

**East Vincent Township
Park & Recreation Meeting
April 22, 2025, 7:00 PM**

Brian Wilde opened the meeting at 7:00PM. Also in attendance were Doug Schmidt, Cynthia Barney, Todd Palmer, and Christine McNeil. Also in attendance was the Township Manager, Bob Zienkowski.

1. Meeting minutes from March 25, 2025, were read and approved as amended.

Moved: C. Barney

Second: T. Palmer

Vote: Unanimous

2. Guest Discussion

{2.a.} Community Food Forest

Yatin Kapu, a student from Kimberton Waldorf School, presented a proposal for a Community Food Forest, also known as a permaculture food forest. His presentation was very extensive. He provided an overview of what a food forest is, how it is created, and how it is maintained. The proposal included a request for space where the food forest could be placed within Independence Park. Upon some discussion amongst the board and a comment by B. Zienkowski it was noted that space could be provided within Park on the Ridge for the proposed project.

Motion: D. Schmidt motioned that the Park and Recreation Board approve the concept of the establishment of a Community Food Forest at Park on the Ridge as presented by Y. Kapu, recommend that the township explore appropriate funding sources and partnerships to support its development. The motion was seconded by C. McNeil. The vote was unanimous. D. Schmidt will be the liaison to Y. Kapu.

3. Old Business

{3.A Open Issues List}

The Open Issues List was reviewed. Independence Park issue #5 – Cemetery Signs, There is an opportunity for a grant that could assist in covering the costs for interpretive signs. T. Palmer was commended for doing a great job working up the prototypes for the cemetery signs.

The committee will need to conclude what the overall design will be for all the Independence Park interpretive signs.

Issue #9 – T. Palmer will be installing the wayfinding signs on the SRT that direct people to the Indy Trail.

Issue #17 – The EAC can move forward on the gardens in Independence Park.

{3.B Independence Park}

Issues discussed while reviewing the Open Issues List.

{3.C Park on the Ridge}

{3.C.a Tennis Court Resurface}

An estimate of \$160k was provided to perform the resurfacing work. This will be a full depth replacement of the court. This will be long term work.

B. Zienkowski will investigate further about the cricket pitch.

A new basketball court will be discussed after the tennis court work is complete.

{3.D Peoples Park}

{3.D.a Project Update}

The Open Issues list was reviewed. There may be an available area for parking. Further progress on the park has been placed on hold. The trail near the school is an open issue.

C. McNeil provided a status presentation on the park. There is an open issue about creating the core trail within the park. Park & Rec should be able to start this portion of the work. T. Palmer commented that it would be good for the committee to start building the trails.

The Board of Supervisors (BoS) are still waiting on holding conversations with the residents that border the park as well as the local HOA boards. B. Zienkowski will be coordinating those meetings going forward.

Motion: C. McNeil motioned that the Park & Recreation Board recommend to the Board of Supervisors that the Core Trail System be started as per the R. Trales plan, given that the bog turtle review is scheduled and completed. Seconded by T. Palmer. Vote was unanimous.

{3.E Sheeder Woodlands Park}

{3.E.a Project Update}

The survey of the property has been completed. Work is in progress for the closing on the property by the end of April. This will be reviewed at the next P&R meeting. A study of the trees within the park has been requested.

4. New Business

{4.A Recreation Spotlight: EVT Public Works Department}

Report from B. Wilde:

1. Utility Poles Removal Along Indy Trail

At the recent Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, BOS member M. Brancato asked about a downed utility pole near the Indy Trail. I explained that it is one of five decommissioned utility poles along the trail, some still standing with old electrical apparatus and non-live wires. We agreed these poles are an eyesore and not representative of the trail image we want to portray.

I reached out to Public Works Director Jason McCann and to my surprise, he said his team could manage removing all the PECO utility poles. In just one day, Public Works removed and disposed of the poles with minimum environmental impact!

2. Support After Indy Trail Spring Cleaning

Following the successful Indy Trail Spring Cleaning, Public Works was called in to remove litter collected in all corners of the trail. This included trash bags along Church Road and debris collected throughout the trail. Once again, Public Works came to our aid, ensuring the trail was clean and ready for hikers, walkers, and bikers.

We are thankful for the Public Works Department's responsiveness and continued support!

{4.B Sustainable Economic Development Pathways Outline (EVT)}

C. McNeil presented an overview of this work.

5. Miscellaneous Discussion

T. Palmer asked that the supervisors' liaison to Park & Rec be assigned to attend future Park & Rec meetings. Details will need to be worked out as to when and where future discussions will be held.

6. Public Comment

None.

7. Adjourn

Moved: C. McNeil

Second: D. Schmidt

Vote: Unanimous