



## ***West Hanover Township - Park & Recreation Board***

### ***Workshop Minutes***

628 Walnut Ave. Harrisburg, PA 17112

April 26, 2017

7:00 PM

Type of Meeting: Special Workshop – Park Development Discussion

I. Meeting called to order by Jeff Holt at 7:00 pm

#### **II. Attendance**

In attendance: Jeff Holt, Gloria Zimmerman, Debbie Hetrick

Absent: Rebecca Schwartz, Marc Ehnot,

Erin Letavic, HRG; Robert Fowler

#### **III. Public Comment – Peggy Hefliger, Avondale Terrace**

- a) Mrs Hegliger expressed her concerns over a recently published article that named WHT in the top 10 municipalities in the state with Megan's Law reports / calls to PSP. Mrs. Zimmerman explained that this issue came up at a BOS meeting and the article failed to mention that our municipality has a work release center and a state police barracks which is the reason for the volume reported. Mrs. Zimmerman also noted that Adam Klein from the BOS had sent a letter to the author of the article and asked for an explanation to be printed. Mrs. Hefliger, whose backyard abuts Skyline Commons Park, is concerned that criminals from the work release center may be hanging out in the park after hours. Mr. Holt said that there is a curfew in place for those in the center. Don Holmes added that he checks the parks daily and occasionally at night and would act if he observed anything against the law or township codes. He also asked Mrs. Hefliger to call either him or the police if she observed anything of the like.

#### **IV. Discussion – Future Park Development**

- a) Don Holmes gave a general outline of the purpose of the meeting, that it is to introduce the process of designing and implementing an updated Comprehensive Recreation, Parks & Open Space Plan. Don then introduced Erin Letavic, Engineer with HRG.
- b) Mrs. Letavic gave a rundown of the responsibilities that the Board will have in creating the new plan. Discussion was held as to the development and schedule of a special steering committee as part of the plan. Mrs. Letavic suggested that the Board run the steering committee meetings on the same dates as the regularly scheduled monthly Board meetings. A general timeline was reviewed with the Board. Mrs. Letavic also projected that the plan would be far enough along this Fall to budget effectively for 2018.
- c) Mrs. Letavic explained the survey that needs to be distributed to township residents to form the direction of the comp plan. Don added that social media, postcards to be handed out at WHBSA events and P&R events, email lists, etc. to get the most info back. Also distribute to WES Business Group, Fire Co., Lions Club to maximize results.
- d) Mr. Fowler noted an estimated timeline for the Birch Run development and touched on the pedestrian path and travel signal that will be installed at Rt. 39 and Manor Dr. He also noted that he has a neighbor that would assist P&R in starting a soccer program if the Board was interested.
- e) More discussion was held as to a parking area at Birch Run and possible amenities. A walk through of the park is scheduled for May 10<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.
- f) Mrs. Zimmerman noted that West Hanover Twp would benefit by owning the land in Birch Run because it puts the Township over the threshold to be able to receive more grants from the county and state level.
- g) Mr. Holt expressed his concern that, with the growing population, there may be a need for more baseball fields in the parks. Mrs. Zimmerman estimated the population to be around 11,000.
- h) Don & Mrs. Letavic gave a synopsis of their meeting with the master planner and the park planning specialist from HRG.

#### **V. Public Comment – None.**

#### **VI. Meeting Adjourned at 8:18 pm**