

**East Vincent Township  
Park & Recreation Meeting  
January 23, 2024, 7:00 PM**

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Brian Wilde opened the meeting at 7:00PM. Also in attendance were Chris Cobb, Doug Schmidt, and Christine McNeil. Also in attendance was the Township Finance Officer, Bill Aston.

**1. Reorganization**

The following nominations were present:

Chairperson: B. Wilde was nominated by D. Schmidt, 2<sup>nd</sup> by C. McNeil. There being no other nominations a vote was taken with a unanimous conclusion.

Vice-Chair: C. Cobb was nominated by B. Wilde, 2<sup>nd</sup> by C. McNeil. There being no other nominations a vote was taken with a unanimous conclusion.

Secretary: D. Schmidt was nominated by C. Cobb, 2<sup>nd</sup> by C. McNeil. There being no other nominations a vote was taken with a unanimous conclusion.

**2. Minutes – November 28, 2023**

Meeting minutes from April 25, 2023, were read and approved. Modifications were noted.

Moved: B. Wilde

Second: C. Cobb

Vote: Unanimous

C. McNeil commented that there are meeting minutes missing from the Park & Rec minutes web page from 2022: September, October, and November. D. Schmidt will provide the files to the front office for posting.

C. McNeil commented that she had given a summary of two new grant opportunities for Park and Recreation to consider to Haley and it needs to be distributed to the P&R board.

**3. Old Business**

**A. Independence Park – Sidewalk/pathway draft**

The modified trail/walking plan provided by C. Cobb was reviewed. A motion was present by C. McNeil to accept the updated plan design and forward it as appropriate. Seconded by B. Wilde. Unanimous vote.

C. McNeil commented that, at present, the park is in limbo and Park & Rec should be provided with a detailed status report. We were told that B. Zienkowski has been talking with T. Comitta about what is happening. The access roads and electricity issues should have already been addressed. The Park & Rec board has been told that Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc. (HRG) is the interim engineer. The board would like to obtain an update on the transfer of bid work and the aligning of contractors for work on the new park.

The Park & Rec board needs better details on the existing grants for the new park and what may happen to them if they are not used with their designated timeframe.

The following motion was made: The Park & Rec board recommends that the management team from HRG be engaged to determine if they can complete specifications and cost estimates for the new park for Phase 1 including the sidewalk/pathway modifications draft. Furthermore, it is requested that a representative from HRG be present at the February Park & Rec board meeting for coordination and orientation of the new engineer to the project to move the bid specification forward, as well as anyone needed to complete the documentation and knowledge transfer of the new park to HRG. Moved by: C. McNeil, 2<sup>nd</sup> by C. Cobb. Unanimous vote.

C. McNeil asked about what is happening with the old clinic buildings. The board needs an update on this issue. In the current plans there is a designated information and comfort station at that location. B. Zienkowski has commented at a previous meeting that he felt that both buildings needed to be demolished. B. Zienkowski needs to provide an updated status and details on the replacement proposal.

C. McNeil provided information regarding grant opportunities that the board might be able to use for the information and comfort station. There is a February information meeting on the grant. The board needs to decide whether to rehab or replace the existing buildings.

#### **B. Open Space Study – Grant Status**

C. McNeil commented that based upon research this grant will not be obtained. This leaves Park & Rec to determine how to proceed with the inventory report and have the matching funds be repurposed to repurpose the Vet Clinic or build a new Welcome Center.

#### **C. Budget 2024 – Recap**

C. McNeil would like to see a report consisting of an accounting of the grant funding for the new park as well as the matching funds from the township. A separate document would be helpful to the board. It should show all the dollars available. A request needs to be submitted to B. Aston to provide this report. The board is interested in seeing what the PECO Green Region grant funding is given for and the expiration date of the grant.

Motion was made by C. McNeil, 2<sup>nd</sup> by D. Schmidt with a unanimous vote to send this letter to obtain the details on the park funding.

The Community Day budget has been reduced. The board will be investigating alternate funding sources.

A discussion concluded that the matching funds for the basketball backboard and hoop is in the budget for Park on the Ridge. There is also funding for trail construction in the new park. B. Wilde will investigate quotes for the basketball backboard and hoop, so the board has a better understanding of the cost. C. McNeil will continue to reach Ed Gallegher of NorChester Red Knights to get the specifics on the type of Basketball backboard and hoop he envisioned and to secure the matching funds offer.

The following motion was made: submit a request to rescind the township manager letter dated April 6, 2023, Re: "Indy Trail" at Independence Park and replace it with an authorization letter to Park & Rec to access the new park and provide permission to start trail construction for those trails previously provided. Moved: C. McNeil, 2<sup>nd</sup> B. Wilde, vote was unanimous.

#### **4. New Business**

##### **A. Community Day (2023) Cost Breakdown**

This was discussed with the 2024 budget recap.

#### **5. Miscellaneous Discussion**

None.

#### **6. Public Comment**

P Chrisman pointed out that he's observed residents pulling up, getting and food and leaving. P. Chrisman questioned the extra meals that were sold during Community Day. He suggested reducing the amount of food provided that day. He also suggested having residents pay a deposit at the time of registration which would be reimbursed on Community Day. B. Aston responded that there were no extra meals sold. He stated that the only meals sold were those to non-residents. He further stated that food costs are rising, he suggested using Food Trucks and that people purchase their own food. There is a risk that one year the Community Day would be rained out and the Township will be out of all of that money. B. Ashton mentioned that the Township Manager recommends that Community Day activities be reimaged. This was tabled for further discussion at a future meeting.

E. Milito of the EAC was present. She commented that the EAC is planning an Earth Day Celebration on April 27, 2024, at the Park on the Ridge. The focus of the day will be the park itself and the stream in the park. There may be a seed & plant swap opportunity. A memorial tree planting is planned. The riparian buffer will be analyzed for invasives plant species. She is inviting the community to attend and volunteer for tasks that day throughout the park. Bring your gardening tools. There is a need to plant good stuff!

E. Milito is in contact with a high school senior from OJR regarding the student working on extra credit for school and may be able to bring 16 others with them. This may require special permission from the township.

C. McNeil commented on the open space committee Natural Resources Ranking and Review plan is completed. She will have the front office staff email it to the board members.

B. Wilde commented that he went to the Schuylkill River Trestle opening. He provided a review of the activities that went on that day.

B. Wilde asked B. Aston about the subscription to the Park & Rec Magazine. B. Aston commented that there are subscriptions for all board members, and he will let us know additional details about accessing it.

B. Wilde commented that he will obtain further information for the board regarding the 2024 Water Resource plan. Water test kits are not supplied by the township.

B. Wilde commented that the Warwick Winter Day sledding event was wonderful.

C. McNeil questioned if access was obtained to the PECO property on Church Rd. adjacent to the new park so we can use it to access the SRT. B. Zienkowski was going to pursue the investigation. C. McNeil made the following motion: B. Wilde should work with B. Zienkowski to attend a meeting with PECO to discuss the easement to Church Rd. Seconded by D. Schmidt. Unanimous vote.

B. Aston thanked the board for working with him on Park & Rec budget needs. We thanked him for being present and helping us.

## **7. Adjourn**

Moved: D. Schmidt

Second: C. McNeil

Vote: Unanimous