

**EAST LAMPETER TOWNSHIP  
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD**

**April 27, 2023**

The East Lampeter Township Parks and Recreation Board met on Wednesday, April 27, 2023 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: Jim Everhart, Diane Tyson, Chris Chretien and Frank Hollingsworth. 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 Chairman Jim Everhart at 4:00pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Bruce Hess was absent from the meeting.

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**

Doug Cody – 208 Southridge Drive, Lancaster, PA  
Ethan Demme and kids – 2019 Millstream Drive, Lancaster, PA

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board which was held on March 22, 2023 by Frank Hollingsworth and seconded by Chris Chretien. Motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

**Public Concerns and/or Comments**

a. Doug Cody – proposed basketball court at Flory Park  
Mr. Cody has been a part of the CV Youth Basketball Organization for the past 21 years. He noticed a few years ago that there are about 83 kids in the Greenland Drive area that are part of the youth basketball program and that area of the Township would benefit from a basketball court. Mr. Cody and his wife are willing to personally pledge \$50,000 for the Township to build a basketball court in Flory Park. He is willing to seek fundraising for the remainder of the money needed. He is also planning on running youth leagues to make sure the court is used as well as help with maintenance. Mr. Cody provided a picture of a fairly flat area near the pavilion and concession stand at Flory Park as the proposed area for the basketball court with lights for nighttime use. Ms. Tyson asked if he was proposing one full court. Mr. Cody answered yes and

showed the Board a sketch with the court, lights, free standing bleachers, an equipment shed and maybe a small scoreboard. Mr. Cody does not know if a fence would be needed because of the natural buffering already there. A 96' x 56' area would be the general area needed. Mr. Hollingsworth mentioned that there are houses near the proposed area and it may cause a nuisance for the adjoining neighborhood. Mr. Everhart stated that there is a tree buffer there. Ms. Tyson stated that there was a basketball court in Lafayette Park before the new fire house was built and now there are no basketball courts in any of East Lampeter Parks. Mr. Chretien stated that a basketball court is not in any future plans. He also stated that the downsize to basketball courts is the congregation at the courts as well as graffiti and vandalism. The board discussed using an impervious surface to help with storm water management. Mr. Everhart thanked Mr. Cody for his generous offer. Ms. Tyson stated that she does not have any issue with the idea. There is adequate parking at Flory Park. The basketball court would be accessible from both areas of the park. Ms. Tyson stated that the project may have to be done in stages. Depending on the priority, lighting and fencing could be done after the court is built. Mr. Hollingsworth stated that sound would be a major concern for the neighbors. He suggested more trees or other sound suppressions. Mr. Hutchison recalled that the neighborhood does have a half-court that the homeowner's association did approve. Ms. Tyson asked what the logical next step would be. Mr. Hutchison answered design work and approval from the Board of Supervisors. He stated that as long as everyone is comfortable about the plans, Mr. Cody can proceed with determining costs. Mr. Everhart stated that lighting would be on an auto shut-off system so it would not be a nuisance. He also stated that a basketball court would be a nice compliment to the area, a nice benefit and would fit into the character of the area. Mr. Hollingsworth suggested that there be some kind of a locking mechanism so people would need the townships permission to use the court. Mr. Thomas stated that there is no one working in the parks on Saturdays. Mr. Everhart suggested that the board should concentrate on the initial building of the court and then address concerns as they come. Ms. Tyson stated that the first steps would be engineering and a cost estimate so the Township can decide whether to pursue the project at all. Ms. Tyson asked if the Township had anything in the budget that would help financially with this proposal. Mr. Hutchison answered that there is nothing in the budget for this year. He also stated that if the basketball court is built as a Township project, it will be more expensive than if it was built as a private cooperation venture. If the funds are not from the Township, the project would definitely be less expensive. Mr. Thomas agreed stating the Township would have to do the project at the prevailing wage. Mr. Hutchison stated that Mr. Cody came to the Board today to see if there was a willingness and interest in the project and now that he is comfortable that there is, he can go out and get more information. Mr. Cody stated that he will look into the project further and come back to future board meetings with more information. Mr. Everhart stated that the Board would like for Mr. Cody to explore the project further.

