

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

Wednesday, May 26, 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
X	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		

Guest: Gwendolyn Bryant

This was a virtual Meeting.

Meeting called to order at 7:34 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL

Chair Elliott took roll call.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MARCH MINUTES

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

III. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Environmental Sustainability Program:

Members: Charles Christine, Chris Cimini, Sandy Feltes, Brian Heljenek, Susan Mudambi.

The committee is working on defining a mission statement. Mr. Baker suggests the committee review the draft comprehensive plan update and set goals and make recommendations to move forward. He also recommends the committee appoints a chairperson and secretary.

Capital Projects:

Members: Marshall Bleefeld, Carol Christ, Nancy Thillet, John Elliott.

The results of PECO’s Power Grid Study should be completed in September, which will determine if the Township can move forward with the trail construction. The Township was approved for the Montco 2040 grant for this project.

New solar score boards will be installed at the newly converted baseball fields at Wentz Run Park.

Mermaid Lake MSDP:

Members: Sandy Feltes, Angela Dougherty.

Mr. Baker provided update. There are three proposals which provided a range from light activity to heavy activity.

The Park and Open Space Board discussed issuing a recommendation about which proposal the Board would prefer.

The consultants are recommending the removal of the dam to alleviate flooding issues downstream. The dam removal will also improve the water quality of the pond.

There is a public Mermaid meeting on June 7, 2021.

Deer and Geese Management:

Members: Robert Irvine, Alex Simon, John Elliott. Mike Richino is staff liaison. John Ferro from Wissahickon Trails, and Lt. Armstrong from the Whitpain Police Department are also on the committee.

This subcommittee will be renamed Deer and Wildlife Management, to encompass fox and coyote in Township parks. Mike Richino will be sending out meeting invite to members.

Liaison to Shade Tree Commission:

Members: Charles Christine, Susan Mudambi (alternate). Mike Richino is staff liaison.

Ms. Mudambi provided update from April Shade Tree Commission meeting. The Commission agreed that the inclusive playground originally planned for Centre Square Park should be moved to Mermaid, but said more discussion is needed as to the specific location at Mermaid. They also discussed a potential letter to the Supervisors to express the promotion of open space and tree canopy at Mermaid, and to express concerns about locating an indoor sports facility on the site.

Comprehensive Plan Update Committee:

Members: Sandy Feltes, Angela Dougherty, Marshall Bleefeld.

No updates.

IV. ADDITIONAL UPDATES

Inclusive Playground

Ms. Feltes made a motion to approve the relocation of the inclusive playground from Centre Square Park to Mermaid Lake Park. Her motion was seconded by Ms. Dougherty. The Motion passed unanimously.

Erbs Mill Park

The fence has been installed. The playground, pavilion, and swing set has been re-pinned to show location. Application to L&I was delayed due to COVID.

Playground construction is slated to start by the end of June. In conjunction with the water retention basis, the planting schedule will be developed. The entire project may be completed by the end of next year.

V. DISCUSS PLANS FOR DEVELOPING “FRIENDS OF” TYPE GROUPS UNDER ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY SUBCOMMITTEE AS PART OF PLANNED COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Once established, the subcommittees will recruit residents to volunteer and serve on the committee. The goal is to have this completed by the end of the year or early 2022.

Gwendolyn Bryant is interested in being on a “Friends of Wentz Run Park” committee.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Next meeting: Wednesday, June 16, 2021, at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Thillet
Secretary, Park and Open Space Board

Courtney Meehan, CPRP
Program Coordinator, Parks and Recreation Dept.