

**East Vincent Township
Park & Recreation Meeting
January 27, 2026, 7:00 PM**

Brian Wilde opened the meeting at 7:00PM. Also in attendance were Chris Cobb, Doug Schmidt, and Christine McNeil. Also in attendance was the Board of Supervisors Liaison, Craig A> Damon II.

1. Reorganization

B. Wilde opened the meeting with a request for nominations for the committee leadership. The nomination for B. Wilde for chairperson was made by C. Cobb and seconded by C. McNeil. There being no other nominations a unanimous vote made. B. Wilde nominated C. Cobb for cochair person and seconded by C. McNeil. There being no other nominations a unanimous vote made. C. McNeil nominated D. Schmidt for secretary. There being no other nominations a unanimous vote made.

2. Meeting minutes from November 25, 2025, were read and approved. There was no December meeting.

Moved: C. McNeil

Second: C. Cobb

Vote: Unanimous

3. Guest Discussion: Food Forest Site Amenities

Y. Kapu attended this meeting to provide additional information regarding proposed amenities to the Park on the Ridge in association with the Food Forest project planned for the park. The discussion included a review of the workbench/fruit stand plans, bench plans for the food forest area, bird houses, and bee hotels.

B. Wilde expressed some concerns regarding the plans: 1) Do these plans fit the overall park format? 2) Can a back be added to the fruit stand for notice posting? This needs to be addressed further.

Y. Kapu commented that the bench plans include the bench being cemented into the ground. It was noted that the bench should match those already in the park. It was recommended that a fund raiser would be a good source of funding for the bench.

Y. Kapu stated that he would provide a maintenance plan for the bird houses and bee hotels. It is important for the health of new birds. C. McNeil questioned the species of birds that the house will support. One bird species is the Purple Martin. C. McNeil also asked if bat houses could be added to the list of amenities.

Y. Kapu commented on the need for funding. He will be available for the next two years so there is still time to apply for funding from available grants.

4. Old Business

A. Open Issues List

#Independence Park

-1 The buildings will be demolished in late January.

-2 B. Wilde reported that the first status meeting was held on 1/26/2026. The meetings will be biweekly meetings. B. Wilde reviewed his highlight list.

-4 Wayfinding sign at Pennhurst and Bridge - Waiting for the removal of the old signs.

-7 The EMS building status needs to be brought up at the status meetings.

-8 SEVC "Discover Independence Park" – This will be scheduled for late summer.

-9 The official opening of Independence Park will be a special scheduled event.

-10 Fencing Grant for the multipurpose field – There is a possibility that the PECO Green Region grant could be a source.

-13 Wooden steps for trail inclines – B. Wilde will forward the request to public works and Pennoni.

B. Independence Park

i. Groundbreaking – Event Recap

B.Wilde provided a picture and a review of the event. In attendance were Park & Recreation Board members B. Wilde, C. Cobb, D. Schmidt, C. Barney, Todd Palmer, C. McNeil, and T. Obara, and the Historical Commission Chair, M. Gies.

ii. Park Construction – Status Reviews

B.Wilde provided a picture and a review of the event.

iii. Change Order No. 1

This was approved and covers the building removal.

iv. Pharaoh Hound Lure Coursing – Event Recap

B.Wilde provided an overview of the event. D. Schmidt also attended and provided comments. B. Wilde provided pictures of the event in the handout.

C. Park on the Ridge

i. Food Forest – Funding and Site Amenities

This was discussed above.

D. Peoples Park

D.Schmidt raised a question regarding property encroachment by the neighbors and if it has been addressed.

E. Sheeder Woodlands Park

The township is now in possession of the area. The township arborist needs to schedule an inventory of the area. Once this is completed, we will be able to access the area.

F. Parkerford Historic Riverfront Park

So far, nothing has been approved for the site. There is a "Dare to Declare" event scheduled that will be attended by the Historical Commission.

5. New Business

A. Dogs in Parks – Policy Review

This subject will continue to be discussed. Suggestions were made regarding restrictions, and which parks should allow dogs. There is also a question regarding support for therapy dogs and service animals.

B. Grants

C. McNeil stated that 2027 grants need to be applied for early in 2026. The deadline for the DCNR grant is April 30, 2026. She also suggested that a regional advisor meeting is needed. The deadline for the Chester County Municipal grant is April 1, 2026. There is a 25% match required if both grants are approved. This is the same as what was received for Independence Park. C. McNeil will provide a list of other grant opportunities.

6. Miscellaneous Discussion

No comments.

7. Public Comment

C. McNeil commented that a township resident asked if the pickle ball courts could be removed from the park plan due to noise concerns. L.B. Lewman, a local resident, asked if an exercise course could be added to Independence Park.

8. Adjourn

Moved: C. McNeil

Second: C. Cobb

Vote: Unanimous