

**West Vincent Township
Park and Recreation Commission**

January 4, 2017 7:30 PM

Attendance: Bill Dietrich, Jim Deisinger, Chip Farnham, Steve Merroth, Whitney Jaeger, Kristina Casey, Bill Holderness, Carlo Zanni, Township Manager Erica Batdorf, and Township Secretary Tammy Swavely.

Mr. Merroth called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

The first item of business was to elect a Chairman and Vice Chairman. Mrs. Jacobs nominated Chip Farnham for Chairman. Mr. Holderness seconded the nomination. The vote carried 5-1. Mrs. Jacobs nominated Steve Merroth for Vice Chairman. Mr. Holderness seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

The new member, Carlos Zanni who introduced himself to the commission.

The minutes from December 7, 2016 were unanimously approved as submitted on a motion by Mr. Merroth and a second Mrs. Casey.

Mr. Farnham reorganized the agenda. He stated that last year there was a lot of energy within the commission and he hopes that it carries into 2017. He wants to encourage new ideas and deliver results for the residents. He wants to push the Fellowship Trail Plan forward to get it completed and to continue the projects that have worked and discontinue those that didn't. Ms. Casey asked if what projects didn't work before. Mr. Farnham did not have anything specific. Mr. Merroth stated that he agrees with Mr. Farnham's approach and will be happy to assist in achieving those goals.

Reports:

Movie Night: This gets planned in the spring.

Fields: Windview did the top dressing last month. Chris from Windview does not think that the fields needed turf blankets. He recommends that the top dressing be worked into the soil with the aerating and seeding in the spring. There was a discussion of whether the turf blankets should be added to keep people off the field. Over 10 signs were put up saying Field Closed but people are still using it. It is unknown if there is a downside to having turf blankets on or not. It was suggested that a rope be placed all around the field. The police can be asked to check out the park also.

Community Garden: Mr. Dietrich stated that the kiosk is up in the garden that was made by the Eagle Scout Gene Krumenacker. There is also a bench and an elm tree. The Girl Scout projects are completed, but not all installed the garden. He added that they are all very well done. He has pictures to add to the website that he will send Tammy Swavely. There are three raised beds in a 20 x 20 space. He will bring a diagram to the next meeting to show how they are arranged. Mrs.

Jaeger stated that she has a person who would be willing to bring a goat to the garden and eat the thistles if fencing is provided for it. This is a consideration. For the next meeting he was asked to determine what he would like to spend on the garden this year.

4th of July Parade: Mrs. Jaeger stated that the parade committee will be meeting tomorrow to discuss this event.

Field Costs: Mrs. Jacobs would like the commission to consider raising the field fee for the soccer/lacrosse field. After research of area fields, West Vincent Townships are less than most. Now that they are being taken care of on a regular basis, there is no reason why the price should not go up. They have not changed since 2009. They are busy, which means that the price is not keeping the teams away. They can always be changed if it seems as if teams are staying away. The current cost is \$45/2 hour time slot. Mrs. Jacobs made the motion to raise the fee to \$30/hour. Mr. Farnham seconded the motion. Mrs. Casey stated that the baseball field is not in good shape. That fee will not be raised this year and it can be looked at more closely to see what needs to be done. GEYA can be contacted to see what their concerns are for that field. The motion carried unanimously.

Trails Subcommittee: Mr. Holderness stated that he is moving ahead mapping what can be done at this point. He is working with the Township engineer and Public Works department in installing the first loop of the Fox Hollow Subdivision trail. There are steep slopes that were not accounted for in the design. He is working with the landowner who has an easement on his property for the trail, Jim Helm. They will also be working with the HOA to let them know where the trail will be. Many residents have used the open space as part of their yard. Ms. Shick, 1201 Davis Lane stated that it is a good thing that this trail is being developed before it is forgotten. Mr. Zanni will be asked to assist since he is an engineer which will be helpful. Ms. Shick brought up another loop in a trail that should not be overlooked near Malehorn Road. Mr. Holderness is aware of this trail. Mr. Dietrich asked if he could do a presentation to the commission so that all are aware of where Mr. Holderness and the subcommittee are working. Mrs. Jaeger stated that the Brunner Subdivision should be connected to the trail that is along the Township property on Route 100. Mr. Dietrich asked where the Fellowship Trail was at. Mrs. Jacobs stated that Ms. Batdorf said in a Board meeting that they are working on Stormwater and hopeful to go out to bid soon. Mr. Farnham encouraged all to help Mr. Holderness. Mr. Dietrich stated that the Planning Commission sees the plans so he can assist that way.

Special Order of Business:

Mr. Farnham called for a special order of business to appoint liaisons to other committees/commissions. Mr. Holderness made the motion to appoint the following liaisons: Bill Dietrich- Planning Commission, Bill Holderness- Sustainability Committee, and Jim Deisinger- EAC. Mrs. Jacobs seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

New Business:

None.

Mr. Farnham thanked Dr. Dyer for his many years to the Park and Recreation Commission. The last 12 months with the changes he did a great job of listening to all concerns.

Business from the Floor:

Ms. Shick stated that the revised commercial area plan for the Weatherstone area does not have any public recreation in as it did with the first approval. It originally had a YMCA and parking area put aside. There will be a pool, but that will be for the apartments only. There is about 2 acres of potential use and feels that the Park and Recreation Commission should inform the Board that the Township is in need of resident recreational area and it should be planned as such. Mr. Dietrich agreed and does not appreciate that the Hankin Group is trying to keep the new community planned for this area separate. The residents should be able to move from place to place with recreational activities. Mrs. Jacobs stated that Hankin presented a very broad concept plan and it is premature to consider. Mr. Dietrich stated that having experienced the Hankin Group, once they get approvals they move forward quickly and it is hard to stop. He feels that the Park and Recreation Commission should make their thoughts known as soon as possible. Mrs. Casey stated that with new residents, there will be a heavier use on the Township Park, so if another one could be built, it would ease the time on this one. Mr. Farnham stated that the commission is limited in its scope as to what it can do. Mrs. Jacobs stated that the Weatherstone residents are West Vincent residents and they want the commercial area developed. An empty field is not what anyone wants. Mr. Schneider added that the Township cannot control what business want to come to the Township. We cannot control the market. Mr. Dietrich is concerned that if all the residential is added, there will be no room for commercial. It is a land planning issue with a recreational component. Mr. Farnham stated that the Township should be able to have activities in the space and get the community working together.

Meeting Adjourned 9:15 PM.