

**East Pikeland Township
PARK & RECREATION BOARD**

January 17, 2019

Minutes

Present: Jonathan Work, Al Koons, Joanne Jones, Jerry Miller & Sean McShane

Absent: Andrew Batten

Guests: John Gayl (KAA), Dennis Ray (KAA), Ryan Thiele (Troop 158), & Conner Thiele (Troop 158)

Staff: Michelle Rubin

Meeting started at 7:00pm.

Minutes from the October meeting were approved without changes.

New Business

1. Re-Organization

- The Board voted unanimously to re-elect Jerry as the Committee Chair.
- The Board voted unanimously to elect Al as the Vice Chair.
- The Board voted unanimously to elect Joanne as the Secretary.
- Michelle reported that there is one vacant position on the Board.

2. Kimberton Art Partnership

- Kimberton Art Alliance would like to build a stronger relationship with the Township and specifically partner on bringing more arts and culture to the township.
 - KAA proposed that the Township work with them on 9 new events in 2019. The committee felt like this number was too high on top of the other events that they have planned. They agreed unanimously to accept KAA's help with their summer music series, and also decided to begin to build a partnership with them by doing a Children's Theater event and a Kimberton Arts and Music Festival.
 - Sean said it is beneficial to the township to bring in more arts and culture and the other Board members agreed.
 - KAA will provide artists, staging and logistics, craft vendors, promotion, and help with budgeting/grants. The Township will provide event logistics, food trucks, promotion, and financing.

3. Trail Donation from the Philadelphia Trail Club

- Michelle reported that the Township recently received a \$500 donation from the Philadelphia Trail Club for maintenance along the French Creek Trail.
- The Board also discussed their desire to have more open and frequent communication with Public Works about trail improvements.

4. Mindful Movement Event

- Michelle shared that an application to use the amphitheater had been received for a Mindful Movement Event in September. The event will bring local health and fitness businesses and interested people together and focus on overall health and wellness.

- The board unanimously supported the event happening in the park on Saturday, September 14.
5. Summer Concert Series
 - Michelle asked the Board to provide ideas for local bands for the summer concert series. Bands that were discussed include The Fabulous Taco Brothers, Less than Seven, and The Manatees.
 - The idea was discussed to sell hamburgers/hotdogs for these events—either the Board would sell or they could reach out to a local service group or organization as a fundraiser. This discussion will continue at the next meeting.
 6. Yoga/Fitness in the Park
 - Michelle reported that a local yoga teacher, Sheila Keating, will hold Yoga in the Park every Thursday from 6-7pm, for a suggested \$10 donation from Memorial Day to Labor Day, excluding summer music series nights.
 - Michelle has reached out to local gyms and trainers but hasn't heard back positively about their interest in doing free or cheap fitness in the park this summer.
 7. National Fitness Campaign
 - Michelle shared that she was reached out to by a national organization that works with municipalities to fundraise and build a fitness pad in local parks. She shared a video with them. Discussion will continue on this, but the Board felt like it was a better idea for 2020. <https://nationalfitnesscampaign.com/watch>
 8. EAC Partnership—Fundraiser
 - The EAC would like to partner with the Board to do a fundraiser for the French Creek Trail maintenance. A trail run or other activity on the trail that could be coupled with environmental education. The Board loved the idea but wanted to discuss picking a date for 2020.
 - The Board would like to partner with the EAC on a clean up of the Graham property this spring instead of a trail clean up. Michelle will relay the message.
 9. Strategic Planning Meeting 2/9
 - There will be a second annual Strategic Planning Meeting on February 9 at the Township Building. Al and Sean will represent the Park and Rec. Board.
 - 2019 goals were discussed including: recreation plan for the graham property, grants for property/park planning, trail connections, expand adult education opportunities, more communication with public works about trail maintenance, create a Friends of Kimberton Park, consider a pocket park in an underserved area, work on a township recreation map, and work to fulfill short-term goals set out in the recreation plan.

Old Business

1. Fall Clean Up Summary
 - Sean reported that around 15 people came and they worked to eradicate invasives.
2. Halloween Movie Night Summary
 - Michelle reported that around 50 people were in attendance. There were crafts, games, a costume contest, and Hocus Pocus was the chosen movie. Kids and parents wore great costumes and prizes were handed out. Everyone seemed to have a great time.

3. Sponsorships

- Michelle informed the committee that there are currently two sponsors for the summer concert series (Marchesani State Farm & Phoenixville Federal) and one sponsor for Outdoor Movie Nights (Phoenixville ACE Hardware)
- She expects more to come in in the coming months, but could use Board members help to follow up with local businesses.
 - Joanne will pursue Pfizer when their sponsorship window opens up.

4. Park and Recreation Plan

- Michelle shared the most updated version of the plan, which the Board approved of. A few small details need to be added and then Michelle will send them the final version for approval.

5. 2019 Events, Programs, & Budget

- The Board decided to re-visit game night in 2020 and move the trail clean up to a clean up of the Graham property.
- Add a tree/shrub planting opportunity in the spring on Saturday, April 27 for Earth Week. Sean will discuss with Betsy from the EAC to determine what kinds of plantings should be purchased.

Public Comment

- Conner Thiele asked if the Board would consider putting a bike lock and new tables at the first pedestrian bridge after the pavement to make it more user friendly and inviting. The Board supported this idea, Michelle will look into the options.

The meeting was closed at 8:35pm.