

**West Vincent Township  
Park and Recreation Commission**

**September 6, 2017**

**7:30 PM**

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

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

The minutes from July 5, 2017 were unanimously approved as submitted on a motion by Mrs. Jacobs and a second Mr. Holderness.

**Reports:**

*Chairman Report:* Mr. Farnham reported that the picnic was a success and it is a sustainable event to promote for next year. The traditional movie night was well attended and was sorry that Kristina was left to do this on her own. He stated that the commission needs to work together so that this does not happen again.

*Picnic in the Park:* Mrs. Jacobs reported that the July event was postponed for rain and was still good. The August event had a lot more people and Voo Doo Deville was very good. People were asking to have another one in the fall but maybe something different could be planned. Events like Bark in the Park or Trunk or Treat in the Park and a small concert at the same time as celebrating Halloween. Another idea was to have one on the night of Movie Night. Mrs. Casey stated that the fall is difficult because fall sports begin and maybe used canned music to save some money. She also stated that she was unaware that there would be a balloon at the picnic and if the commission had approved that. Mrs. Jacobs stated that she ran it by the Township Manager who approved it since it was last minute. Mr. Farnham stated that next summer it can be planned ahead of time so all will know what it happening. Mrs. Jacobs stated that she would like funds in the budget for it.

*Movie in the Park:* Mrs. Casey reported that although the crowd was larger than an animation movie night, it was smaller than last year. Byers Station had a movie at the same time. It also was a beautiful weekend and she knew of many people who went away. It did get chilly very fast and she is considering moving it up a week or two and maybe on a weeknight. The Police Department would like to be involved next year, they had a snow cone event that it could be combined with. She would rather not have it in conjunction with Picnic in the Park. Sara Shick, 1201 Davis Lane stated that someone should have reached out to her that she could have gotten some help for Kristina. Mr. Farnham agreed that help from all is necessary. Mrs. Casey added that all commission members should be at our own events. At some point the members will change and then no one will know how things work.

*Sign Project:* Mrs. Jaeger reported that her meeting regarding the sign was postponed.

*Community Garden:* No report from Mr. Dietrich. Ken Allan, 21 Ivy Lane was present who has a plot but he has not heard of a subcommittee forming yet. All the gardeners love the garden.

*Trails:* Mr. Holderness stated that he and Mr. Zanni have organized the trails they know of on a spreadsheet. This can be a tracking tool. They went through the sheet trail by trail and the commission offered comments. Ms. Shick asked about residents buying bricks that would be embedded into the walk at the new Fellowship Trail. This was suggested by the prior commission members and feels it was a good idea. Phase 1 of the Fellowship Trail bid was awarded. Phase 2 has just been surveyed. Mr. Zanni stated that this chart will be updated as things happen. Mr. Farnham added that if there is something missing from the chart to please inform the commission. Ms. Shick handed out a list of Township owned lands and a list of trails in subdivisions that was compiled by Pam Brown, French and Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust.

Mrs. Jaeger asked about the signage she saw on the Cooks Glen Park for deer hunting. Mrs. Jacobs stated that she feels that this should be brought up to the Board of Supervisors since she is concerned with hunting and people around. Maybe it could be regulated by days of the week. Mr. Holderness stated that crossbows can be very dangerous. Mrs. Casey stated that when she moved here she was informed to always wear orange in the fall around here. A discussion on how to regulate it ensued. This is the only park that permits hunting. Mrs. Jacobs stated that if we are inviting people to come to a park then she has a problem with crossbow hunting. This is administered by the Police Department and the commission could speak with the Police Chief about it. Mr. Holderness stated that a crossbow should only be permitted if they are in a tree stand. French Creek and Warrick Park are models to go by.

Mr. Deisinger stated that the Township needs to be able to maintain what we already have. The existing Weatherstone trail has a bridge that is in need of repair since the wood is rotting. Mrs. Swavely will report this problem to the Public Works.

Mr. Alan asked if the Horse Shoe Trail has changed since he does not see any blazes. Mr. Farnham has a contact for Mr. Alan to find out.

