

**LOWER PAXTON TOWNSHIP  
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
APRIL 6, 2022**

**Members in Attendance**

Neal Johnson  
Jim Seidler  
Stan Smith  
Kirby Lentz  
Bob MacIntyre

**Also in Attendance**

Rachelle Scott, P/R Manager  
Ethan Erb, Boy Scout

**Absent**

Mayur Patel  
Angela McCloskey

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Neil Johnson called the April 6, 2022 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board to order at 7:15 pm in Room 174 of the Lower Paxton Township Municipal Center, 425 Prince Street, Harrisburg, PA.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was none.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MARCH 2, 2022**

Mr. MacIntyre made a motion to approve the March 2, 2022 meeting minutes. Mr. Smith seconded the motion, and it was followed by a unanimous vote of approval.

**ETHAN ERB-EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT PROPOSAL**

Ethan Erb of Troop 368 of Charleston Church presented his Eagle Scout project proposal, Canned Jam. Mr. Erb proposed holding a benefit concert at Heroes Grove Amphitheater from 2 to 8 pm on August 13, 2022. It will benefit Lower Paxton Township, more specifically for the Sound Garden at Brightbill Park. Eight forty-five-minute acts will perform at no charge. Mr. Erb played samples of music from two of the bands that will be performing.

Sponsors will provide the primary source of income. Get Air has committed \$500. Other possible sponsors include Yingst Topsoil and Mulch, Ted's Bar and Grill, Toninos Pizza, and Linglestown Gazette. Mr. Erb also plans to have a food truck at the event and will ask them to donate 10% of their profits. The monetary donations will go toward the sound garden. Mr. Erb stated he is hoping to collect canned food for the food bank in advance of the event and at the event. The donation goal is \$2,000 to \$2,500. Sponsors will be able set up a table at the event to promote themselves. Their logo will be included on social media, yard signs, and shout-outs during promotional material. Glen Hamilton, from the River 97.3 has agreed to advertise the event. It will be advertised throughout each day leading up to the event. Posters and flyers will also promote the event.

Mr. Erb stated items needed from the Township include use of the Heroes Grove Amphitheater, microphones, speakers, guitar amps (could be provided by the bands), trash cans, tables for food vending area and sponsors, barricades for direction. Ms. Scott noted the Township could not provide guitars.

The timeline will be as follows:

1. Confirm sponsors and donations by April 20.
2. Finalize band lineup by May 5.
3. Begin publicizing by May 12.
4. Work with food truck to obtain vending permit.

Mr. Seidler asked if Parks and Recreation staff will need to be present at the event. Ms. Scott replied managers will monitor the event at various times throughout day and evening.

Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the project. Mr. Seidler seconded the motion, and it was followed by a unanimous vote of approval.

Ms. Scott stated she would email Mr. Erb the Lower Paxton Foundation contact information to be a fiscal sponsor. Mr. Lentz requested that Mr. Erb provide an update to the Board after the bands have been confirmed. Mr. Erb will plan to attend the June 1 meeting.

### **STATUS O F MASTER PLAN**

Ms. Scott stated a Steering Committee meeting was held on March 27, and approximately 12 of the 14 members of the steering committee with present. Mr. Henry, representing the Board of Supervisors, and Norm Zumas attended. Ms. Scott stated Park and Rec Board members will be provided with a copy of minutes of each meeting. Ms. Scott noted that Supervisor Henry wanted Parks and Rec Board members to know the Board of Supervisors values what the Parks and Rec Board does and that, although the Steering Committee is very valuable, all major decisions will still go through the

Parks and Rec Board. Mr. Smith stated Mr. Henry was vocal that the monies from the sale of Wolfersberger and an additional amount is earmarked for parks. The next meeting will be Wednesday, April 27 at 6:30 p.m. and will be open to the public. The next Steering Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, April 28 at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Seidler asked if anyone from the Possibility Place playground committee plans to attend. Ms. Scott stated an email will be sent to all sports organizations and other groups to notify them of the public meetings. Focus groups will be held during the Steering Committee process that will include organizations and civic groups interested in providing input and suggestions.

### **PARKS REVITALIZATION PROJECT**

Ms. Scott provided the following update:

1. The Gary Lowe field project has been completed.
2. Playground equipment has been removed from Centennial Acres and Kings Crossing Parks. Lamplight equipment will be removed next week.
3. New playground equipment will start to be installed by Burkes at Centennial Acres on May 2, Kings Crossing on May 9, and Lamplight on May 25.
4. Brightbill Basketball courts renovation will start Monday and will take about two to three weeks. The courts will be painted either before or after the Brightbill Basketball league.
5. A meeting will be held to plan bid specs for the Brightbill Park Restrooms.
6. The grant for the walking path around Brightbill Park and the new playground was submitted today. The original grant amount was to be about \$680,000. The grant was submitted in the amount of \$1,040,000 because the walking path had to be extended from 5' to 8 to 9' wide to make it a porous asphalt to deal with the storm water and be able to use a street sweeper on it. The playground amount increased because we looked into having a pour-in-place (similar to George Park) to allow for all abilities to be able to access it. Because in the original plan \$545,000 was allocated for the two projects without grant funding, we were able to increase the amount and to match it with grant funding without spending any more money. From that point, we will be requesting a local share grant for \$130,000 that will max to \$150,000 for the pour-in-place. Looking into a CFA grant that will be up to \$250,000.

