

**WEST WHITELAND TOWNSHIP
PUBLIC SERVICES COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
March 1, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER:

The Public Services Commission regular monthly meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. The meeting was open to the public, and a link to join the meeting via Zoom was listed on the agenda posted on the Township's website.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Brian Dakin
Kevin Moore
Janice Gottesfeld
Rob Hall

TOWNSHIP STAFF

Jennifer Keller, Operations Manager
Ed Culp, Interim Public Works Director
Ally Spielman, Parks Rec & Events Coordinator

Brian Dunn, Member, Board of Supervisors

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Dakin announced that on March 8, the Board of Supervisors will consider for adoption the Property Maintenance Code that was reviewed by the Public Services Commission last Spring. He thanked the members for their feedback at that time and encouraged interested persons to attend the Board meeting on March 8.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Resident Jay Madarasz expressed his excitement and support for the Disc Golf course being developed at Exton Park. As an avid disc golfer, Jay said he has walked the site and offered to help in any way that he can. He advised that the paved walking path and playing course be designed at the same time to avoid conflicts between pedestrians and fast-flying discs. Mr. Culp said the consultant has agreed that the path and course be done at the same time.

BUSINESS:

1. Review of Minutes – February 1, 2023

A motion on the February 1, 2023, minutes was deferred for lack of a quorum of members.

OPEN DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Parks Priorities and Feedback

Mr. Culp reviewed this year's parks project which include:

- Banbury Park – sealcoat parking lot & depending on condition, refinish basketball courts.
- Boot Road Park South – picnic pavilion & picnic tables; researching grants for EV charger & sunshade for dugouts.
- Burke Road Park – additional parking; possible Eagle Scout project to re-establish trail.
- Grove Park – replace existing swing set

- Miller Park – resurface tennis courts
- Roscioli & Waltz Parks – sealcoat parking lots

Ms. Gottesfeld suggested adding pickle ball lines on the basketball court at Banbury Park. Mr. Culp advised that Ms. Spielman has submitted a grant for pickle ball courts at Exton and Miller Parks. Ms. Spielman noted that the issue with adding pickle ball lines to a basketball court is the lack of a permanent net. Ms. Gottesfeld will check to see how other neighboring municipalities secure their pickle ball nets from vandalism.

With the increase in activity at Exton Park, Mr. Dakin asked if additional parking is needed. Mr. Culp said not at this time and added that when the lots are full, people currently use the Valley Creek Corporate Center lot.

2. Exton Park Updates

Ms. Spielman presented the layout of Phase I of the Swedesford Recreational Area noting what has been completed or near completion: restrooms, parking areas, lighting, dog park, two playgrounds, zipline, two multi-purpose fields, sledding hill. The dog park is expected to open to the public this Spring. Left to finish in Phase I is the pavilion at the dog park. Mr. Dakin asked if a trail along the train trestle was still in the plan. Mr. Culp was not sure but will check.

The dog park will have two fenced areas; one for small and one for larger dogs. There was discussion about adding agility equipment at a cost of \$12,000. After discussion, there was a general consensus that “less is more” providing the dogs with plenty of open space to run off leash without interference. Mr. Hall asked how the dog park areas would be refreshed. Mr. Culp said there may be times when certain sections will need to be blocked off and a schedule to close the dog park when grass needs mowing. Mr. Hall asked about a third section for refreshing purposes. Mr. Culp estimated \$18,000 for a third section. Suggestions for possible future amenities for the dog park included shade structures and benches.

Ms. Spielman described the Disc Golf layout, and also presented an alternate layout that she felt was less cluttered and confusing. The importance of planning now for an additional nine holes in the future was discussed so as not to conflict with paths, etc.

It was pointed out that Friends of the Parks donated \$15,000 towards the Disc Golf project.

Township Sponsored Events:

Earth Day has been scheduled for April 22 from 10:00 – noon at Miller Park. Volunteers will be planting native plantings along the stream, picking up trash, and learning how to help the environment from educational booths that will be set up at the Park. Ms. Spielman is getting quotes for re-usable packable bags that can be given to Volunteers for their participation.

Make-A-Difference Day is scheduled for September 23 at Exton Park. Local organizations such as the West Chester Bird Club and Master Gardeners can show people little things they can do in their daily lives to be more sustainable. Suggestions for a service project included removal of invasive plantings. Let Ms. Spielman know of anyone who may be interested in sponsoring this event.

The Annual Egg Hunt is scheduled for April 1 at 10:00 a.m. at Boot Road Park, and the Craft Fair will be held May 6. Ms. Gottesfeld invited everyone to become a sponsor of Friends of the Parks.

Wayfinding Signage Guide Project:

Ms. Spielman advised that the Township has received a Vision Partnership Grant from Chester County to create a uniform wayfinding signage design manual for the park system. The manual will lay out what the signs will look like; color scheme, branding (logo), etc. Let Ally know if you see signs that you like elsewhere.

ADJOURNMENT:

Ms. Gottesfeld made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore, to adjourn the meeting; the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kevin Moore
Recording Secretary