

Park and Recreation Board
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 6, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.

Present: Karissa Elser, Gary Harris, Bob Huether, James Lannon, Liz Wyckoff, Jill Schweizer, Doreen McVaugh, Recreation and Special Events Coordinator Caitlin Hernandez, and Borough Manager John Davis. Also in attendance was Council member Dennis Livrone along with several members of the public.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

The **Minutes** from the May 2, 2023, meeting were approved as submitted.

The **Introduction of Recreation and Special Events Coordinator Caitlin Hernandez** was provided by John Davis. Caitlin spoke to the Board about her background including her marketing and event planning experience. She will be shadowing Gary for the remainder of the year on event programming and working with Dave Burger on parks maintenance. She will be responsible for posting on social media and she will be the primary liaison on all Borough events.

Comprehensive Plan Update was provided by James Lannon. The second phase of workshops occurred on May 20, 2023. We are starting to zero in on the major topics and how we will go about addressing the topics. Attendance wasn't the greatest, but we will be holding one or two more workshops. James would like the Board to begin thinking about upgrades or things we can do in the parks and bring those ideas to the August Parks and Recreation Board meeting which is also the Park Tour. We are hoping the next Comp Plan meeting will be held later in the year, closer to the beginning of school when more people are home and able to attend.

Doyle Street Pop-Up Bike Lane update was provided by John. The Borough's proposal to the TMA has been accepted and was assigned to McMahon and Associates, who are a very well-known traffic engineering firm in Southeastern PA. Once we have a plan, Public Works will work with the TMA to establish the pop-up bike lane. It should only involve painting. It will be on the part of Doyle where there is no parking permitted. One thing we must do is install bike safe storm grates. TMA is providing a preliminary survey to the residents; they will provide data to the Borough on bike lane usage both before and during the pop-up bike lane. When the bike lane is unveiled, several local groups will be invited to join the TMA to host an event revolving around bike safety and awareness at Broad Commons. A follow-up survey will be provided to the public by the TMA with the data to be presented to the Borough later.

DAA Field Usage Waiver Request was approved by the ERC and Borough Council. It is open-ended. There are discussions between Plumstead and DAA, specifically regarding softball and whether those two programs would consider merging. Plumstead has kids and need fields, Doylestown has fields and needs kids, so there are discussions underway relating to merging the programs. We may also have to revisit the DAA lease in the future.

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Lenape Middle School Use of Neis Park Tennis Courts has been discussed in the past. John mentioned that the school's tennis program has used the Borough's tennis courts for several years and we have never charged the district to use the courts. What has made this a concern now is that several times this year, the school's tennis teams went over to the courts and were told by adult residents that they were not leaving for the team to practice, specifically from the pickle ball court. This raises a question about whether the district can have an official permit, which will cost money and whether the district can use a Borough facility for an official activity. Lenape does not have its own tennis courts and they are the only middle school in the district without courts. Lenape wants to have courts and if we let them use the courts for free, the district will not be motivated to build some for the school. Maintaining the tennis courts is expensive. The Environment and Recreation Committee decision was to give a permit but make them pay for it. The fees could be used to maintain the courts and it would provide a disincentive to just use the Borough courts forever in lieu of constructing their own courts. It could be a few thousand dollars when it is all said and done. It can be revisited annually. There is only one minor conflict with our own tennis program. John would like to hear the Board's thoughts on the matter.

Gary explained the girls team will be using the courts in the Fall and the boys team will be using it in the Spring. This presents a potential for more conflicts with our own programs. The seasons are short, September and October for girls and March and April for the boys. The courts will be used for two hours a day unless there is a match, which tend to go on longer.

John believes this proposal is a nice middle ground that would work for everyone until a more permanent solution can be addressed by CBSD. There is also the liability to consider of the Lenape students crossing State St. to use the tennis courts at CB West. The cost to maintain the courts is considerable and if the district will be using them for their programs, they should share in the cost of maintenance. John will provide updates to the Board as they become available.

Bike/Hike Report was provided by Liz. The Pride Ride will be taking place on June 20, 2023 starting at Broad Commons and will follow the route used for the Witches Ride. There is a \$10 registration fee which will be donated to the Rainbow Room.

Nick Forte, a resident of the Borough, asked whether there are any bike repair stations located in town. Liz explained how several Eagle Scout candidates have built and installed some, mostly around the Pump Track and within Fanny Chapman Park. Liz and Nick agree they're helpful to have and they have held up very well. One thing that should be addressed is letting people know where the repair stations are located. This could be added to the Parks and Recreation topic of the Comprehensive Plan.

Caitlin will be joining the Bike/Hike Committee.

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Recreation Director's Report was provided by Gary Harris. Gary has reached out to his contacts to introduce Caitlin to assist with the transition of leadership. Sherry Sullivan will be back in the Fall for the Fall Strolls. Caitlin will take over the promotion of events like the strolls, chess program, and others on the Borough social media channels.

Arts and Crafts will begin July 5, 2023. Registration has been good, with higher numbers than last year. Chess has 26+ participants, one of our highest attended First Saturday Chess program. It has become obvious that we are outgrowing Historical Society Park and the First Saturday Chess program may need to move to another location. The Summer Programs will begin in June as well, to be held at Burpee. Tennis session 2 is in progress.

Borough Manager's Report There is a graffiti problem at Hillside Park. We are installing cameras to help discourage vandalism, like the one in the woods at Fonthill. We will be doing some major clean up down there once that is in. We had a tree come down at Historical Society Park which was addressed, and the front entrance will be given some much-needed TLC. We will be starting the grading work and the underdrainage for the Tot Lot at Broad Commons. We are on schedule to take delivery of the playground equipment by the end of the summer.

Old/New Business

For **New Business**, James reminded the Board the July Park and Recreation Board meeting will be canceled. The August meeting will be the Park Tour, beginning at 6:00 pm at Chapman Park. The post tour barbeque will be returning, thanks to Dennis Livrone for hosting the picnic. John, Dave, and Caitlin will come up with some places that should be visited and discussed for a capital item improvement. Mid-July an itinerary will be established and shared with the Board.

Nick Forte brought up bocce courts to be added to a park as a new business item. They are non-intrusive and not a nuisance. The Board agreed bocce courts are something that could be considered in the future.

There being no other new business or public comment, James moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:08 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by

Erika Fellman

Park and Recreation Minutes Secretary