### **Old Business:**

*Field Maintenance:* Ms. Batdorf sent out a Request for Proposals on the maintenance of the fields. Three quotes were obtained. In addition to these yearly bids, it has been determined that the little league baseball field is dangerous. It lacks dirt from years of neglect. Baseball fields take constant work. Teams have stopped using the field because of the condition. Mrs. Swavely obtained quotes to do a major overhaul to the field which includes adding dirt. These quotes range from \$3500 to \$4200. After a discussion, it was determined to try the yearly maintenance and see what else is necessary to the baseball field. Mrs. Casey made the motion to accept the yearly contract from Windview Athletics. Mrs. Jaeger seconded the motion which carried unanimously. Mr. Deisinger asked if there is a long range plan for the fields. In talking with the leagues a while ago they said the baseball field was too small. Mrs. Jacobs stated that the Bryn Coed property can be considered for future use. Ms. Shick stated that the Township property along the east side of Rt. 100 would work out for fields. Mrs. Jacobs asked how we determine what our future needs are? Mr. Farnham asked if Mr. Deisinger would spearhead that search of long term plans. Ms. Shick informed the

commission that the Chester County Northern Federation did a long range study through the year 2020 and a lot of the work has been done to check out that document.

*Turkey Trot:* Mrs. Casey stated the Fire Department does not want to do this event. If the commission still wants to have it, 25 volunteers are necessary. An email blast was sent along with putting it on Facebook and the website. If not enough volunteer by September 13<sup>th</sup>, the event will not be held. It could be done for as a non-profit. Mrs. Casey stated that the t-shirts were included in the fee and all the children were free as well as snacks, drinks, coffee and hot chocolate. Mr. Farnham stated that it would be best to have another organization to do this. Mrs. Jaeger made the motion that the Turkey Trot be suspended for one year and maybe do it in the spring. Mrs. Jacobs altered the motion adding “unless 20 volunteers are found by September 13<sup>th</sup>.” Mrs. Jaeger accepted the altered motion. Mr. Holderness seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

### **New Business:**

*Member resignation:* Steve Merroth needed to resign from the Park and Recreation Commission affective immediately and he sent in his notice to Ms. Batdorf in the middle of July. This was due to work constraints. The commission is sorry to see him leave and will pass on this information to the Board of Supervisors.

Mrs. Casey suggested a new event for 2018, an Easter Hunt for dogs. She has seen this event in another area and thinks it would work well in West Vincent. All agreed and she will look into organizing it. Dog Parks were discussed. In the past these were not encouraged. Research will be done on this. Brian Curry, 512 Black Horse Road suggested that Ms. Batdorf is good at getting things done and she may be able to assist in finding out why the Dog Park was not allowed before. He liked the idea of a dog event.

### **General Comment:**

Mr. Farnham is interested in doing something the day after Thanksgiving since the Turkey Trot will most likely not take place. Maybe a guided walk through Cooks Glen Park. Ken Alan, 21 Ivy Lane suggested that they have a Dog Walk. Mrs. Casey will reach out to local dog rescues to see if they would be interested in assisting with the event.

Mr. Alan updated the commission on School House Park. He described the park as limited since it is on an incline. It is possible to obtain an easement with Bryn Coed to connect to a trail to another parcel. He stated that the entrance and exit should be better marked. The macadam is funky and may be dangerous. He asked the nearby bakery what they would like to see and they said a parking area for the cyclists since they use their parking lot. The boundary lines need to be defined. Drainage work is being done on it at this time. Since no water is available, a dog park may not be a good idea. Adding a trail was discussed. Mr. Holderness stated that a trail with one switch would work with a pitch at 12% and a compacted earth trail. Ms. Shick stated that the EAC is working on native plantings and to discuss that with them. Mr. Alan will do that. He added that it is a small park and not a lot can be done. Maybe bird watching and rest and relaxation area. A bench was discussed, either granite or stone is best, or powder coated. Mrs. Swavely will talk to the Road Crew about the entrance.

Mrs. Jaeger asked why water was not available in the Township Park. It was built in 1999, so no one knew that answer. Mr. Curry stated that the Township has an issue with the well and maybe that was the reason. Mrs. Jaeger asked why potable water was not available in the Township.

Meeting Adjourned 9:30 PM.