

**EAST LAMPETER TOWNSHIP
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
May 28th, 2025**

The East Lampeter Township Parks and Recreation Board met on Wednesday, February 26th, 2025 at the Township Office: 2250 Old Philadelphia Pike, Lancaster, PA 17602. The statement of recorded meetings was played for all in attendance. The board members present were: Ms. Diane Tyson, Mr. Bruce Hess and Mr. Frank Hollingsworth. Also present was Ms. Tara Hitchens, Township Manager, Mr. Ralph Hutchison, Senior Advisor to Township Manager, Mr. Charles Thomas, Public Works Director, Stephanie Leakway, Administrative Assistant. The meeting was called to order by Ms. Diane Tyson 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 special meeting April 23rd, 2025 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. Ms. Hitchens reported Rec Desk has 366 accounts. Beginner Bird Walk held on 5/10 at Flory had 8 participants and saw 37 different species, will be returning September 14th at Community Park From 4:00pm-6:00pm. Community Gardens have 12 plots currently being sewn with seed. Fitness programs are growing; Chair Yoga has 10 participants on Thursdays at 10am. Yoga in the Park had 9 participants at Community Park on Tuesday evening. Movie Nights are starting,

June 13th featuring Sandlot Flory Park. Alliance Towing is Co-sponsoring with the Township & providing Hot Dogs to the first 150 people. Additional movie nights are August 14 & October 24th. All staff have been hired for the Summer Playground, and they are going through the training process. The first day is June 16th at the current Leola Elementary School. Goat Yoga is coming back June 18th. Pa Attorney General's Office will be holding 2 Senior Educational Seminars in the Township Building on July 17th at 1:00 for Senior Scam Prevention and then August 20th Protect Yourself from Identity Theft. We are set up with the NASA Solar System Ambassadors for a night sky event on August 27th. A Grant application was submitted for America 250 to celebrate the 250th anniversary of America for next year, grant is \$10,000.00. The Township would need to find sponsors or co-sponsors to match the grant. Looking at a drone show at CV High School Stadium. The Township applied for a \$50,000 T-Mobile Grant for Lafayette Pavilion but unfortunately were not chosen. Ms. Hitchens stated Ms. Cleveland is doing a very good job & thinks the senior programming at Township office is a great opportunity to bring folks inside during the summer heat. Ms. Tyson asked if all spots are filled for the Summer Playground, Ms. Hitchens stated Yes, & we currently have 6 on a wait list. Township also received calls asking if we would be willing to open more spots, unfortunately 40 is the max we can currently accommodate. Mr. Hess asked if Playground staff need to go through background checks, Ms. Hitchen replied that they absolutely do.

b. Grounds, Buildings & Trails:

- i. Mr. Thomas stated the issues with parking on the grass are under control, CV Baseball have had signs made up with no parking on the grass. Mr. Thomas is currently working with the Baseball Association to try to clean up the concession stand. He asked if they are using it all, Township would like to store items for movie night. June 9th is part of water week; Gibbons Park will be the site for fish shocking performed by the Conservation District from 6:00pm-7:00pm. There are 30 spots & all are filled. Mr. Hutchison stated it is being done to check the health of the stream. Mr. Thomas stated this was done approximately 2 years ago & the difference in size of the fish from the 2 year span is just amazing. Mr. Hess asked if pictures will be taken for people beyond 30 can see what is happening. Mr. Thomas said it will be on the Conservation District website after the tour. He will have something for the June meeting.

Old Business

- a. Mr. Thomas stated flower donations have been received.

- b. Mr. Hess asked about America 250 and are there any specifics. Ms. Hitchens stated there will be approximately 150 drones, maybe have some entertainment and potentially have the concession stand open at the stadium for the sports boosters, we are currently looking at options. Ms. Tyson asked when we would know if the grant is awarded. Ms. Hitchens stated it is about a month turnaround & will need to watch social media for the award announcement.
- c. Ms. Hitchens stated the trail from Strasburg Pike to Oakview Road is going out to bid and are hoping bids come in reasonably so we can move forward with the construction. Trail will run through Flory Park along the backside of Walmart and come out to Greenland Drive, will follow the South side of Greenland Drive and then come up west side of Oakview Road to intersect with Route 30 Streetscape, right around the 5 guys area of Oakview Road.
- d. Ms. Hitchen stated the Lancaster Heritage Pathway project we have 3 projects there. The first one is the Oak Grove Road extension out from the existing trail to Pitney Road intersection; Aspen Homes have already installed their portion around the intersection there. Then it is from the trailhead at Ben Franklin Blvd to Geist Road. Township met with the homeowners in the development of Oak Grove Road and Willow Lane to hear their ideas of different options that were provided to them by the consultant. Township heard loud & clear some of those options. The consultant will be making a presentation to the Board of Supervisors June 16th to go over a preferred option. They are still working on the design efforts for the pathway from the trailhead to Geist Road. The loop project which is Pitney Road & Oak Grove Road Intersections south along Pitney Road and then the extension where the Walnut Street extension ends down Walnut Street and connects into the City & Manheim Township, this project looks like it is going to start moving forward. There has been a hangup with the state process through ECMS, we are just finalizing the scope with the consultant. The City of Lancaster & Manheim Township are anxious to move forward because they are doing their own portions on the Lancaster Heritage pathway to make the connections happen. Mr. Hess stated he is seeing more sidewalks being installed & was wondering if it has anything to do with this project such as Treehouse. Ms. Hitchens stated sidewalks are part of the land development plan & this is a deferral that they are fulfilling. Ms. Tyson asked if the project is dependent on grants. Ms. Hitchens stated this is the study to see where the path should go, not the construction funds. Mr. Hess asked if this is a state issue when you are trying to coordinate between Townships or is county. Ms. Hitchens stated that East Lampeter Township did the grant application for the Western side of the Lancaster Heritage pathway and had support letters from Lancaster City & Manheim Township, but we are responsible for all the matching funds. Mr. Hutchison stated Township has taken the lead to get this project going. Mr. Hutchison also stated that Board of Supervisors are very interested in public safety & anytime they have a chance to get sidewalks put in they want Township to try & do that. Mr. Hess stated he sees very little room on 340 for pedestrians or bikes.
- e. Mr. Thomas stated they might see the stream bank restoration beginning at Strasburg Pike, not sure exact date yet. Ms. Hitchens stated they have been working with

homeowners of 93 Strasburg Pike & Lancaster County Conservation District. Township took on designing & permitting of this project and the homeowner & Lancaster County Conservation district took on obtaining an Exelon Grant as well as the homeowner is putting funds into the streambank restoration which will obtain MS4 credits and will help protect sewer lines in that area.

New Business

None

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:30pm was made by Frank Hollingsworth and seconded by Bruce Hess. Motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Tyson
Secretary