### **PARK UPDATES**

Ms. Scott provided the following park updates:

1. There is a significant park ranger staff shortage. One park ranger has been hired at this point in time. Management has been closing bathrooms at the parks since March 14. A cleaning service is being hired to clean

and lock the bathrooms at night at the four major parks. A week to week contract is possible with the cleaning service. The Public Works Department is having difficulty filling the weekend overtime morning shifts to clean the bathrooms. The bathrooms, especially at Koons Park, are being destroyed at night. Police have been asked to patrol more often and go in to the bathrooms.

2. The Kite Festival will take place at Lingle Park on April 24.
3. Heroes Grove submitted their bid (due back May 5) for new restrooms and a welcome center. Construction is projected to start August 15 and be completed by December 9.

Mr. Lentz ask, asked how they would run the restrooms to get into the sewer. Ms. Scott replied there were two options that included running back to the Friendship Center or tapping into the Joanne Fabric area. She noted she thinks they are going back to Santanna (by Friendship Center). Mr. Lentz noted a pump will have to be installed. He also noted the pump would have to be in the open in case it needs to be worked on.

4. The Centennial Acres gaga ball pit concrete pad is being installed next week.
5. Penn State Extension cleaned the stream bed at Centennial Acres and is revitalizing the rain garden.
6. Joel McNaughton submitted a request for a Deed of Dedication for Autumn Oaks. The request was denied due to unresolved issues that include no lights in the parking lot, no receptacles in the pavilion, river rocks not removed from around the pavilion. The playground is built on a mound, and the mulch keeps washing away. We are requesting that area be curbed in or barricaded. A swell is creating a major puddle behind the playground. We have requested the playground be inspected by a third party inspector, not the installer. There are concerns with the height of the swings. There is a grass line the entire way around the pickleball courts because the fence was installed almost 3' off the courts, and this area would need to be mowed. The fencing is not secure. The parking area is supposed to have a 9.5 mm wearing course, but still just has the base. There are supposed to be 45 lined parking spaces. There are no lined spaces.
7. Paxtonia Ballfield update. Involved in meetings with the school district, athletic association, and new batting cage representative. The batting cage will be the school district's responsibility. Field usage is being discussed. The school district would like the township to maintain the fields, and they are proposing a 50/50 cost share for work done by the Township. Paxtonia Athletic Association is to provide us a list of what they are doing at the fields to eliminate double dipping because some services, such as fertilization, are being done by them and the Township. The porta-john, mowing, and trash is being paid by the Township at this time.

Mowing costs the township about \$215 per week. Mr. Seidler asked if we need the fields. Ms. Scott noted only Paxtonia AA uses the fields, and the only rentals the Township was paid for included two travel team tournaments held there in 2021 totaling about \$730. An agreement is being worked on to help lessen the burden on the Parks and Recreation Department and the Public Works Department.

8. Parks and Recreation will be working with a graphic designer to establish a new logo for branding purposes.

### **ARTS COUNCIL ACTIVITIES**

Mr. Smith provided the following update:

1. Jim Milbrand, LPT Variety Band, attended the meeting to provide the annual update. Signed and updated agreement with the band. Five of the band's ten scheduled performances are in the Township.
2. A new Facebook page will be created.
3. Discussed book club. Relying on East Shore Library to do much of the promotion. Also using social media. Two newer members have experience with creating flyers.
4. Working on new sign for Possibility Place through an Art Mural contest.

### **GREENWAY COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES**

Mr. Seidler provided the following update:

1. Discussed volunteer work. First trail maintenance day is April 23 at Oak Trail. Field maintenance days will be held the third Saturday of each month.
2. Provided a sample bridge design the Appalachian Trail is using. Started pricing wood at various lumber mills.

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Mr. Seidler provided the following update:

1. Participating in Easter Egg Stravaganza. Sound Garden will be promoted. Soliciting sponsors for the Sound Garden and the race. Flyers will be available.
2. Working on obtaining race sponsors and promoting race.
3. Participating in the Kite Festival and will promote the race at the festival.
4. Ms. Scott noted donations on behalf of Mary Grace Newsome can be made through a link on the website.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

There was none.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

***Kathryn A. Sawyer***

Kathryn A. Sawyer  
Recording Secretary