

**East Pikeland Township
PARK & RECREATION BOARD**

May 20, 2021

Minutes

Present: Al Koons, Joanne Jones, Andrew Batten, Heidi Ferry, & Lindsey Parsons

Absent: Bruce Wunderley & Sean McShane

Staff: Michelle Rubin

Al Koons called the meeting to order at 7:02pm. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the May monthly meeting was duly advertised and held electronically through the Zoom application via telephone and the internet.

Joanne motioned, seconded by Andrew to approve the April meeting minutes. Minutes were approved without changes.

New Business

1. June, July & August Meeting Dates
 - Michelle announced that due to the Summer Concert Series, the June Park and Recreation Board meeting dates would be moved to June 8, and July 21. The August meeting has been cancelled. If an emergency meeting is required in August or September for Kimberton Arts & Music Festival Planning then one will be announced.
2. COVID & Events
 - The Park and Recreation Board discussed how to handle COVID protocols moving forward, taking the new CDC orders and the rollback of the Governor's orders into account. After discussion, the committee decided to make masks optional for all outdoor events. The Board still wanted to move forward with the free ticket system this year, but to increase the number of tickets available to 350. Tickets will be available online, but if space permits, there will be tickets made available at the entrance as well.
3. Regional Trail Committee
 - Michelle informed the committee that Rusty Strauss, Supervisor, has asked that a member of the Park and Recreation Board sit on a Regional Trail Committee with the Phoenixville Regional Planning Commission, along with a member from the Open Space Committee. A number of committee members offered to help, but they wanted other absent committee members to have the chance to volunteer as well, so the item was put on hold.

Old Business

1. Kimberton Park & French Creek Trail Maintenance
 - Kimberton Park: The parking lot beds and landscaping beds were all re-mulched and some shrubs were removed; the playground was re-mulched; dead trees were removed from the park; bathroom roof was patched; sink fixed in men's restroom; fixed tennis nets with new rope; ordered new hockey goals and basketball nets. Matt is also going to investigate what our options are to fix the tennis court crack again now that the

person we have used for many years has retired. He is also trying some new methods to prevent wasps from nesting in park trashcans. Andrew has offered to re-paint the lines in front of the amphitheater next week.

- French Creek Trail: a port-a-poty has been placed at the trail head for people to use. It was placed incorrectly the first time but will be moved to the ADA parking area to prevent it from floating away in case of a flood.

2. Woodbridge Trail Development Update

- Mountain Bike Meeting: Al reported that Jeff Jones was consulted to provide input on the connection area between French Creek Trail and Woodbridge property. He walked the area with Al, Michelle, and Matt earlier in the day. In addition, he reported that the Township had removed unsafe bike jumps and erected temporary fencing to deter people from using ATVs on the property, which is illegal. Signs were also posted about why the jumps were removed, and asked people interested in helping with building a safe bike area to contact Michelle. Michelle reported that a handful of people had reached out and she is scheduling a meeting with them sometime in June. She also informed the Board that there had recently been vandalism of the fencing and signs and that the East Pikeland Police would now be getting involved.
- Neighbor Walk: Michelle reported that she is still planning to organize a walk of the area for Kimber Drive residents in the next month or two.

3. Grants: Hidden River

- Michelle reported that the Township has received a \$13,000 TreeVitalize Grant for the Riparian Corridor at Hidden River. Township staff also gave a presentation recently to the Board of Schuylkill River Greenways in order to request a \$50,000 grant for the same purpose.
- Michelle also shared that earlier in the day she learned that the Township has been awarded a \$250,000 Chester County Park Development Grant for Hidden River Park & Preserve Phase 1, specifically, funds for the parking lot and paved, multipurpose trail.

4. Ridge Road Updates

- Volunteers—Michelle reported that a number of people have been reaching out to help with the new facility. Most notably, Edil Cunampio has offered to design and maintain the park's garden and orchard.
- Soil Testing—There is soil testing going on at the site this week to determine the types of soil present in order to create an effective stormwater management plan for the property.
- DCED Grant—The Township did not receive the DCED Grant for Park Development.
- Chester County Grant—The Township did receive a Chester County Park Development Grant for Ridge Road Park for \$92,390.
- Final Park Plan
 - Based on the feedback received from Board meetings, the public comment meeting, and written correspondence with residents, there have been some changes made to the draft Ridge Road Park Plan. Michelle detailed each change to the plan and showed where each change would be located. Changes include additional buffering, alterations to the parking lot, additional trail length, etc. A full list of changes can be found on the Township website. Andrew asked if an enforced grass parking area should be considered for overflow parking, but it is cost prohibitive. No other Board members had comments.

5. 2021 events

- Yoga in the Park Report
 - Yoga is still being well attended, there have been anywhere from 15-25 people in attendance.
- Summer Concert Series 1, 6/17
 - The first concert is on June 17 with Rolling Thunder Blues Revue. Michelle asked that all Board members who will be there to help arrive by 6pm, as that is when people will start showing up to be seated.
 - Michelle also shared that local food trucks have been lined up for each event: June, Uncle B's BBQ; July, Island Noodles; and August, Brick and Blaze Pizza. Instead of doing a desert truck, the concession stand will be open and can sell a few more dessert-like items (brownies, cookies, etc.).

Public Comment

The following East Pikeland residents had questions, concerns, and objections regarding the Ridge Road Park: Lisa Vorel, Mike Layne, Bob Stevenson, Anne Hoke, Debbie Cromack, Barry Hallman, Don Szabo, Bonnie Glavin, & Patrick Brady. Questions and concerns ranged from safety and security, contamination, water safety, stormwater, park lighting, buffering, park location, contingency/remediation plan, and lack of public comment opportunities. Their comments were addressed by the Park and Recreation Board members and Michelle Rubin.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.

The next Park & Recreation meeting is scheduled for June 8, 2021.