

**EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
Park & Recreation Commission Meeting
February 5, 2015**

The regular meeting of the East Goshen Township Park and Recreation Commission was held on Thursday, February 5, 2015 at the Township Building. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Joe Zulli at 7:00 pm.

Commission members present were:

Anne Marie Fletcher-Moore
Betsy Williams
Edward Coyle – New member
Christine Taraborelli – New member

Others present were:

Jason Lang, Director of Recreation
Senya Isayeff, Supervisor
Carmen Battavio, Supervisor
Mark Miller – Director of Public Works

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Joe led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Joe asked for a moment of silence to remember our troops & veterans.

Joe asked if anyone would be recording the meeting. There was no response.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Joe noted that the minutes of the January 8, 2015 meeting were approved as corrected.

NEW BUSINESS

1. New Members - Joe introduced two new Commission members, Ed Coyle and Christine Taraborelli.

2. Young Life of Chester County - Jason introduced Penny Gerrard, representative of Young Life of Chester County, a non-profit that has a summer camp for about 150 high school students. She is requesting use of East Goshen Park for a 5K race to raise funds to help supplement the cost of the camp for the students. They estimate 150-200 participants for the race. Chester County Running Store will take the registrations and is assisting with the planning for the event. Joe and Betsy have concerns that some competitive runners may come. They feel the course is not wide enough for a competitive race. Penny assured them that, although this is a timed race, it isn't a competitive race. Carmen mentioned that their insurance company may require them to have emergency medical staff at the event. They are requesting Saturday June 6, 2015. Joe thanked her for coming.

After discussion later in the meeting, Joe moved to approve this 5K with some conditions:

- a. The maximum number of participants will be 200
- b. When they line up to start the race, they will be placed in relation to their finish time.
- c. They can proceed only if Jason gets assurance that it is not a competitive run.

Ann Marie seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Friends of East Goshen – Daria Chapman, new member of the Friends of East Goshen, explained that they want to know more about the events that the Park & Recreation Commission has planned. The events are Egg Hunt, Community Day, Fall Festival and Tree Lighting. Joe explained that, because of the lack of funds for Community Day in 2014, the Commission was looking at its options:

- a. Have a complete event as in the past cost abt \$29,000;
- b. Have a mid-level event – fireworks and band only – cost abt \$15,000;
- c. No event.

Carmen pointed out that the mission of the 501(c)3 is to raise funds for the complete event. Senya added that the expectation is that the 501(c)3 will be a resource for people to make tax free donations to cover the cost of these events. Several years ago, before the 501(c)3, the donations covered the full cost for the complete event. Joe suggested that something be posted on the East Goshen website with information about how to make a donation and give recognition to those who do donate. Carmen suggested that the 501(c)3 contact the Commerce

Commission for information about the businesses in East Goshen. When asked, Daria did not know how much money was available for Community Day. The Friends meet the 4th Tuesday each month.

4. Butterfly Garden – Ginny Levy, Gail Warner-Lidondici and Barbara Rinehart, members of the West Chester Garden Club, were present to request permission to install a butterfly garden in East Goshen Park. The Club was given the funds for this project. They estimate about \$3,000 will be spent on plants and trees. The goal is to create an educational opportunity for visitors to learn about pollinators and native plants and to create a source of pollinator plants for both butterflies and other beneficial insects. They selected a space between the sidewalk by the Hicks Pavilion and the stream. The planning and preparation of the soil could take 6 – 12 months. They explained the preparation procedure and mentioned that the 6 month timetable would incur additional cost for soil. Mark Miller commented that either way is okay. They will have volunteers to maintain the garden. They need to plant in May this year or next year. They will use perennials and for the first year, some annuals. They will use “tread well” plants along the path.

5. Tennis Courts – Jason commented that the options for the 3 back tennis courts are:
- a. Make all 3 tennis courts;
 - b. Use 2 for tennis and 1 for pickle ball;
 - c. Use all 3 for alternative uses.

Betsy explained the difference between the current soft courts and hard courts. Mark Miller explained the process for replacing the courts. It will cost \$32,000 for his Public Works staff to do the work. He can start this Spring and the 3 front courts can be used while they are replacing the back courts. Jason spoke with a tennis pro who said the USTA teams need 4-6 courts to play on. Jason also pointed out that the posts and nets can be removed to make the whole area multi-use. Betsy made a motion to resurface the back 3 tennis courts to hard surface, 2 tennis courts and 1 alternate, including removable caps. Ed seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Trip RFP review – Joe gave the history of the proposal from Collette travel. They were the only ones who responded to the RFP. Joe made a motion to allow Collette to proceed as outlined in their proposal. Ann Marie seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Jason will send a memo to the Commission members for review and then take it to the BOS for approval.

7. Tot Lot - Jason and Mark Miller met with Jon Altshul to discuss improvements to the Tot Lot. The one thing they get comments about is that there is no shade. Mark mentioned that a pavilion could be placed behind the large jungle gym and he passed around a picture of it. There may be a source for funding the \$10,000 to \$14,000 for it.

8. Free Little Library – Jason explained that the United Way of Chester County has a grant to install the Free Little Library along the Learning Trail in East Goshen Park. The grant includes all materials and the first set of books. The books are for Toddler and K-5 grade. Ann Marie made a motion to accept the United Way’s grant to have the Little Free Library installed March 2, 2015 by corporate volunteers including the first set of books. Chris seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9. FSFOT Spring and Fall Festivals – Jason received 2 Park Permit Applications from Joy Crozier, a resident of East Goshen. She is requesting use of the park on Saturday, March 28, 2015 (raindate Sunday March 29) for an Easter Egg Hunt and Spring Festival. There will be vendors and rides from 10:00 am to 1:00pm. Estimated participants is 500. The commission approved this request.

Fall Festival – She is requesting use of the park on Saturday October 10, 2015 for a Fall Festival from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. There will be vendors, rides, music and she expects 2,000 people. This request was tabled until more information is available.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Hockey Update – Jason reported that they don’t want just the weekend.

RECREATION DIRECTOR REPORT

1. PRPS Ad Hoc Committee – Jason reported that the Pa. Park and Recreation Society has appointed him to be on the Agency Award Committee.
2. Activate West Chester – This is a joint event with other municipalities. Since this year is the 40th anniversary of the movie “Jaws”, they are planning a pool party at ACAC with a showing of the movie.
3. The new Township website started this week. If you see anything that needs to be fixed, contact Jason.
4. Dept. of Recreation Strategic Plan - Jason will have a rough draft for review in the next 6 months, with a final to go to the BOS in November.
5. Entrepreneurial Academy – Jason worked with the Commerce Commission to arrange visits to the local businesses to show these high school students what they do. Kraft is providing a bus. The Historical Commission will have the historic area open for them to visit. Then they will make up a marketing plan for the historic area.
6. Jason thanked Ann Marie for writing the Newsletter article.

LIAISON REPORTS

Joe explained about liaisons to the other ABCs to Chris and Ed and encouraged them to go to some of those meetings.

ANY OTHER MATTER

1. CPTF – Joe explained what the CPTF will be doing this year and that he was the alternate. He asked the Commission members to consider being the primary member.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business Ann Marie moved to adjourn the meeting. Betsy seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Kiefer
Recording Secretary