

Park Commission
Agenda
Thursday, June 4, 2020
7:00 PM

- A. Call to Order
- B. Pledge of Allegiance
- C. Ask if anyone is recording the meeting
- D. Approval of Minutes from the Thursday, May 7, 2020 meeting.
- E. Chairman's Report

- F. New Business
 - 1. Consider Community Day and Food Truck Festival recommendation
 - 2. Review PRPS Reopening Park Facilities Guidelines

- G. Old Business – Updates
 - 1. Summer Camp update

- H. Recreation Director Report
 - 1. Park facilities update
 - 2. Park Maintenance Report

- I. Liaison reports
- J. Any Other Matter
- K. Public Opinion
- L. Adjournment

Memo

To: Park and Recreation Commission
From: Jason Lang
Re: Community Day and Food Truck Festival, Cancellation Recommendation
Date: May 28, 2020

Community Day and the **Food Truck Festival** are currently scheduled for Saturday, August 29, 2020. The anticipated attendance at the event would be 5,000-6,000 with a high of 4,000 during the fireworks display. Federal/State guidance that informs this recommendation included CDC Guidelines, the PRPS (Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society) Facility Reopening Guideline approved by the Wolf Administration and PA Department of Health.

Allowed municipal special events in yellow phase:

- Maximum of 2,000 people; vulnerable populations should stay home
- Social distancing measures in place
- Ground markings in place for 6 ft. distancing
- One way signage used to promote traffic flow
- Communal touch points cleaned and disinfected throughout the event
- Masks recommended for staff
- Encourage hand washing

In green phase (changes):

- No restriction on maximum attendance; vulnerable populations should stay home
- One way signage recommended, not mandatory

Discussion:

- Each of these events are well above the 2,000-person threshold in the yellow phase. While I would anticipate being in green before August 29, we have to make a definitive decision without clarity to that point.
- Space constraints – EGT Park is large, but with social distancing measures in place, it would be impossible to deliver either event. For example, socially distanced lines for the moon bounces would extend across the baseball fields and lines at the food trucks would extend down past the amphitheater.
- Enforcement – As we see with beach areas, enforcement of social distancing regulations isn't practical or economically feasible.
- Economic uncertainty – the Friends of East Goshen typically raises funds to offset Township expense. Given the current economic downturn, I believe FOEG will have a difficult time raising the funds.
- Anecdotal – Hosting camp this year was an easy decision. Camp staff can meet state guidelines, we can control attendance and directly identify anyone showing coronavirus symptoms. With a large park-wide event like these however, I cannot imagine a scenario where at a minimum a few hundred people are unknowingly walking around with the coronavirus, potentially spreading it amongst the crowd.

Conclusion:

This has been my hardest programmatic decision here as Parks and Recreation Director. These events are staples of everyone's calendars and our best opportunity each year to celebrate the East Goshen way of life. That said, given the above discussion, I can't imagine hosting these events, being able to enforce or meet safety criteria, and think the events could expose community members inadvertently.

Motion:

I move to cancel Community Day and the Food Truck Festival for 2020.

DRAFT
EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
Park & Recreation Commission Meeting
May 7, 2020

The regular meeting of the East Goshen Township Park and Recreation Commission was held on Thursday, May 7, 2020. Because of the restrictions due to COVID-19, the meeting was held via Zoom virtual conferencing. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Danny Leicht at 7:05 pm.

Commission members present are highlighted:

Daniel Leicht, Chairman

Deborah Snyder, Vice Chairman

Edward Coyle

Ann Marie Fletcher-Moore

Peter Knupp

Christine Taraborelli

Kishor Thakarar

Eric Tobin

Joseph Zulli

Others present were:

Jason Lang, Director of Recreation

John Hertzog, Supervisor

Chris Parasol, resident

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Danny led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Danny asked for a moment of silence to remember our military, police, first responders & veterans and everyone affected by the coronavirus COVID-19.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. The minutes of the April 16, 2020 meeting were approved.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Dan reported that when he was at the park, he saw 6 people in the playground. They didn't stay long.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Review CDC recommendations for summer camp programs – Jason would start the camp on Monday, June 22. CDC guidelines came out last week, but he just received notice that the Federal government is not using the CDC guidelines. Jason will have a call with the PA Department of Health tomorrow to see how Gov. Wolf's plan works with the camp. He assumes the state will have the final authority. In PA there are 3 tiers – red, yellow and green. Chester Co. is red right now. Under yellow we can offer camp in the park for 50 or less campers. There will be no playground. The staff will have to wear masks. Temperatures of the children will be checked each day. Under the recommended social distancing, each age group stays with their assigned staff for the day. Mark Miller bought a leaf blower that has an attachment for spraying so they will disinfect the area each day. Joe mentioned that the parents have to take responsibility for sending their child to camp. Jason has 75 registered already. He sent out a survey about the restrictions for this year. About 2/3 were still ok with coming. The only "no go" is if we ask the kids to wear masks. So, the plan so far is – start June 22, at the Veterans Pavilion, 9 am to 12 noon, 5 weeks for 50 kids. Jason will have a call with his senior staff on Monday and the full staff on Wednesday. Then he will contact the parents. Jason is hoping we will be in the yellow zone by June 1. Chris Parasol commented that she is a former ER nurse and would not send her children. Maybe if it was green.

1 **OLD BUSINESS**

2 1. **COVID-19 Impacts** – Jason reviewed the list of programs showing which ones are canceled or
3 postponed. The playground will be the very last thing to open. Tennis and Pickleball courts may open for singles
4 play only in the yellow. Jason mentioned that they will need to be ready to make recommendations to the BOS
5 regarding programs. There was discussion about the Community Day combined with the Food Truck and Music
6 Festival in August. At the June 4th meeting the PRC members will have to make a decision whether to hold it or
7 cancel. The Friends of East Goshen raise the money for Community Day which may be much harder this year.
8 Unless we are in yellow the beginning of June and green is close, Jason doesn't feel we can have this event.
9 There was discussion about the response to the Teen Film Showcase. Jason commented that it will probably be a
10 virtual event this year.

11
12 **RECREATION DIRECTOR REPORT**

13 1. **Public Works** – They are cutting the grass, which looks real good because it's not being walked on. They
14 started working on the Paoli Pike Trail again. Work will start on the Bow Tree Pond #1. Yesterday they put 3,500
15 fish in the Marydell and Pine Oaks ponds.

16
17
18 **ANY OTHER MATTER.**

19 1. Jason commented that the township staff had a soft opening of the township building yesterday. The building is
20 not open to the public. It will be a few more weeks when we are yellow.

21
22 **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

23 Chris Parasol's sons Cole and Jack were on the call. Cole asked if the fireworks will be cancelled. Jason answered
24 that a decision has not been made yet. Jack asked if part of the Paoli Pike Trail could be a Pump Trail. Jason
25 would have to get a grant for it. Also, Jack asked if the trail could connect to the boardwalk at the historic area.
26 Jason explained how they can get there now.

27
28 **ADJOURNMENT**

29 There being no further business, Ed moved to adjourn the meeting. Deb seconded the motion. The meeting was
30 adjourned at 8:00 pm. The next regular meeting will be held on Thursday June 4, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

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32 Respectfully submitted,

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36 Ruth Kiefer, Recording Secretary
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