

East Hanover Township Park and Recreation Advisory Board
8848 Jonestown Road, Grantville, PA 17028

MEETING MINUTES– March 6, 2023

Board Members Present: Laurie Reichert, Stacy Dove, Angela Bard Welt, and Karen Henry

Board Members Absent: Kirby Reichert, Yvonne Sharrow, and Zach Jackson

Guests: Becki Oller -Township Supervisor

Parks & Rec Director: Becky Richards

1. Call to Order

A. Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm

2. Approval of Minutes

A. Motion to approve minutes from the February 6th Meeting by Stacy Dove, 2nd by Laurie Reichert. Approved: 4-0.

3. Review of Expense Report

A. Receipts and Expenditures for February 2023 reviewed.

4. P&R Director Report

A. Dino Playground - Digger feature

1. The digger feature is wearing out and needs to be repaired, replaced, or retired.
2. Becky Richards may speak to the vendors if they are at the conference.

B. Family Valentine's Event (Friday, February 10th)

1. There were 25 attendees.
2. Laurie Reichert and Karen Henry assisted Becky Richards.

C. Soil Testing

1. Soil test results from PennState Extension were received at a cost of \$72 (\$12 per test) plus \$33.75 shipping.
2. Results were shared with Bailey Landscape & Maintenance to assist with turf management.

D. Court Rental for Pickleball

1. A group requested a reservation for 12 kids (1.5 tennis courts) from 4-6 pm on Friday March 17th. The group is not renting the pavilion.

2. Consensus was reached that the group could use one basketball court and one tennis court, which would leave one of each available for the general public. A sign will be posted to announce the reservation. A fee will be charged of \$40 plus \$25 security deposit (same as pavilion rental).

E. Summer Rec Program

1. Registration opened one week ago, and 62 kids have registered already between ages 6-12. There are 3 non-residents. Over \$7,000 has been received. Currently, 4-7 staff persons would be needed. Staffing needs vary by week based on the number and ages of registrants.
2. If a 14-year-old or a 15-year-old would like to participate, then they could attend as a junior counselor (volunteer) with no fee. They would not count toward the counselor-child ratio. The schedule for volunteers would be worked out on an individual basis.
3. Six counselors are returning. Another 4 or 5 applications are anticipated.

F. Paper Shredding Event & Manada Conservancy Plant Sale

1. The plant sale is held at the Nature Park.
2. Becki Oller is planning to attend the shredding event.

G. GVFC Yard Sale update

1. Sodas, water, BBQ, ribs, and chicken have been arranged.
2. Fire fighters will line the field.
3. Checks are being made out to the fire company.

H. Spring Sports & EHBSA Opening Day

1. If anyone is interested in attending Opening Day at the ball fields behind the Nature Park, let Becky Richards know. Becki Oller plans to attend.
2. Spring sports season is starting up, so portable toilets are back in place.

I. Park Improvements & Capital Projects

1. Amphitheater project
 - i. HRG is working on the electrical design.
 - ii. Light-Heigel commented that some more things may need to be added re: accessibility.
2. Community Park & Playground project
 - i. Bids due by March 14th, then a week to review, then present to Board of Supervisors.
 - ii. Pre-construction meeting to be scheduled shortly afterward.
 - iii. Becky Richards is pushing to have the playground installed prior to Summer Rec.

- iv. Dr. Sarah Barnabas (physical therapist, Capital Area Intermediate Unit) will be invited to the playground opening, as she commended the ADA accessibility.

3. Community Park Trail

- i. The paving quote for the inner loop by the tennis courts and schoolhouse is close to \$40k (\$10k higher than budgeted).
- ii. Becki Oller noted that the Township was not awarded funds to replace “the mule” via Gaming Grant.
- iii. Becky Richards noted that repaving at 2” thick instead of 3” thick would reduce costs to within the budget. However, heavy equipment driven through this area in future would seriously damage the asphalt.
- iv. The group discussed the pros and cons of leaving the trail as gravel versus paving. Becky Richards commented that the issues with washouts could potentially be addressed via means other than paving. Karen Henry noted that she prefers gravel for running.
- v. Reducing the pavement width from the planned 8’ to 6’ would reduce costs. Becky Richards will obtain a price quote for further discussion at the Park and Recreation Advisory Board meeting in April.

4. Pickleball wall & Court cleaning

- i. The pickleball wall has been painted blue.
- ii. Wet&Forget is labeled as an environmental hazard, so this option will not be pursued for court cleaning.
- iii. Angela Bard Welt mentioned ShutterRenu as an option to investigate.

5. YSC Sign

- i. The sign has been installed, but the address placard is pending.

5. Old Business

A. 2023 Movie suggestions

- 1. Becky Richards will check on pricing prior to the April meeting.

B. ADA Trail maintenance during winter months

- 1. Becky Richards will check on this and report back at the April meeting.

C. Prioritize long-term goals

- 1. Laurie Reichert voiced support for a dog park (one of the 3-5-year goals). Becki Oller noted that there may be liability issues with providing a dog park in a township park.

