

**LOWER PAXTON TOWNSHIP  
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 1, 2023**

Members in Attendance

Stan Smith  
Jim Seidler  
Bob MacIntyre  
Mayur Patel  
Neal Johnson  
Wendy Steinbrunner  
Sandy Mort-Backuskas

Members Absent

Kirby Lentz

Also in Attendance

Rachelle Scott, Staff Liaison  
Bill Miller, Resident  
Boy Scout Troop 256 (scouts and parents)

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Parks and Recreation Board was called to order by Chairman Neal Johnson at 7:19 p.m. on the above date, in Meeting Room 174, at the Lower Paxton Township Municipal Center, 425 Prince Street, Harrisburg, PA.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Boy Scout Troop 256 was present observing a governmental meeting as a step towards their communications badge.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. MacIntyre made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the January 4, 2023 meeting. Mr. Seidler seconded the motion, and it was followed by a unanimous vote of approval.

**PARKS PROJECTS**

Brightbill Restroom

Ms. Scott reported that the restroom building was installed with no concerns. It is a prebuilt building delivered in two sections, fitted over the utility connections using a crane. Each restroom has two stalls, one of each is handicap accessible.

Financially this was a good choice. The 28' by 28' building recently built for Heroes Grove cost \$539,000 including engineering. This building is 23' by 26' and approximately \$250,000 was spent. The building and the roof are both concrete. Ms. Scott shared photos of the old building, the new building and some of the process of installation. The next step is to make sure the electricity and the plumbing work.

Mr. Seidler thanked her for the effort put into the project and noted that these buildings are very common out west.

#### Brightbill Playground

Ms. Scott stated that a designer has been hired to design the playground, put the project to bid, and installation in the fall in the same location as the current playground. She noted that the last few playgrounds installed were standard pieces placed in the park, but this one has a few extra things to consider, so it was felt to be best to have it designed. The initial direction is to use a treehouse theme and let the musical pieces be a focal point.

#### Lamplight Park Paved Path

Ms. Scott explained that there is a 5-foot-wide path proposed to encircle the park and connect to George Park and to the street. She has met with Public Works on site to review the plans. Mr. Seidler noted that the route for the 5K is proposed for the same location. Mr. MacIntyre asked if the connection to George Park will be usable, and Ms. Scott stated it will be paved. There will also be a rain garden installed to the east, to offset the additional impervious coverage. Mr. Johnson asked about a curb-cut into the parking lot at George Park, and Ms. Scott explained the path will not connect directly with the lot, rather it will “T” off to either side reflecting the original intent of the George Park Plan. Mr. Patel noted the grade of that connection looks pretty steep, but Mr. Seidler noted that most of the hill is steep, but the place where people cross over is graded down some, and Ms. Scott noted it will probably get more grading too.

The paved path will incorporate the bench bump outs so that people can stop to rest or they can watch basketball.

Mr. MacIntyre noted that anytime there is improvements at Lamplight Park, the neighbors become concerned about the potential for additional visitors and the need for parking. Ms. Scott agreed and noted that the connection to the George Park should draw attention to the parking.

Mr. MacIntyre asked about the parking at the New Love Church. Ms. Scott stated that the Township has signed a 3-year contract with the Church and hopes to implement the recommended parking addition during that time.

Mr. Bill Miller asked if soccer is required to provide some sort of traffic control during their large events. Mr. Seidler stated they are not required to, but added that sidewalks were added for pedestrians. Ms. Scott added that when there is an event, there is coordination with the Police Department. Mr. Miller asked about a connection to the church parking lot, that is only accessible during an emergency.

### Hodges Heights

Ms. Scott stated that HRG has been selected to perform the studies of the ground beneath the parkland, which should be complete by March of this year so that the information learned can be used in the grant application process. Mr. Miller asked or suggested that the methane released from the landfill material could be captured and utilized to generate power. The park is roughly 50 years old and has had problems the whole time. The baseball pitchers mound, the basketball, tennis court, pavilion, decked pavilion, et cetera. It was suggested that more fill could be brought in from the sewer projects, but the amount of fill needed is unknown, and filling is a temporary solution to the settlement that takes place as the garbage decomposes. Mr. MacIntyre noted that the section where the park is located is the first part of the landfill to be used, so it has the oldest material.

Mr. MacIntyre suggested there is potential for other features such as a bmx track down in the back portion of the landfill. Ms. Scott noted that she has requested the study to cover an expanded boundary in case there is any more usable area.

