**MINUTES OF THE PARK COMMISSION MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 13, 2021**

**PRESENT:** Wesley Posvar, Chairperson; Jim Pashek, Liz Nelson, Carrie Casey Leemhuis, Susan Crookston, Jay Troutman, Jessie Handron, Members; Gary Koehler, Borough Manager; Alex Scott, Mayor; Dempsey Bruce, PWD Superintendent; Craig Sorg, Sergeant; Shawn Peterson, Borough Secretary

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mandy Steele, Fox Chapel Parks Conservancy; Betsy Monroe

**ABSENT:** Michael Schiller, Jessica DeMoise, Members

Wes Posvar called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM.

The minutes of the June 14, 2021, meeting were unanimously approved.

**McCAHILL PARK UPDATE**

Mr. Posvar stated that the Lilliput houses would be installed the week of September 20, 2021, at Annie’s Field of Dreams.

Mr. Pashek updated the Commission on the design for Phase II, including a loop trail encompassing the ball fields that is almost one-third of a mile around consisting of a bituminous surface and an all-season court that will include pickleball, basketball, and ice skating rink during the winter season. The two ball fields will be updated with dugouts. A riparian forest and rain gardens will be along the pathway closest to Hemlock Hollow Road, and a rain garden will also be placed near the center of the updated parking lot.

**HARDIE VALLEY PARK STORMWATER STUDY**

Both Ethos and LSSE submitted stormwater study proposals as part of the Hardie Valley Park Master Plan. After discussion, it was decided that a task force consisting of Jim Pashek, Wesley Posvar, Jessica DeMoise, Susan Crookston, Gary Koehler, and Mandy Steele will ask Ethos and LSSE to provide information to them about sites they’ve both completed so the task force can look at the inception, design, permitting, and construction done to compare the two companies. The task force would then meet with both companies before making a recommendation to the Park Commission at the December 2021 meeting.

**DOGS IN PARKS**

Sergeant Sorg was in attendance to give an enforcement update on parking permit citations. He stated that there has only been one new citation issued between July and August. On the weekends, Carrie Casey Leemhuis said that more cars parking at Riding Meadow Park do not have parking permits. Sergeant Sorg assured the Commission that the Police Department would amp up patrol of the parks on the weekends.

Mr. Posvar stated that the task force designed to look at dogs in the parks will be asking for public input into dog regulations. He wondered if this could be added to public input with the Joint Comprehensive Planning Committee, tentatively meeting in October.

**FOX CHAPEL PARKS CONSERVANCY**

Ms. Steele stated that the summer lantern event on August 27, 2021, was great. She was also in attendance to discuss the next event, which will be sometime in early December at the Trillium Trail as a drive-by event.

**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

Mr. Bruce noted that the flood event on September 1, 2021, caused Salamander Park’s upper trail to be closed at this time, as well as trees being down at Riding Meadow. Public Works crews will be out to rectify this once work is completed for paving.

Mr. Bruce thanked the park stewards for all the information they provided to aid Public Works crews on work that needs to be done on the trails in the Borough.

Mr. Posvar, on behalf of the Park Commission, thanked Carrie Casey Leemhuis and the Bowden family for all of their help cleaning up debris at the entrance to Hardie Valley Park from the storm on September 1st.

Mr. Koehler will place in the budget, per the request of the Park Commission, the need for two part-time Public Works employees to be hired April through November to help with the upkeep of the Borough parks.

**PARK STEWARD REPORT**

Ms. Crookston asked if the trails at Riding Meadow Park could be widened. Mr. Bruce stated that they could widen the path to twelve feet.

Ms. Nelson noted that the Borough lost one Sycamore tree at the Forest Restoration site on Fox Chapel Road. There are still 22 thriving trees.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Michael Schiller has resigned from the Park Commission via an email to chairperson Wesley Posvar. The Borough will advertise for this position via the fall newsletter and Borough website.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS**

* Fox Chapel Day – September 25, 2021, 1 PM – 5 PM at McCahill Park
* Park Commission Meeting – December 13, 2021, 9:00 AM

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:56 AM.

Shawn M. Peterson

BOROUGH SECRETARY