

**MINUTES  
WHITEMARSH TOWNSHIP  
PARK AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING (VIRTUAL – ZOOM)  
TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 2023, AT 7:00 PM**

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

\_x\_\_CONVEY \_x\_\_CRAWFORD\_\_\_HECTOR  
\_x\_\_\_ KISSLING \_x\_\_\_ MANLEY \_x\_\_\_ ROBINSON  
\_x\_\_\_ EPSTEIN (CSD) \_x\_\_\_ BOS LIAISON: BOYLE NESTER  
\_x\_\_\_ O'BRIEN (WAC) \_x\_\_\_ TOWNSHIP STAFF: BLOMSTROM  
\_x\_\_\_ TOWNSHIP STAFF (MINUTES/ZOOM): DELANEY

I. Public: Ron Cione, Linda Doll.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**3. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

I. The Park and Recreation Board Meeting was called to order by Joanne Crawford at 7:00PM.

**4. UPDATED 2023 PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEMBER LIST**

I. We welcome Jerome Robinson to the Park and Recreation Board who was appointed by the Board of Supervisors on Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023, for a term to expire December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026.  
II. All are in favor of the updated members list.

**5. APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023, MEETING MINUTES**

I. Tom Manley motions to accept minutes, Kevin Kissling seconds the minutes the rest are all in favor.

**6. PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD LIAISON - COMMITTEE REPORTS**

I. Open Space/PR/EAB Committee - Mutual Interest Communication Sub-Committee (Manley)  
I. Tom Manley states there was an Mutual Interest Committee meeting March 12<sup>th</sup> to look at the new Butler Pike property and it was cancelled. They have not met in person since then. Waiting for the next opportunity to get together at Hope Lodge and view the property.

**7. 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade Committee (Crawford/Hector)**

I. Joanne Crawford states the next meeting is Thursday April 6<sup>th</sup>.

**8. Whitemarsh Athletic Association (Manley)**

- II. Tom Manley states the Whitemarsh Athletic Association annual meeting is next Monday April 10<sup>th</sup>. We are having a guest speaker Liz Bland come out to speak about mindfulness to the Association.
- III. Kevin Kissling would like to recommend an ad hoc park and rec committee around active recreation space and what is the best way to find more space for the kids. The purpose is to explore opportunities for additional recreation space.
  - a. Chris Epstein says It is very hard to find spots for people and teams to use because of the number of groups, organization, and teams that use the field.
  - b. Linda Doll states she does not understand the purpose of the committee.
    - i. Kevin Kissling explains that he wants to form a committee to better communicate to the right people for the need of additional recreation space.
  - c. Ron Cione asked for the group to look at the open space plan to find space for everyone in the community and how it can benefit all ages.
  - d. Jim Convey motions the new subcommittee and Kevin Kissling seconds the motion for new committee. Kevin will volunteer as chair for the new committee.

## **9. WHITEMARSH ART CENTER REPORT – Joy O’Brien**

- I. Joy starts off by stating Spring semester starts after easter. Normal class offerings and registrations were good.
- II. WAC started offering summer camp on website. Starting June 19<sup>th</sup> – August 4<sup>th</sup>.
- III. Will be talking about WAC at Township Day.
- IV. WAC will be Scheduling a student teacher expo in June.
- V. The Finances numbers were slightly down but expected to bounce back with spring and summer classes.
- VI. Submitting business plan and agenda to commonwealth budget office for abolition hall renovations.
- VII. Kevin Kissling Motions report and Jerome Robinson seconds the rest are all in favor.

## **10. DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION REPORT – Tom Blomstrom**

### **I. NEW BUSINESS**

- I. Announcement that the Township and Department submitted a “Montco 2040 Implementation Grant” in March – for the Wells Street Parking Lot and Pedestrian Bridge to create a vital green and sustainable trailhead and connections to the Wells Street Open Space, the Miracle-Nature Trail, and Cedar Grove Park
- II. Announcement of Lions Club of Whitemarsh Annual Egg Hunt at the Miles Park Pavilion-Playground on Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 10am
- III. Announcement of the Whitemarsh Trash Mob at Barren Hill Road on Tuesday, April 11<sup>th</sup> from 9am-11 am
- IV. Announcement of Free Kona Ice Day Event on Tax Day at the Miles Park Pavilion on Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup> – 3:30-4:30pm
- V. Announcement of Township Day at Victory Fields- PWHs on Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> from 12pm-5pm
- VI. Announcement of the Montgomery County Senior Games from May 1<sup>st</sup> to May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023 (various locations in Montgomery County) – [www.montcoseniorgames.com](http://www.montcoseniorgames.com)
  - 1. Montgomery Country Senior games have begun registration. Emily Moore is on the committee and Tom Blomstrom and Nick Delaney will be volunteering to run events for the seniors.
- VII. Announcement of Spring Outdoor Concert – Music with Gina (Family Concert) at Miles Park on Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup> – 4pm-5pm

