

**EAST LAMPETER TOWNSHIP
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD**

July 26, 2023

The East Lampeter Township Parks and Recreation Board met on Wednesday, July 26, 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: Chairperson Jim Everhart, Chris Chretien, Frank Hollingsworth and Bruce Hess. Also present was Ralph Hutchison, Township Manager, Ms. Stephanie Leakway, Administrative Assistant and Charles Thomas, Public Works Director. Absent from the meeting was Diane Tyson. 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

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board which was held on June 28, 2023 by Frank Hollingsworth and seconded by Bruce Hess. Motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Public Concerns and/or Comments

None

Reports

- a. Recreation
 - i. Mr. Thomas reported that Summer baseball season is over and Fall baseball season will soon begin. He also sent an e-mail to the Little League coaches that asked to use the Community Park field because they believed they would no longer be able to use the Smoketown Elementary School fields to play and practice on. Smoketown has a two-year lease beginning Summer 2024 so the fields at Smoketown Elementary School should still be available. He received no response.

- b. Grounds, Buildings and Trails
 - i. The 6 cameras for the pavilions have been delayed. The IT department checked with the manufacture today. It will be another 1-2 weeks due to waiting on parts to be delivered.

 - ii. The new playground equipment at Flory Park is complete and in use.

- iii. Summer maintenance is being completed.
 - iv. Mr. Thomas is currently continuing to work with engineers on the design for the pavilion at Lafayette Park. The design is expected to be finished this year and the Board of Supervisors will have to approve of the building of the pavilion next year after cost estimates are completed.
- c. East Lampeter Township Recreation Program – Updates
- i. Mr. Hutchison reported that the Township is expecting to receive resumes in the next several weeks for the Recreation Director position and interviews will take place soon after. He is hoping hiring will take place in the first quarter of the year and the new director will start setting up programs for 2024. Chairperson Jim Everhart asked if the school district is still interested in cooperating with the program. Mr. Hutchison answered that they are and expects to have a close relationship with the school district so the Township can use their facilities for the new programs. Mr. Everhart wanted clarification that the Recreation Program would be solely for East Lampeter Township. Mr. Hutchison answered yes and stated the program should be called the East Lampeter Township Recreation Program going forward. The reason the Township was not eligible for the Circuit Rider Grant was because two municipalities had to apply and a school district is not considered a municipality. Mr. Chretien asked how the program will be funded. Mr. Hutchison answered that the Board of Supervisors had budgeted a contribution for the anticipated Regional Recreation Program in this year's budget so those funds will now be used toward the costs associated with this year. Next year the Board will fund more to support the program. Mr. Hutchison is hoping that other municipalities will want the same programs as East Lampeter and one or more will want to partner with East Lampeter in the future.

Old Business

a. Mr. Thomas reported that the Lancaster Heritage Pathway is still progressing and expects to have a ribbon cutting ceremony at the end of the September. The connection with Oak Grove Road is expected to be completed at the same time. Mr. Hutchison reported that the Township is hoping to get DCNR funding in the Spring and the Board of Supervisors recently approved for the Township to apply for the Commonwealth Finance Authority funding to continue the trail throughout the Township.

New Business

None

Public Comment

Mr. Chretien asked for Mr. Hutchison to talk about the Housing Plan the Board of Supervisors is planning for the Township. Mr. Hutchison explained that the Housing Plan is studying the housing condition in the Township. It will yield recommendations on present and future housing

needs and how the Township can meet those needs. Mr. Chretien expressed concern about all the new apartments coming into the Township and stated the Township should consider changing an ordinance or being stricter about overcrowding. He stated the park conditions are already crowded. He suggested that the Township request that the developers of the new complexes be required to create recreation areas at the complexes themselves. He feels that the parks will be overcrowded as well as the schools and asked if there is a plan to elevate this overcrowding. Mr. Hutchison stated that there were a lot of assumptions in what Mr. Chretien said and that he disagrees. Mr. Chretien claims a lot of residents feel that same way he does and that the Township needs to be careful not to do anything the residents will not approve of. Mr. Hutchison asked Mr. Chretien if he is talking about projects that have been approved but have not yet started to be built. Mr. Chretien answered yes as well as plans to turn empty commercial lots into housing. Mr. Hutchison stated that the Township is doing a study that they will look at carefully and make decisions based on that study. He also stated that the Subdivision and Land Development projects have to comply with space requirements. There is also an ordinance that states developers have to provide land for Parks and Recreation for their residents or money in lieu of land for the Township to provide Park and Recreation land. Mr. Chretien is concerned that East Lampeter is going to provide housing for the entire district and people are going to move to the Township and overcrowd it unless the Township acts. As more new residents move in, more park space will be needed. He feels the Township can accommodate residents for the next two years but after that he hopes there is a plan to alleviate overcrowding before it happens. Mr. Everhart stated that he would like to accommodate future residents with recreational facilities and park space. He hopes the Housing Plan addresses the future need for more recreational facilities and park space. Mr. Hutchison stated that he does not think the Housing Plans addresses that issue. He stated that there is a housing crisis across the country and the Board is looking at what the needs are locally and that will be folded into a comprehensive planning effort, such as infrastructure, after the Housing Plan is prepared. Mr. Everhart stated that he applauds and is very proud of East Lampeter Township for taking a leadership role. He asked Mr. Hutchison if the Park and Recreation Plan needs to be looked at again in lieu of the new reality. Mr. Hutchison stated that it was too earlier and everything is still fresh. Mr. Hess stated that the Township has an undeveloped park. Mr. Hutchison added that there are areas in the Housing Plan that does talk about land to look at for adding park space such as half the acreage of Flory Park that is undeveloped. Mr. Hess added that the new Recreation Program will help the Township be more efficient in using the space and facilities the Township already has and organized programs will accommodate more people. Mr. Hutchison clarified that the Township is not doing recreation for the district, it is doing it for the Township. Mr. Chretien stated that the apartments at Rockvale and Greenfield North are in the Township and he imagines in a few years Rockvale will ask to add more apartments. He asked Mr. Hutchison if Rockvale has already asked to build more apartments. Mr. Hutchison stated that the apartments do not yet exists and stated that Mr. Chretien is speaking as if they already exist and that it will take years before they are actually developed. Mr. Chretien stated that the Township should think ahead and stay ahead of the game instead of planning once the developments are complete. Mr. Hutchison restated that all the developments will have to pay the appropriate Park and Recreation fee if they do not provide actual land to their residents for recreation. They will also

provide amenities to their residents. Mr. Chretien stated that the Township should push for the developers to provide land instead of the fee so East Lampeter parks do not get overcrowded.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting 4:20pm was made by Frank Hollingsworth and seconded by Bruce Hess. Motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Tyson
Secretary