

**EAST LAMPETER TOWNSHIP
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
February 22, 2023**

The East Lampeter Township Parks and Recreation Board met on Wednesday, February 22, 2023 at the Township Office: 2250 Old Philadelphia Pike, Lancaster, PA 17602. Board members present were: Jim Everhart, Diane Tyson, Chris Chretien and Bruce Hess. Also present was Ralph Hutchison, Township Manager, Tara Hitchens, Assistant Township Manager and Charles Thomas, Public Works Director. The meeting was called to order by Jim Everhart, Chairman at 4:00 pm. Mr. Frank Hollingsworth was not in attendance.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve the minutes of January 25, 2023 by Mr. Chris Chretien, seconded by Mr. Bruce Hess. Approved by unanimous voice vote.

Public Concern/Comments:

None

Public Present via Zoom:

None

Recreation:

The Conestoga Valley baseball team and the La Academia Charter School practice times overlapped so the Charter School will not be able to use the field at Tower Park for practice as they had wanted but the CV Baseball Association was going to reach out to people to help find another field.

Mr. Jim Everhart asked if there is an ongoing issue with a shortage of fields and should consideration be given to possibility of adding fields in future development plans however, Diane Tyson indicated the Board should stick to the plan that has been put in place. Chris Chretien added that East Lampeter Township does not have any flat spots conducive to developing additional sports fields.

Mr. Charlie Thomas indicated he received a copy of the liability insurance policy today however, it mentions the Conestoga Valley Midget Association and he isn't sure if that's a conflict because they are now members of the Conestoga Valley Baseball Association. He has reached out to the insurance company to provide some clarification on the information contained in the liability insurance information.

Grounds, Buildings, & Trails:

Charlie Thomas reached out to an engineer to develop a stormwater management plan for the expansion of play areas at Flory Park before adding any new equipment. Troy Bresch, Parks Superintendent, submitted options with photos for the Board to review for new playground equipment. Diane Tyson indicated the choices are too similar to what is already in the park and more options are needed with more variety. Diane inquired as to how long the stormwater management plan would take to get a general idea of when the Board can consider having new equipment put in the park. Ralph Hutchison responded the earliest possibility of adding new equipment would be the Fall of 2023 but it would be helpful to the stormwater management plan to have the decision made sooner so the plan can accommodate the placement of the equipment and the overall plan.

Bruce Hess asked if there is any sense of which age group has more pressure with regard to the equipment. Charlie indicated the goal is to accommodate all age groups and that sometimes the older kids use the 2-5 year old equipment but an effort is made to separate the older children from the younger ones. Mr. Thomas encouraged the Board to look at the equipment website provided to them and they can revisit this discussion in next month's meeting.

Charlie Thomas indicated the restrooms in the Township parks will be opening in April. He stated he is working with IT regarding the security cameras being put in place at some pavilions. He indicated based on what the Township staff has seen the pavilion rentals seem to be lower than what they were in 2022. He advised he is reaching out to engineers for proposals to design a pavilion at Tower Park to determine the cost. The plan is to remove the sheds and have the pavilion located close to the parking area.

The Conestoga Valley Regional Recreational Program was discussed in the meeting. Diane Tyson did not have any new information to discuss on this program. Ralph Hutchison is concerned about not hearing back from the peer consultant that was contacted in mid-January. He said he will follow up with her. Diane Tyson indicated she will reach out as well.

Old Business:

Hutch reminded the Board the Township made application for grant funding for Gibbons Park but he does not know when they will hear back from the Fish and Boat Commission.

He indicated the Lancaster Heritage Pathway is under construction currently and will run parallel to the Walnut Street Extension from approximately Oak Grove Road to behind the College of Health Sciences. This project is expected to be completed in the Fall. He stated the Township received funding for two studies to look at extending the Lancaster Heritage Pathway toward Lancaster and they are in the process of working on getting those two studies underway. The Township will be making application to the PA Department of Conservation and Natural

Resources (DCNR) for funding to design and construct an extension of the trail to the east to approximately Geist Road. The application is due in early April and the Township has enlisted help from a consultant for assistance in the application process. Mr. Hutchison indicated a motivating factor in this is DCNR will allow the funds being used for the part that is under construction currently to be used as a match for grant funding which could essentially result in no out of pocket expense to the Township for the additional 1.5 miles of the trail.

Mr. Hutchison indicated the Township is in the early stages of beginning the design phase for the trail through Flory Park from Oakview Road to Lincoln Highway as part of the Lincoln Highway streetscape plan for which grant funding has been received from the county matching the Township funds.

New Business:

None

Public Comments:

None

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:29 p.m. was made by Bruce Hess and seconded by Chris Chretien. Motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Tyson
Secretary

