

**EAST LAMPETER TOWNSHIP  
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD  
September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

The East Lampeter Township Parks and Recreation Board met on Wednesday, September 25, 2024 at the Township Office: 2250 Old Philadelphia Pike, Lancaster, PA 17602. The statement of recorded meetings was played for all in attendance. Board members present were: Chairperson Jim Everhart, Ms. Diane Tyson, Mr. Chris Chretien, Mr. Frank Hollingsworth and Mr. Bruce Hess. Also present was Mr. Ralph Hutchison, Township Manager, Mr. Charles Thomas, Public Works Director, Ms. Lisa Cleveland, Parks & Recreation Director and Ms. Stephanie Leakway, Administrative Assistant. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jim Everhart at 4:00pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The meeting was also held using Zoom, an internet web conferencing tool. A recorded statement was played regarding the use of Zoom for this public meeting which included instructions for the public to use in order to participate in the meeting via zoom.

**Public Present in Public Meeting Room**

None

**Public Present via Zoom**

None

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion made by Frank Hollingsworth to approve the minutes of the regular August 28, 2024 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board which was seconded by Bruce Hess and unanimously approved by voice vote.

**Public Comment**

None

**Reports**

- a. Recreation
  - i. Mr. Thomas stated fall baseball has started. Mr. Chretien asked if girls softball ever called about using it next year. Mr. Thomas stated they were to attend the meeting & also provide liability insurance, but Township has not received anything. Mr. Chretien stated since they have not used the fields, he feels they should not have priority over others.

b. Grounds, Buildings and Trails

- i. Mr. Thomas stated things are starting to wrap up, getting odds & ends tied up. Next month we will have a 2023 & 2024 comparison report of pavilion rentals. Final 2025 budget numbers were received for the pavilion at Lafayette. Cost is \$228,000.00 Mr. Thomas stated he is looking into directional boring for utilities, this would help cut costs, no repaving, no excavating, no back filling and no stone would be needed.

c. East Lampeter Township Recreation Program

- i. Ms. Cleveland stated the new fee structure has been implemented in the current programs and it seems to be going well. Yoga in the park until October 15th at Community park, currently looking into an indoor space. With the Memo Of understanding at CV there will be space, just waiting on clarification of dates to begin. The walking club had 2 people sign up, but have been unable to coordinate it with their schedules. Ms. Tyson recommended posting more for upcoming events, as she has not seen anything posted for the walking club in a few weeks. She recommended posting every week. Mr. Everhart asked for a copy of the posting & he will distribute to people he see's walking at the park. Mr. Hess asked if people are able to sign up to receive reminders. Ms. Cleveland states they register online & then she reminds them weekly. Ms. Cleveland stated there is going to be a pumpkin centerpiece workshop with Ken's Gardens. There is a small group that has already registered. The Fall festival October 5<sup>th</sup>, 10:00am – 12:00pm is gaining a lot of interest, 530 people responded interested & 12 stated going on the facebook post. CV students & SEEDS are going to be helping at the Fall Festival. Halloween movie night is October 18<sup>th</sup> at Flory park, movie will be Hocus Pocus, 702 people stated they were interested on the facebook post. Looking into Cooking Class at CV as well as a few other continuing education classes and chair yoga for seniors. Ms. Cleveland stated she is looking into booking speakers for the playground. Ms. Tyson asked if pavilion reservations are going to be restricted until after 1:00 in June & July because of the Summer Rec Program. If so, we should be letting people know it will not be available. Ms. Cleveland stated they looked at several locations and because of the equipment and variety, as well as indoor use she feels the old Smoketown Elementary School would be a good location, if weather is bad they have access to the gym. Ms. Tyson thought Flory Park would be a good option so kids could walk, as well as Lafayette. Mr. Hutchison stated if they do anything with lunch arrangements it would be easier with the cafeteria. Mr. Hutchison stated details are still be worked out.
- ii. Ms. Cleveland stated soil sample has been received for the Community Gardens at Community Park. There was a couple things Troy will need to do, but everything looked pretty good. Mr. Chretien stated he feels the location is a horrible place to put it. It will de-value his property as well as the other properties next to it. Mr. Chretien stated it is going to look awful. Ms. Tyson