- i. Becki Oller explained that Grantville Commons is planning to construct a community center and dog park as part of an expansion project. It is unknown if this dog park will be open to the public or reserved exclusively for residents of Grantville Commons. Becki Oller suggested that the Board pause this discussion until it is known whether the Grantville Commons dog park satisfies the need in the township.
2. It would be \$5-10k to add the bridge into the plan now with a 5-year expiration date. If it is not included in the plan or if it is delayed more than 5 years from now, HRG will need to reassess for wetlands, designs, and DEP permitting at a cost of \$30-40k. This would be near the meadow, hooking into the nature trail.
 - i. Becky Richards will ask if the existing bridge can be repurposed and will ask what the cost would be for a new bridge.
3. Consensus was reached that the highest priority 3-5-year goal is to redo the tennis courts.
4. Splash pad installation will be added to the 3-5-year goals. Becki Oller is aware of a resident who installs splash pads and may be willing to come to a future meeting to provide background information.

6. New Business

A. Upcoming Events:

1. Yoga & Meditation Forest Walk, Saturday, March 18th, 10 am
 - i. Becky Richards does not need any volunteers for this event.
2. Spring Coloring Contest, deadline for entries is Monday, March 27th
 - i. Becky Richards will distribute the coloring page within the next week.
3. Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday, April 1st, 12 noon (with Shellsville VFW & GVFC)
 - i. Set up will start at 9:00 am and requires some volunteers.
 - ii. Becky Richards is considering how to include the EH Lions with this event.
 - iii. Color contest judging
 - iv. Rain Date: April 8th
 - v. Becky Richards offered for the Lions to sell some food in the pavilion.
 - vi. Karen Henry suggested that Becky Richards should bring the megaphone.

4. Teen Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt, Saturday, April 1st, 3:30 pm
 - i. Rain Date: April 8th
 - ii. Pre-registration required
 - iii. This may require 1 or 2 volunteers.
 5. Earth Day Nature Park Clean-up, Saturday, April 22nd, 10 am
 - i. Becky Richards will invite the Scouts and the Conservancy.
 - ii. Pre-registration required
 6. Mother's Day Wildflower Walk, Saturday, May 13th, 10 am
- B. Discuss Park Day (Saturday, September 23rd)
1. Karen Henry suggested that Becky Richards reach out to local organizations to see if they want to sell food.
 2. Members of the group noted that there has been a hay maze, "needle in the haystack" game, bounce house, rock climbing wall, Bookmobile, entertainment, square dancers, raffles, Zoo America, PA Game Commission, pony rides, tethered hot air balloon rides, and face painting. Becki Oller noted that the scarecrow craft was popular in prior years and that a bike rodeo could be a good idea. Becki Oller also noted that some of the carnival games may be available for use with potential for volunteers from the Fire Company. Additional ideas include an Irish or German dance troupe, the Community Band, or "the Miller Family" act. Becki Oller added that Bingo is always popular at any event.
 3. Becki Oller also noted that she would support paying Summer Rec staff to help with the Park Day event.
- C. "On Call" volunteer list
1. Karen Henry asked about generating a list of 5-10 "on call" volunteers with clearances for large events like Park Day. Becky Richards responded that there is a Volunteer Application posted on the Township website, and it could be tailored to indicate interest in different types of events. Becky Richards will post this in the Newsletter as well.
 2. Stacy Dove will send Becky Richards information about volunteer clearances.
- D. Online registration process
1. Online registration will be investigated as an additional 3-5-year goal.
 2. Becky Richards will check for apps such as SignUpGenius.

7. Miscellaneous

- A. The Township acquired a new digital sign, including an arrow to point to the municipal building. Also, large address numbers will be added to the building.
- B. Becki **Oller** has heard good feedback on the Newsletter.
- C. The Carnival has been canceled due to volunteer shortage at the Fire Company.

8. Next Park and Rec Board Meeting

- A. Monday, April 3, 2023, at 7:00 pm

9. Adjourn

- A. Meeting adjourned at 9:07 pm.
- B. Laurie Reichert made the motion to adjourn. Seconded by Stacy Dove.
Approved 4-0.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE MEETING MINUTES: GOALS AND MEMBER TERMS

2023 Goals:

- Replace small stage at Main Park with amphitheater.
 - Address trail near amphitheater.
- Replace playground equipment at Main Park.
- Improve trails at Main Park and create ADA trail by paving.
 - Geocells to be used where feasible.

2024 Goals:

- Connect the northern and southern sides of the Main Park with a box culvert bridge.
- Power wash tennis courts.

3-5 Year Goals:

- Redo tennis courts (top priority).
- Install splash pad.
- Create dog park.
- Connect the Main Park with the Nature Park in a safe manner. Painting crosswalk on Old Jonestown Rd., etc. (needs twp. ordinance for crosswalk, starts with solicitor, requires traffic study in-house)
- Adopt an online registration system.

<u>Park & Rec Board Member</u>	<u>Term Expiration</u>
Karen Henry (Chair)	12-31-26
Yvonne Sharrow (Vice Chair)	12-31-25
Laurie Reichert (Member)	12-31-25
Zach Jackson (Member)	12-31-23
Kirby Reichert Jr. (Member)	12-31-23
Stacy Dove (Co-Secretary)	12-31-26
Angela Bard Welt (Co-Secretary)	12-31-27