b. Ethan Demme – request for Lafayette Fire Co. Fundraiser in Lafayette Park  
Mr. Demme is working with Suzie Sutton and the Lafayette Fire Company to organize their Annual Cook-Off on June 10<sup>th</sup> at the Lafayette Fire Company. There will be a Steak Cook-off for adults and a Hot Dog Cook-off for kids. There will also be food trucks. Mr. Demme is organizing a 0.5K race in conjunction with the cook-off. He provided a map and stated that the

walking path at Lafayette Park is the exact distance needed for the race. Runners would register on-line and receive a Lafayette Fire Company plastic hat and potentially a sticker for their car. There will be some aide stations along the path along with a donut station and perhaps a bacon station. It will be a dog-friendly event so there will also be a dog station. Mr. Demme is looking to make this a big community event and wants to invite all the neighborhoods to participate as well as get donations from sponsors. After the race, everyone will be encouraged to go over to the Cook-Off at the Fire Company and visit the food trucks. He also wants to organize an Amish Rules Volleyball Tournament. He may not be able to get the Volleyball Corner so he was thinking about using the baseball field in the park instead. He has already checked with the baseball team and there will be no practice on that day. Mr. Demme is seeking permission from the Board to use Lafayette Park for a community and athletic event as a fundraiser for Lafayette Fire Company. Ms. Tyson asked if the park will be needed for the entire day. Mr. Demme answered that the event will take place in the early afternoon until about dinner time. He has put in an application with the Township for use of the public accommodations. The Fire Company has already named the Township as an insurer in the past and there will be plenty of first-responders on-site to direct traffic. Most of the parking will be in the park lots. He is expecting 50-100 people this year. The event will raise money but also raise awareness so people can volunteer with the Fire Company. The event is organized by the Fire Company and the sponsorships will be going to the Fire Company.

Motion to approve the use of Lafayette Park by the Lafayette Fire Company on June 10<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with their Annual Steak Cook-off by Diane Tyson and seconded by Frank Hollingsworth. Motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

## **Reports**

### a. Recreation

Mr. Chretien reported that the girls' softball team has not been using the diamond so he assumes they are not using it this year. There are a couple of other teams that practice on the field including an Amish team from Gap.

### b. Grounds, Buildings and Trails

Mr. Thomas reported that the updated rentals report will be presented at the meeting in May. The playground equipment has been ordered with an expected delivery date in the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of June. Tomorrow, Mr. Thomas and the staff have a follow-up meeting with a distributor regarding security cameras for the pavilions. Mr. Chretien reported that he sees lights on at Community Park that stay on all night and are still on in the morning. Mr. Thomas said that he would look into it. Ms. Tyson asked if mini-discs are being provided anymore. Mr. Thomas said that they stopped because they were getting stolen. Ms. Tyson suggested that the Township provide a certain number of mini-discs each month. If not, the boxes that hold the discs should be removed. Mr. Thomas said that an entire box of mini-discs has recently been delivered and a few could be placed out there.

c. CV Regional Recreation Program – Updates

The Township is looking for dates to meet with CVSD. There has not been any contact with the peer consultant. Mr. Hutchison reached out to DCNR. The effort is still proceeding.

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

a. Discuss process for proposing expenditures to be included in 2024 budget

Mr. Everhart suggested that everyone look at the Park and Recreation plan. The Board did request engineering for Gibbons Park in 2023. The Board needs to discuss the next steps for Gibbons Park. Mr. Hutchison stated that they did request construction funds from Fish/ Boat Commission and are waiting to hear back. Mr. Everhart requested that the Board be prepared to discuss what will be needed in the 2024 budget at the next meeting. Everyone agreed. Mr. Chretien asked for an update on the Gibbons Park neighbor that was having problems a few months back with kids camping and vandalizing the park and onto the neighbor's property. Mr. Hutchison reported that he and Charlie Thomas met with the neighbor. They agreed that the neighbor will remove the bridge over Mill Race that is on his property. Mr. Thomas reported that paving on Lancaster Heritage Pathway (LHP) will begin either later this week or next week. Ms. Tyson asked if the trail will be open before the road. Mr. Thomas answered that the bridge will need to be completed first. Mr. Thomas said that the plans are moving forward and an opening date is anticipated for August/September 2023 with completion in November. Ms. Tyson commented that the LHP looks fabulous. Mr. Hutchison reported that letters were sent out to the local greenhouses asking for donations for Memorial Day.

**Public Comment**

None

**Adjournment**

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Diane Tyson  
Secretary