- VIII. Announcement of Whitemarsh Trash Mob at TBD on Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup> from 9am-11am
- IX. Announcement of the Mini-Spring Fling at Cedar Grove Park-Barn on Tuesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9am-10am & 10:30am-11:30am
- X. Announcement of the Hope Lodge Ales & Petals/ Cars and Motorcycles of England Car Show on Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> – 10am-4pm
- XI. Announcement of the Hope Lodge Ambler Symphony Concert on the Lawn on Wed. June 7<sup>th</sup> (Raindate: June 15<sup>th</sup>) at 7pm
- XII. Proposed installation of Pickleball Court lines on Koontz Park Basketball Court to create a multi-use recreational area – review, discussion, and vote of plan.
- XIII. Jon Walker volunteered at the one school one book event to read at the elementary school.
- XIV. We have been interviewing and hiring new summer staff. We are currently in the interview process.
- XV. We will have training and orientation for the staff upcoming. All newly hired season staff members are required to attend the orientation and training.
  - 1. Staff Training is slated for June 10<sup>th</sup>.
- XVI. CEP program is continuing to do well. The last CEP program was held on February 17<sup>th</sup> was held at the William Jeanes Memorial Library.
- XVII. Fun club is going 5 days a week at Whitemarsh Elementary School.
- XXVIII. Parents night out has been spectacular with 33 children and 37 children in the last two sessions.
- XIX. New quidditch class went well for first time running the program and looking to run again in the future.
- XX. Camping under the stars is a new overnight camping program for families to learn how to camp at Wells Street.
- XXI. Valentine's Day had 46 participants at the Eat and Enjoy social. Good job to Emily and Nick on their efforts. There was also a St. Patrick's Day themed Eat and Enjoy Social that had 46 participants and we raffled away a CD from our musical performers who performed at the social.
- XXII. Spring Shredding Day was a huge hit thank you to Spring Mill Fire company for volunteering. We shredded 28,500 pounds of paper. Saved 242 trees during shredding day. Day of Donations totaled \$4,423 in donations for Shredding Day.
- XXIII. Whitemarsh Township Day is Saturday April 22<sup>nd</sup> from 12pm-5pm. This is all hands-on deck event and will be over at Colonial School District the entire week setting up for our big event. Over 100 vendors signed up for the event. Entertainment is booked. An assortment of games, rides, sports games, and fun fields will all be out for Township Day. EAB and Shade Tree Commission will be out for Township Day. Wristbands are available \$20 pre-sale and day of they are \$25.
- XXIV. Summer Movie Series will begin Friday May 19<sup>th</sup>. The movies that will be featured this summer will be Finding Nemo, Space Jam, DC League of Super-Pets, and Buzz Lightyear.
- XXV. Miles Park Phase II development grant - submitted update to DCNR and are exchanging checklist items and are looking to have the work done this fall.
- XXVI. Submitted Magical Miles Park playground grant to DCNR.
- XXVII. Indoor rentals have been going very well - a lot of community groups meeting. Thanks to Nick for keeping that organized.
- XXVIII. Big thanks to Public Works Grounds crew for getting the parks open quickly for the start of spring. Ball fields have been worked on and are ready for play.
- XXIX. Parks have been de-winterized, and the water is on, and the bathrooms are open. The lights have been turned on at the basketball courts and are ready for the spring and summer.
- XXX. Franco painted bathrooms at Cedar Grove and installed new playground equipment, Franco also re-tiled the floors in the overhang at Cedar Grove.

- XXXI. Koontz Park building had gutters and fascia board re-done.
- XXXII. Franco painted the railings and doors at Miles Park Building and painted Storage A, B, and C and re-labeled them.
- XXXIII. Kevin Kissling wanted to mention a special thanks to Park and Recreation team and public works team for the work at Leeland Park.
- XXXIV. Kevin also asked if the Shredding Day donations were a record?
  - 1. Tom replied it was not a record but 2<sup>nd</sup> highest amount of donations.
- XXXV. Kevin asked if there is a timeline on grants?
  - 1. Tom replied by saying yes, the Montco 2040 grant we will hear back before end of summer and the DCNR grant can take until December – January.
- XXXVI. Kevin had one final question, asking how staffing for summer camp is going?
  - 1. Tom replies with it is still tricky to get staffing and having good folks coming on board. It is still difficult to retain the older individuals such as the college age staff.
- XXXVII. Linda Doll asks do you continue to make money or lose money on Township Day?
  - 1. Tom states we do our best to generate revenue and sponsors, but it depends on the community and weather on how successful we are going to be. Our number one goal is to provide a safe and wonderful day for the entire community.
- XXXVIII. Tom Manley Motions the report and Jim Convey seconds the rest are all in favor.

## II. OLD BUSINESS

- I. Miles Park Phase II Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Grant – Miles Park Basketball Court Renovations Update
- II. Tom proposed installation of pickleball court lines. People will be required to bring their own equipment and nets. We will post the rules and allow play at Koontz Park.
  - 1. Kevin Kissling motions the pickleball court lines and proposal and Jim conveys seconds. The motion passed unanimously.

## 11. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

- I. Linda Doll who lives on fairway road believes that the girl's batting cage is a good idea. She believes it is a good idea they are funding it themselves and that there are no lights involved.
- II. Linda believes the boy's batting cage is concerning because it is only 80 ft away from a resident's house instead of 300-400 feet away.
- III. Linda states she is unsure of what Little League means when they say they are 100% funding the batting cage tunnel. Is the Township helping out with the funding? Are they going to be using grant money?
- IV. Linda believes it isn't right nor fair that Parks and Recreation can decide and should have to go through Planning and Zoning.
- V. Linda states she has been through this with Colonial School District and Victory Fields. She said they should treat every situation the same and going through the proper steps and there should be no double standards.
- VI. Ron Cione says he is not pleased by the process of Whitemarsh Little League notifying neighbors. Please reconsider the process for notification of the neighbors around the parks.

## 12. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

- I. None

### **13. ADJOURNMENT**

- II. Meeting was motion to adjourn from Kevin Kissling and seconded by Tom Manley the rest are all in favor and the meeting is adjourned at 8:05PM.

**NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, June 6th, 2023, at 7pm – In-Person at the Miles Park Building**