

**WHITPAIN TOWNSHIP PARK AND OPEN SPACE BOARD  
MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, January 20, 2021

Members Present (attendance indicated by an “X”):

X	Marshall Bleefeld	X	Brian Heljenek – Alternate
X	Carol Christ	X	Robert Irvine
X	Charles Christine	X	Susan Mudambi
	Chris Cimini - Alternate	X	Alex Simon - Alternate
X	Angela Dougherty	X	Nancy Thillet
X	John Elliott	X	Township Representatives: Kurt Baker, Courtney Meehan
X	Sandy Feltes		

This was a virtual Meeting.

**REORGANIZATION MEETING**

Meeting called to order at 7:34pm.

Ms. Feltes nominated Mr. Elliott for Chair; Ms. Mudambi seconded. Mr. Elliott nominated Ms. Feltes for Vice Chair; Mr. Bleefeld seconded. Mr. Elliott nominated Ms. Thillet for Secretary; Mr. Christine seconded. All the nominations were unanimously approved.

The reorganization meeting closed at 7:39 p.m.

**JANUARY MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting called to order at 7:39 p.m.

**I. ROLL CALL**

Chair Elliott took roll call.

**II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 2020 MINUTES**

After a review of the minutes from the November meeting, Ms. Mudambi moved to approve the minutes. Her motion was seconded by Ms. Feltes. The motion passed unanimously.

**III. 2021 MEETING SCHEDULE AND TIMES**

The Board agreed to have eight meetings in 2021, with the meetings to be held at 7:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of January, February, March, May, June, September, October, and November. The board will call for a special meeting if deemed necessary. All meetings will take place virtually until further notice. Ms. Feltes moved to approve the schedule. Her motion was seconded by Mr. Bleefeld. The motion passed unanimously.

**IV. UPDATES**

Long Range Plan, Survey and Mermaid Property

Mr. Baker provided the survey results summary and statistical analysis to the Board via email. Over 2,400 survey responses were received. The information from the summary will be incorporated into the decisions made in the Comprehensive Plan update.

Ann Toole, of Toole Recreation, will have a draft plan completed by February or March. Key points of the plan will include finishing current projects, maintaining existing parks and trails, and planning for future maintenance. In addition, increased programming for all age groups and facility space to conduct programs will be covered in the plan. The comprehensive update committee will meet one additional time after receiving the draft plan.

Ms. Feltes provided an update for the Mermaid Lake Committee. The committee received a report at the last meeting with brainstorming ideas. Residents expressed various opinions, and these will be taken into consideration during the planning process. There is a public meeting on Monday, January 25, at 7pm.

#### Centre Square Park Inclusive Playground Construction

This project has been delayed due to a change in consultants. Phase 1A will include the clearing of the site and reforestation. The reforestation will not be completed until the site areas are constructed. The consultant also needs to complete the design work and request for proposals for the playground design, and construction work for the parking lot, trails, and restrooms.

The Township will be going out for bids for Phase 2 which is the construction and development of pods 2 and 4. The Township received a \$250,000 DCNR grant for this project and has four years to complete the work.

#### Wissahickon Park

No update.

#### Trails

PECO Line Trail: The Township submitted a traffic signal permit for the crossing at Wentz Road for the push-button activated crosswalk. LandConcepts is submitting the application on Friday, January 22.

Reformation Church Trail: The Township is discussing a plan for marking and forging the trail from the Reformation Church to the Wentz Run Trail.

Union Meeting Road Trail: The Township has until the end of October 2021 to start construction.

The Township is submitting a grant application through Montgomery County for trail projects. All other trail projects are ongoing.

The Board of supervisors passed an ordinance restricting the use of retractable dog leashes, that leashes used in the parks/ trails may be no longer than 6 feet. New signs with this information and notifying pet owners responsibility to clean up after their pets, will be posted in all parks.

Since the increase in the use of trails and parks, the township will be posting bicycle speed limit signs of 5miles/hour around blind curves along parts of the trail system.

Public Works calculated that over 2,000 dog waste bags are being used weekly across all Township parks. Due to this exorbitant number, the Township is installing plastic bag holders in the dog park to be filled with grocery store bags.

## **V. ESTABLISHMENT OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

Mr. Baker and Mr. Elliott are requesting committee members to present updates during each meeting. Other Board members can follow-up with questions and discussion.

Trails: Chris Cimini, Susan Mudambi

Accessibility and Inclusion/CSP Playground:

Mermaid Lake: Charles Christine, Sandy Feltes

Deer and Geese Management: Robert Irvine, Alex Simon

Liaison to Shade Tree Commission: Charles Christine

**VI. OTHER BUSINESS**

“Friends of” support groups for Trails, Parks/Open Space, Dog Park

Mr. Baker and Mr. Elliott would like to start “friends of” groups to increase community involvement in Township Parks. The goal of the friends of groups will be to report maintenance issues, share ideas, and volunteer for service days.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Next meeting: Wednesday, February 17, 2021, at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Thillet  
Secretary, Park and Open Space Board

Courtney Meehan, CPRP  
Program Coordinator, Parks and Recreation Department