stated there is a farm right by Mr. Chretien's property currently. Mr. Chretien stated these types of gardens usually look disgusting. Mr. Chretien stated he feels they should not be in between 2 residential units & feels it is totally & completely disrespectful. Ms. Tyson stated the lot is part of the park. Mr. Chretien was concerned about parking and people staying all day long because they feel it's their property. Mr. Chretien feels it is going to be an unruly mess unless the Township is going to be taking care of the weeds. Mr. Chretien stated if you can't find another place for the garden, then it should be forgotten. He stated he will not have any privacy coming out the side door of his home, he will be very hesitant to leave his shed doors open. Mr. Chretien stated he will do everything he can to stop the garden. He stated he will be fearful to allow his granddaughter to run around in his yard because he doesn't know who will be coming in. Mr. Hutchison stated the plots would be rented & Township would know who they are and agreements will be signed. Mr. Hutchison stated there will be no additional parking added, they will park in the parking lot of the park. Mr. Chretien stated he would like to speak to the Supervisors about this. Mr. Hutchison stated this was discussed at last month's park board meeting, which Mr. Chretien did not attend. The other Park Board members did state they were in favor of the garden. Ms. Cleveland stated there are ways to regulate the garden. Mr. Hutchison asked if it would be helpful if the Township marked the property line, Mr. Chretien responded No. Mr. Chretien stated this is going to bring in animals & bugs and he will have no privacy in his yard. Mr. Hutchison stated they are not trying to be disrespectful. Mr. Chretien wants to find another location. Mr. Chretien stated if he tries to sell his property no one will buy it because of the garden. Mr. Hutchison stated everybody has residential type gardens. Mr. Chretien asked for a location where in the Township there is a community garden between 2 residential houses. Mr. Chretien stated this garden is not going to be kept nice. Ms. Tyson stated assumptions can not be made. Mr. Hess stated being next to a park brings your property value up, it does not lower the value. Mr. Hollingsworth stated at the last meeting they mentioned this property could have different uses such as a driveway, garden, pickleball court. Mr. Hollingsworth feels maybe more discussion on what the best use for the property would be and not jump on one idea yet. Mr. Chretien stated he will feel very unsafe with a garden next to his home. Ms. Tyson stated she feels the garden should be given a try for 1 year and see how it goes. Mr. Chretien asked if this could be put off for another year. Mr. Hutchison stated Township staff looked at other possibilities and Community Park was the best option. Mr. Hess asked if there is room to put some sort of plantings for privacy between properties and garden that would take care of sound & visual issues. Mr. Chretien stated he is sorry, but this affects him 365 days a year, Mr. Hutchison and Ms. Tyson stated it will only be gardening season which is a few months. Mr. Chretien asked if Township will be taking care of the gardens in the fall. Mr. Hutchison stated the Township will be tilling them & maintaining

them during the off season. Mr. Chretien made a motion to put this off until further research is done. There was no second motion. Mr. Everhart asked what the timeline is for this project. Mr. Hutchison stated they would like to put the information out concerning the rentals of the plots during the winter so they can be prepared in the spring so it would be available for summer gardening. Mr. Everhart stated if this is deferred, a year would be lost. Mr. Hollingsworth stated maybe look at the lot and then decide at the next meeting. Mr. Hollingsworth stated everyone is to go to the lot prior to the October meeting and a decision will then be made at that meeting. Board members can contact Ms. Cleveland & she would gladly meet them over at the Community park to show them exactly what is going to be done & where.

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

None

**Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:45 pm was made by Bruce Hess and seconded by Chris Chretien. Motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,  
Diane Tyson  
Secretary