

East Vincent Township
Park & Recreation Meeting
April 26, 2022, 7:00 PM

Brian Wilde opened the meeting at 7:00 PM. In attendance were Doug Schmidt, Chris Cobb, Todd Palmer, Tom Burnley, and our newest member Christine McNeil. Also in attendance was Township Manager, Catherine Ricardo.

1. Meeting minutes from the March 22, 2022, were read and approved with one change to section 3, first paragraph. Motion made to approve by B. Wilde and seconded by D. Schmidt. Vote was unanimous.
2. Old Business
 - a. Independence Park Update
 - i. There were several discussions about the park. There is still an outstanding concern of access to the cemetery in the park. Residents were present and voiced their concerns. This issue will be addressed during the design phase for the trails with a note to provide a better buffer for the nearby homes.
 - ii. The DCNR kickoff meeting was held. A new land planner selection is in progress. The planning process will include evaluation of all buffers. Amenities in the park cannot be changed or eliminated. The full land development process still needs to be completed.
 - iii. There is a small piece of property that is owned by PECO that still requires authorization to use so that access to the SRT can be accomplished.
 - iv. Other input: Interpretive signs should be installed in the new park. These should be of a common format to our other parks or those that are best-in-class.
 - v. A request was made to a detailed process list for the park.
 - b. Community Day Update – September 10th (11AM to 2PM)
 - i. There will be a SWAT vehicle on display.
 - ii. PECO is a community sponsor and will be supporting the day.
 - iii. Alternate plans are being made since Ridge Fire Company is unavailable.
 - iv. A popsicle cart will be roaming the park during the day.
 - v. There will also be a Pizza Wagon food truck supplying fresh cooked pizza.
 - vi. Attendees from the local libraries will also be attending.
 - vii. The Historical Commission will be attending and will provide details for a scavenger hunt.
 - viii. The group discussed communications with Township residents and the use of social media. This item needs further investigation.
3. Miscellaneous Discussion
 - a. PARRC Presentation – B. Wilde reviewed and discussed cost sharing between the participants. He is concerned about the costs per Township and how the grants were distributed amongst the participants. D. Schmidt requested a presentation of the costs

that we have already incurred, the amount of grants that we need, and how this compares to what can be obtained through PAARC. C. Cobb stated that the return on investment is substantial. C. McNeil stated that by joining PARRC the Township will have a park and recreation coordinator and grant writer.

- b. Parkerford Park – this is the joint park between East Coventry and East Vincent. The master plan has been developed. Grant money requests to support this park are moving forward. Grant applications are due 5/30/2022. There are Thursday meetings for this effort. B. Wilde agreed to be the primary contact and Todd agreed to be secondary. The Park plan includes work to turn the Parkerford Tavern into a museum.
- c. Additional parks in the Township – there was discussion regarding the acreage available for future parks. C. McNeil asked if there was a report noting the park space needed to support all the residents in the Township. B. Wilde asked if there is a map available that we can use to see what space is available. C. Ricardo stated that there is an open space and recreation plan available for our use. C. McNeil would like to see the planned walking and biking trails. C. McNeil stated that there is a need to plan for additional park and recreation lands in the Township; based upon the standard there should be 28 acres of parkland/population. C. Ricardo brought up the idea that there is an opportunity to update the Township Park and Recreation plan from 2007. C. McNeil stated that the 2012 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan PROS from the Federation of Northern Chester County Communities was adopted as an amendment to the East Vincent Township Comprehensive Plan and should be considered.

4. Open Discussion/Public Comments

- a. An issue with the Pennhurst Memorial Cemetery was discussed. Paul Chrisman and Marietta Gies stated that there is an issue with the grass around the markers. This need to be addressed to keep the markers from being lost. Costs for maintaining the cemetery need to be inline with other work being performed within the Township.
- b. There was a concern raised with PARRC organization. P. Chrisman stated that in the past there have been organization like this that have fallen apart and have not benefitted the participants.
- c. Reference was made to the number of planning organizations in the area. C. McNeil stated that there are benefits to being part of these organizations. There is a working document that the board should review. C. McNeil stated that there are substantial benefits to the Township to join the regional planning committees. The Federation of Northern Chester Communities successfully negotiated an annual \$15 million set aside for Northern Chester County Agricultural Grants for farmland conservation. East Vincent benefited by receiving \$4 million in funds. In addition, the PROS plan already adopted for Parks as part of the Comprehensive Plan, the Regional Plan established a growth boundary that contributed to defeat of the 1000-unit development project.
- d. A resident who didn't identify themselves but lives on the border of the new park brought up the issue of grass cutting along the property border between the homes and the park. This issue will be routed to Public Works for investigation.

- e. T. Palmer asked how the committee initiates the planning process for new park lands. B. Wilde responded that we could create a preliminary planning report comprised of the following elements: introduction, site visit observations, opportunities, challenges, next steps. The idea is a short visit report for new park land and trails.

5. Adjournment

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM. Motion made by D. Schmidt and seconded by C. Cobb. The vote was unanimous.