS for the community room or the budget for the community room.
 - viii. Cost of community room considered reasonable in current environment and by the committee tasked with review of the bids. Waiting longer will only lead to even higher costs for the project.
 - ix. Cost of community room to come from the utility fund and not related to tax hike.
 - 1. How is this communicated to the community?
 - 2. Many people are very upset about the tax hike.
 - 3. Better communication to the community is needed.
 - 4. What the tax hike is for needs to be communicated to the community.
 - 5. What other projects are coming from the utility fund?
 - x. Moving forward, much more needs to be done to ensure any new projects are properly reviewed and approved by current P&R board. If they are long-term projects, reasonable updates need to be communicated so all current and new members of the P&R board are well informed.
 - xi. Would like regular updates from the P&R Director regarding how the budget works in relation to P&R and updates on projects that are proposed and in process that are of larger importance (i.e. not every small project of minor cost/effort needs a monthly update).

NEW BUSINESS (revised agenda)

1. Proposed Pool Fee Increase Recommendation from Pool Committee

- a. Fee increases mostly for non-residents and some daily fees
- b. Fees were a bit lower than other communities in our location. These brings them up a bit more in line with other local areas
- c. Ernie motion to approve. Rick second all approve

2. **Edits to and discussion of Protocol and Mission statement documents**
 - a. Basic red lines for punctuation for the P&R Meeting Procedures document approved and will be incorporated.
 - b. Lise will update the P&R Mission statement document for further review

3. **Update: New Pool Study Group Enacted Per BOS Mandate**
 - a. New group to provide feedback to consultant (this is needed to apply for grant)
 - b. Nine people are part of committee including certified pool operator, 2 pool managers, members of pool, P&R chair, etc
 - c. There is a timeline – needs to be done in early April and most likely ask for 2 million for grant
 - d. Presentation to P&R board in January meeting
 - e. Consultant designed most of survey and received ~300 responses

4. **End of year Sports Organization Meetings**
 - a. Invitations to be sent for organizations to present to P&R board on how their year went and any highlights

5. **January reorganization meeting procedure and protocols**
 - a. Andy will run first part of meeting until chair is chosen and voted in
 - b. Each is one year term for chair person, vice chair, and secretary
 - c. Can nominate yourself
 - d. Recommend chair be liaison to Open Space due to overlap
 - e. Also review and re-assign liaison assignments to other committees

6. ***Liaison Flow of Committees and Boards**
 - a. Any building, structure, improvement on a park should come through the P&R board
 - b. Open Space is part of recreation
 - c. The committees currently stand on their own.
 - d. P&R is the only state-mandated governed board
 - e. **Item for Jan 23 agenda** after re-org is to re-visit
 - i. Liaison reports to be concise 5-10 mins long
 - ii. More focus on P&R board actionable items with relation to the committees
 - iii. Suggestion to have committee member come give report to P&R board each month rather than other way around.

7. ***Recommendation of BOS For Public Recognition Of Carol Rice and Robert McNulty**
 - a. Mike Diorka (BOS) makes initial recommendation
 - b. Rick suggest that we recommend to BOS that we commend them for their many years of service with a plaque, certificate, or other means of recognition
 - c. Rick motions to recommend, Dan seconds, all approve

8. ***Boards and Committees Subordination Order and Flow of Information and Recommendations to**
 - a. The committees currently stand on their own.
 - b. Only Pool committee falls under P&R
 - c. P&R members are attending other committee's lengthy meetings. If we have no input, why is this the case?
 - d. Review of proper process needs to be continued discussion in new year.

OTHER BUSINESS

(New Actionable items must be added to agenda under new business and revised agenda posted and made public)

ADJOURNMENT

10:14 PM adjournment – Dan motioned, Ernie 2nd, all approved.