### REQUEST FOR ALLERGY AWARENESS SIGNS

Ms. Scott received a request for signs to be placed in the parks regarding food allergies. Members discussed different scenarios but ultimately decided to not recommend these signs be installed. Board members empathized with the families that deal with extreme allergic reactions but were not in favor of signs being installed. Reasons include: there is a long list of things at a park that are potentially dangerous at a park; people are generally more aware of allergies now than they were in the past; putting up signs could have a counter effect; signs can imply compliance and safety; implied safety could lead to liability; signs could incite conflict if someone isn't compliant.

### PARK ENTRANCE SIGNS

Ms. Scott stated the cost to add the second side to the entrance sign is \$2,900. A full replacement is \$3,700. She recommends the first choice even though the top edge may not be lined up exactly.

Mr. Johnson asked about the reduction of the park names, for example, Thomas B. George Jr. Park to George Park. Ms. Scott stated the Board of Supervisors prefer a uniform look and naming style on the parks. Mr. Johnson felt that if a park is dedicated to someone, it is important for people to know why it was done. Mr. Smith agreed that the information is important and suggested there be a plaque with information on it in the pavilion or posted somewhere so that the history or the value is not lost.

Historical Commission or the Boy Scouts may be interested in a project to memorialize some of these. Bill Miller suggested contacting the Historical Commission to see if they would

want to dive into the history of the parks. Many of their meetings are presentations of research that they do and they are recorded and shared via YouTube.

### PARK UPDATES

Ms. Scott offered the following park updates.

#### Forest Hills

The Board of Supervisors requested, as a result of the public input at a recent meeting, that a revision be made of the Parks Master Plan for the Forest Hills Park plan. Ann Yost, the YSM consultant, has gathered the requests and input, and provided an update. Ms. Scott shared an image of the update. The tennis courts and basketball court will stay. An ADA parking spot is recommended with a path that enters the basketball and tennis courts. Currently you go through the basketball court to get to the tennis court. A small pavilion is also proposed with an accessible path. The playground was replaced in 2015 so it will not be changed. The Supervisors would like this park to be included in the 2023 plans. A cost estimate will be done, but it will be more expensive, so it may impact the improvements at Centennial Acres. At Forest Hills, the courts would be completely renovated instead of being removed.

Mr. Smith stated that the maps of the amenities in the Township may need to be updated with this change, and Ms. Scott didn't think so since the two parks are so close they should still fall in the same circles. However, it will mean the chart of amenities needs to be updated. The trails proposed are reduced. Mr. MacIntyre noted that all plans emphasize the need to add trails for people to use, and anytime people are polled they say they want trails, so this is contradictory to the overall wants and plans.

#### Lingle

Ms. Scott has reached out to the representative discuss moving the cricket pitch from Kohl Park to Lingle Park.

#### Koons

Public water will be installed in February so it will be usable when the seasons open.

Linglestown Softball Association would like to open the concession stand that was started and abandoned by the previous organizers. At that time, the Township completed the roof, but there was no electricity or plumbing installed. They are planning to install electricity. Even though public water is being installed nearby, there will not be sewer facilities. Holding tanks are being explored in hopes that they can operate the concession stand this spring.

#### Oak Park Nature Trail

The cable that has been in the way of the trail will be removed next week.

### **ARTS COUNCIL REPORT**

Mr. Smith stated that the Arts Council met with the director of the Dauphin County Library, who as agreed to display art within the library. The library is also interested in bringing in local artists to promote & recruit other artists to participate.

Ms. Scott added that Theresa Gonzales will join to the Arts Council after the Supervisors make the appointment.

### **GREENWAY COMMITTEE REPORT**

Ms. Scott stated that Albert Banks will join to the Greenway Committee after the Supervisors make the appointment. Bill Landefeld was recently appointed.

Mr. Seidler reported that the Greenway Committee is moving forward with the plans for a bridge and boardwalk on the Oak Park Trail thanks to a grant received from a local realtors association. He circulated the most recent version of the trail, with less stream crossings. The group did meet recently to work on more clearing and digging.

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. Seidler shared an updated to the 5K route.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Ms. Scott stated that the Township has contracted a new communications staff person, Jack Sherzer.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The next meeting is scheduled for March 1, 2023 at 7:15 pm. The meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle Hiner  
Recording Secretary