



MINUTES

WARRINGTON TOWNSHIP PARK AND RECREATION BOARD

December 28, 2023

7:00 pm

Hybrid Meeting Held Both In Person At The Township Building And Via Zoom

ATTENDEES: Andy Oles, Dan Merz, Joanne Mancini, Lise Dietz, Ernie Rehr, Carl Doerr, Teri Taylor, Mike Diorka

BOS Liaison: Mike Diorka

7:02 PM - CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL of October 2023 MINUTES and POSTING TO WEBSITE

Joanne motion, Carl second, Dan abstain (not present at October mtg) all remaining in favor, 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.)*

PRESENTATION – Annual Presentation by Warrington Baseball. Matt Weisensale - President

- Presentation by Matt Weisensale and Jon Etkowitz (secretary)
- Power-point shared covering
 - review of 2023 participation, improvements, player development, and anticipated continued growth for the 2024 season
 - reinvestment projects at Barness Park including fencing, lights, and snack stand
 - additional info on snack stand with respect to safety elements of >50 yr old building and improvements needed
- Dan notes updates of maintenance agreement needed to reflect current board members and use of fields
- Possibility of collaboration with softball organization for lighting improvements
- Ernie highlights the important beneficial aspects extended throughout the community in terms of hotels, dining, shopping when tournaments are hosted
- Many factors to consider for improvements to snack stand for costs and shared funding

LIAISON REPORTS

1. **Open Space and Land Preservation Committee Update**
 - a. Ernie attended Nov 23, 2023 meeting
 - b. Discussion of conservation easement of private individuals and importance of homeowner education and awareness
 - c. Master Plan Ad Hoc committee progress for the Emerson Farm Preserve, Mill Creek Preserve, & the Weisel Preserve
 - a. Working on tri-fold draft for education of neighbors whose homes border the three open space areas
 - b. Importance of this education to reduce/eliminate improper use
 - d. King Park updates and maintenance of tennis and basketball courts
 - a. re-application of grant with an environmental component included– i.e. a rain garden

2. **Director's Report** (BoS Actions), (Works in Progress), (Presented Studies/Reports), (Programs Updates), (Financial Budget Status) (Andy)
 - a. General Programs Update
 - b. New Community Room
 - i. Construction Schedule Update
 - i. Devices, thermostats, outlets, water done
 - ii. Waiting for HVAC certification
 - iii. May have use and occupancy by next meeting
 - ii. Scheduling a PR board walk-through
 - i. Requested when room is ready
 - iii. Programs and Fee Structure
 - i. Spring and summer 2024 programs to be held there
 - ii. Will rent out to other organizations
 1. Details will mimic other organizations
 - iii. Do not yet have a well-defined vision (>1 year since build started?) – question: why was the vision and purpose not defined prior to any approval of the project – especially for one this expensive & over-budget even before the first shovel hit the ground,
 - iv. No plan for funding for long-range costs (i.e. life cycle costs for items like roof, plumbing, windows, lighting, hvac, etc)
 1. Mike notes discussions are being initiated at BoS level for incorporation into township planning and budgeting going forward
 - v. Board would like to see reports on what programs are beneficial (financially) to the township and support the township community to properly evaluate
 - vi. System in place for other rentals will be extended to rentals for here
 1. Request to add usage reports to the monthly Director's report
 2. The link address where reservation requests can be added and updated is: <https://warringtonpa.myrec.com/>
 - c. Other Projects
 - i. Update on Projects in Progress
 - i. King basketball and tennis courts are in budget under capital projects
 - ii. Softball fence repair in budget under capital projects
 - iii. Pool liner installation complete and within budget (\$~130k vs ~\$175k allocated)
 - iv. Picnic table upgrades ongoing throughout township locations
 - v. Boardwalk at pond to wetlands is complete

- vi. Incorporation of approx. 5,000 plants will occur spring 2024
- d. Budget
 - i. FY2023 Budget Review / Wrap Up
 - i. Are there funds left over – no
 - ii. 2024 budget may be re-opened and adjustments made
 - ii. FY2024 Budget Review / Look Ahead
 - i. Many questions regarding township costs for active vs passive parks
 - ii. Need distinction between passive areas that just exist vs passive areas that are used and benefit the township community
 - iii. Township has spent more \$\$\$ on passive than active parks and would like to see this addressed in a manner that is more beneficial to all in the community moving forward

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Park Steward(s) status**
 - a. On hold due to spending freeze and timing (winter season)
 - b. Presentation from Joe Knox in public works anticipated in early 2024

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Lion's Pride Park**
 - a. Discussion concerning Playground Rental Fee for Large Groups
 - a. Looking at opening discussion for user fees for large groups, that displace township resident/children use of area
 - b. Large groups cause wear and tear on park, concern of capacity and safety issues
 - c. Kid's Castle in Doylestown already has a well-defined usage criteria and fees for large groups
 - d. Good interest in reviewing their plans/program to begin discussion of incorporating similar in our township to keep the parks accessible to our township residents who have funded them and provide for funding for maintenance for parks for normal wear and tear
 - b. Discussion concerning sand play area
 - a. Issues of sand being brought outside of sand area and dumped on other equipment therefore causing damage and usage issues on the other equipment
 - b. Note that Andy will have more attention made by public works to "blow" the sand back into designated sand areas and feel this issue can be managed
2. **Park and Rec Facilities Rental Fee Structure**
 - a. Please see above Lion's Pride discussion
 - b. Softball and baseball receive most requests for field rentals, soccer receives much fewer requests
 - c. Please also see community room discussion (item 2. b. iii.)

OTHER BUSINESS

1. **Partnership with CBSD – Ernie Rehr**

- a. Ernie noted he attempted contact with school board member and has not hear back
- b. Will update progress at next meeting

ADJOURNMENT

8:53 pm