

**West Vincent Township
Park and Recreation Commission**

April 5, 2017 7:30 PM

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

Chairman Farnham called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

The minutes from March 1, 2017 were unanimously approved as submitted on a motion by Mrs. Jacobs and a second Mr. Dietrich.

Reports:

Chairman Report: Mr. Farnham thanked Mrs. Jacobs for getting the survey together and the newsletter articles prepared. This is live on Facebook and will be live until after Community Day. Thanks also to Mrs. Casey for alerting Mrs. Swavely about a team on the field after all the rains we had. Mrs. Swavely contacted GEYA via email and it was forwarded to someone else to let them know that it was a poor decision and not to happen again.

Community Garden: Bill Dietrich reported that he has sent an email to all of the gardeners today to remind them to sign up again. Nine people are currently registered and he feels the same gardeners will return. Nothing has been done yet but a meeting at the garden will be next Wednesday and plans can be made. For the kiosk, he will need to purchase corkboard, plexiglass and hinges so that it can be used. Material needs to be purchased for the raised beds. He calculates 18 cu. ft. per box or 6 yds. of material to fill all of the boxes to 9" below the rim. That leaves space for growing medium that the gardener will supply. There have been no requests from the gardeners on the type of soil that is purchased. He was informed that mushroom compost works well. He has contacted Sweetwater Mulch but did not connect. Mrs. Swavely got a price of \$18 per yard of topsoil, so that would mean approximately \$200 to fill the boxes. There is remaining funds from the donations to build the boxes which this could be used for. Mrs. Jacobs suggested that he fills them to 6 inches to the rim to allow for peat moss, etc. Mr. Dietrich stated that it all should be done in 2 weeks. The paths are outstanding yet and the shed needs to be cleaned out. With regards to the budget, last year of the \$12,000 budgeted, he used \$60.00. This year the budget is \$4,000. The fees of the garden cover the purchase of water.

Trails Subcommittee: Bill Holderness stated that a lot has not changed since last month. He plans to take a hike on a PADCNr trail to show the subcommittee what a sustainable trail looks like. This will be Monday, April 24th at 5:30 PM if other commission members are interested. He will show what extreme slope contour trails are like and walk the social trails to see what works. Sara Shick, 1201 Davis Lane asked if anything has been done with the trail remediation at Cooks Glen Park. Mr. Holderness stated that he needs to survey the property to determine what should be closed. Ms. Batdorf stated that she and the Road Department walked the trail and it is rough. The Township is working on getting an agreement in place for the open space.

There needs to be a good plan developed for this park. It is very pretty, but the horses that use it are making the trails rough. There is no easy or quick fix. Mr. Holderness does not want to restrict horses, but build a sustainable trail. Mr. Farnham stated that this trail will take possibly years to fix. Ms. Shick asked about the Fox Hollow Trail. Ms. Batdorf stated that this has been marked to be cleared. There is a significant amount of brush. Ms. Batdorf updated the commission on Fellowship Trail. Phase 1 will go out to bid in a few weeks. For Phase 2, the Agreement with the Church is progressing, they must pass it through their Board. Ms. Batdorf is seeking funding for Phase 2. Ms. Shick asked about the trail connecting Malehorn Road to Fellowship Road. Mr. Holderness stated that it is in the plan as well as many others. Mrs. Jacobs added that nothing has been done for many years and will take some time to complete. Mr. Farnham stated that the commission is working on prioritizing the trails. A list should be composed for all to see. This will need to be sensitive since some are not public. It is an item for an Executive Session.

Kite Making: This event will be at Community Day from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Mrs. Swavely will order 2 tables and 8 chairs and tickets will be sold at the Township table. Mr. Zanni stated that Nancy Zanni, leader of Girl Scout Troop #41673 will assist with the kite making.

Campout: Mrs. Jacobs stated this is in the newsletter. It will be \$30.00 for a family of 4 and for each person over that it will be an additional \$7.50. She plans to get barbeque chicken. A tent rental place was found online which is actually in Arizona renting tents for \$88.00 per tent which includes shipping if families need to rent. Mrs. Swavely will order 20 signs. Taking flyers to the school was discussed. Mrs. Casey informed the commission that the school does not hand out paper any more. She will try to get it in an email blast to the children's parents. The library only posts free events. Mrs. Jacobs stated that if this is a go, she will need assistance for the activities. The threshold for signups will be 15 campsites not including people on the committee with a deadline of May 15th.

Music in the Park: Planned for July 13th, Mrs. Jacobs would like signs to advertise this also starting in June. She is researching the availability of boxed dinners as an option to offer it as an idea to busy families.

Field Maintenance: Mrs. Swavely obtained quotes from 2 companies to the commission on the specs that were developed in 2016. Mr. Dietrich made the motion to accept the Windview Athletic Fields in the total amount of \$6,750.00 breaking out the costs of the 2 groundcovers for winter. Mr. Holderness seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

New Business:

Field Issues: Mr. Farnham asked the commission members how the closing of fields should be dealt with in the future. Options discussed were additional signage, Facebook, and the Township website. The goals should be moved off the field each season. This will not encourage earlier users of the field. A flag system was discussed. Mrs. Jacobs made the motion to purchase a big red flag to hang when the field is closed. Mrs. Casey seconded the motion which carried unanimously. Mrs. Swavely stated that for the last 12 years she has been always willing to check the fields for teams and has done so when they call. There has never been a problem before so it

most likely will not happen again. GEYA has a calendar on their website that shows each field and if it is open or not, but West Vincent is not on it. It will be determined how to get on that website. Mr. Farnham asked if the commission wanted to take further action against GEYA for not following the rules and it was decided nothing this time.

Mrs. Casey is concerned with dogs off their lease in the park. This has been happening for years. The police will be informed of this matter.

Mr. Dietrich discussed the garden Facebook page since he had questions on making it public vs. private. Ms. Batdorf gave him some pointers. It was decided to call it the Fellowship Garden in West Vincent.

Mr. Dietrich discussed the Weatherstone Open Space Stewardship Guide written by Natural Lands Trust. He feels that there are things in this that the Township is not doing and it should be reviewed. This will be forwarded to the commission.

Public Comment:

Ms. Shick stated that last year the EAC had a cleanup of the Township owned property in Weatherstone Open Space A. It is wetlands near Westover Lane and Birchrun Road. She thought the Park and Recreation Commission would be interested in the event.

Brian Curry, 512 Black Horse Road stated that there was also an interest in roadside clean up at the last Board meeting. Mr. Farnham stated that a neighbor of his always organizes a road cleanup day along Horseshoe Trail and it is well worth it.

Meeting Adjourned 9:05 PM.