

EAST LAMPETER TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

July 22nd, 2026

The East Lampeter Township Parks and Recreation Board met on Wednesday, June 24th, 2026, 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: Mr. Jim Everhart, Ms. Diane Tyson, Mr. Chris Chretien, Mr. Bruce Hess & Mr. Frank Hollingsworth. Also, present were Mr. Charles Thomas, Public Works Director, Kim Piestrak, Asst. Township Manager & Ms. Stephanie Leakway, Administrative Assistant. The meeting was called to order by Mr. 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

Ramon Ramirez

Public Present via Zoom

Kathy Cody

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Mr. Hess to approve the minutes of the meeting June 24th, 2026, of the Parks and Recreation Board which was seconded by Mr. Chretien and unanimously approved by voice vote.

Public Comment

Mr. Ramirez asked if the Township could hold a Things to Do Community Fair. He feels the Township is moving with leaps and bounds but wants to get the word out. He would like to see the Township businesses and community organizations get together. Mr. Everhart asked for his contact information. Mr. Hollingsworth suggested Park/Rec Director reach out to businesses and combine it with the Fall Festival. Ms. Tyson mentioned the CV Roundabout where community events are posted. Mr. Hess asked if maybe Township could have a rec table at Greenfield during the concerts. Mr. Everhart suggested going to the Board of Supervisor to have the parks Regulations modified to allow businesses in the park if need be. Mr. Hess stated that sometimes if you see a lot of people volunteering it makes others want to volunteer.

Reports

a. Grounds, Buildings & Trails:

Mr. Thomas stated the final inspection was done at Lafayette Pavilion; there are a few items on the punch list. The electricity is hooked up but still have not had a chance to construct picnic tables. Ground has been graded; seeds have been planted. Mr. Thomas is not sure if it will be opened this year or not. Received information concerning Gibbons Park, staff are reviewing to see if there are any questions or issues for the engineers. Storm damage on July 4th, Mr. Thomas gives 100% credit to Public Works Staff for the way they reacted during the storm. Community Park there were about 15 trees lost, Lafayette lost 1, branches were just down at Flory Park, 2-3 trees and branches at Gibbons Park. All have been cleaned up, and the following Friday Community Park was open for rentals. There is still a section that is closed off (trail that goes through the woods to the stream) due to “widow makers” hanging from the trees. Township does not want anyone walking down the road closed signs were put in place. 7 trees came down at the Township Building Complex. Public works Staff worked Saturday July 4th & Sunday July 5th to get everything open. Mr. Thomas stated Baseball has started to paint the sheds at Lafayette Park & they still have the roof to replace. Signup for fall ball is soon. Ms. Cody stated 3 or 4 sides have been painted. She invited the Board to go look at the shed that she has been complaining about for 3 months. Mr. Everhart asked who made the decision to close the parks. Mr. Thomas stated he made the call due to it being a danger to the public, plus there was no electricity and the water system is on a well, there was no way to run the pump so there were no restrooms. Mr. Thomas stated none of the structures were damaged. Ms. Tyson asked if a tree fell on our structures, would it be covered under insurance, Mr. Thomas stated yes, it would have been. Insurance has been updated in 2026. Mr. Everhart felt like the Township was “Radio Silent” with no coverage as to what was closed. He asked if there could be some attempt to state what facilities are closed. Mr. Thomas stated it was on Facebook, police Facebook, Township website. Mr. Everhart asked if anything was reported to the news media as he did not see anything. Mr. Hollingsworth suggested a phone chain and asked if this is something the Township could do. Mr. Thomas replied that the Township does utilize hyper reach that residents can sign up for. Ms. Piestrak stated it is an emergency system where residents receive text messages, phone calls or emails. Mr. Everhart stated he didn’t expect the Public Works staff to communicate what was happening, but someone else, maybe a Board of Supervisor member. Mr. Hess asked if we can just sign people up and then they can opt out if they don’t want it. Mr. Thomas stated we don’t have residents’ personal information.

b. Recreation:

i. Programs

1. 120 registrations in the past 60 days

2. Current Accounts in the system: 1270

Recap of several recent programs

- America 250 Celebration: Had between 300-400 community members attend. Recognized 37 Fire Company volunteers with over 35 years of service. Sponsors were our four Fire Companies, Conestoga Pack and Troop 146, Alliance Towing, Glick Fire, Oregon Dairy, Walmart, Grocery Outlet, Pepperidge Farm and numerous volunteers. Thank you to Diane and Frank for helping with the food, as well as the Board of Supervisors and ELT staff.
- Line Dancing class just wrapped up
- Yoga in the Park and Chair Yoga have a few more sessions
- Summer Playground has 1 more week. They completed STEM week with visits from the Lancaster Science Factory and Lancaster Library with microscopes and plant/cell models. This week is game week, then next week is discovering countries around the world.

3. Upcoming Programs

- Cape May Bus Trip, August 8
- Mill Creek Exploration: Stream Study, August 9
- Yoga in the Park, August 11
- Chair Yoga, Aug 13
- Beyond Basics Sourdough Bread Class, Sept 3
- Fall Bird Walk with Lancaster County Bird Club, Community Park, Sept 13
- Movie in the Park, August 21 is Finding Nemo
- Line Dancing will start back up at CV Middle August 31
- Sourdough Beyond Basics, Sept 3
- Next bus trips are Jim Thorpe in Oct, Radio City Music Hall Nov 18 and NYC on your own Dec 12

4. Reservations booked to date for 2026

High Pavilion	58
Lions	55
Rotary	30
Clark	36
Sand Volleyball	6
Baseball Field	23

Reservations completed April 1-July 22, 2026

High Pavilion	39
Lions Pavilion	34
Clark Pavilion	26

Rotary Pavilion	19
Total	118

Reservations completed April 1-July 22, 2025

High Pavilion	42
Lions Pavilion	34
Clark Pavilion	17
Rotary Pavilion	16
Total	109

Mr. Hess stated it's a good start as we are reaching approximately 10% of residents. Ms. Piestrak stated she will talk to Ms. Cleveland concerning Mr. Ramirez's suggestions. Ms. Piestrak stated the Township is looking into Lights of Lancaster. Mr. Hollingsworth made a motion to Thank everyone that was involved with the 250th Celebration, seconded by Mr. Hess, approved voice vote.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Public Comment

None

Board Comment

Ms. Tyson stated she was very happy with reading the positive comments in the comprehensive plan regarding people enjoying the parks. Mr. Hess stated it's great that the trail is complete linking the two ½'s of Flory. Mr. Thomas stated there is a punch list with a few items as well as some cleanup. Mr. Ramirez stated his son had just started riding his bike and had been a bit difficult on the road but now can utilize the trail.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Tyson
Secretary