

**EAST BRADFORD TOWNSHIP  
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD  
September 27, 2023 Minutes**

The East Bradford Township Parks and Recreation Board convened on Wednesday, September 27, 2023 at 7:00 pm in the Township building, 676 Copeland School Road, West Chester, PA 19380. The agenda was posted on the front door of the Township building and on the Township website at <https://www.eastbradford.org> as required by the Sunshine Law.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Marianne Bausinger, Michael Colley, John Fidler, Harry Hatzipavlidis, Matt Maturani, John Spangler

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mark Beaugard

**STAFF/PROFESSIONALS PRESENT:**

Rich Phifer, Director of Property & Recreation

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Ben Pentz, Eagle Scout Candidate

Mr. and Mrs. Pentz

Jeff Friedman, Kenmara HOA President

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The regular monthly meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board was called to order by Mr. Hatzipavlidis, Chair, at 7:00 pm.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion to approve the minutes from the July 26, 2023, meeting was made by Mr. Spangler. The motion was then seconded by Mr. Maturani and carried with all in favor. (No meeting was held in August)

**EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT PRESENTATION**

Eagle Scout candidate Ben Pentz of Troop 14 presented his Eagle project to the Parks & Recreation Board. Mr. Pentz proposes to construct and install a two-sided kiosk at the Valley Creek Road parking area that serves Paradise Valley Nature Area. One side of the kiosk would feature the standard Township bulletin board cabinet for the purpose of displaying park rules, maps and information. The other side of the kiosk would feature a custom designed free fly-fishing library, akin to the popular little free book libraries commonly seen in parks. The fly library would allow people to leave and take free fishing flies and lures for use at the park where West Valley Creek is the main attraction for trout fishing. Mr. Spangler motioned to recommend the project's approval to the Board of Supervisors. Mrs. Bausinger seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

**EAST BRADFORD PARK – DISCUSSION ON CAPITAL REPLACEMENT NEEDS**

The Parks & Recreation Board discussed capital replacement needs and priorities at East Bradford Park. Mr. Phifer explained that the ageing playground equipment and surfacing system, along with ageing fixtures in the park (i.e., benches, tables, water fountains, light bollards) are the main forces driving the need to initiate the capital replacement plan. Mr. Phifer indicated that replacement of the playgrounds alone will be an expensive endeavor and that costs may ultimately force the Township to prioritize what can be included in the replacement project. Mr. Phifer brought up the gazebo located in between the baseball fields as an example. Mr. Hatzipavlidis asked about how much use the gazebo gets. Ms. Bausinger stated that she thinks it does get used and is worth keeping or replacing. Mr. Friedman stated that he didn't think the gazebo gets used very often. Mr. Fidler stated that he felt the gazebo was worth keeping or replacing because it provides the one spot for shade and cover along the north side of the walking pathway. Mr. Friedman reported that the unprecedented rise in popularity of pickleball has driven up demand for court time at the park and has also created noise problems for residents in Kenmara. Mr. Friedman inquired as to whether a new bank of pickleball courts could be constructed where the former

volleyball courts were located next to the picnic pavilion. This could alleviate pressure on the tennis courts and potentially alleviate some of the noise issues. The Board debated the pros and cons of that concept, agreeing that it would be an expensive undertaking and that it doesn't rise to as high of a priority as replacing the playgrounds but should be considered conceptually in the planning process as a lower priority. The Board agreed that as the Township works through the planning process, individual components can be prioritized and eventually provided price estimates so that the Township can ultimately decide what to include or not based on what is practical, affordable and most needed. Mr. Phifer indicated that he would continue discussion with the Board and that funds are being requested in the 2024 budget to bring on a design consultant to assist with the replacement planning.

### **PLUM RUN PRESERVE – GRANT STATUS/UPDATES**

Mr. Phifer reported that the Township has been awarded a \$250,000.00 grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for construction of the Plum Run Trail project. The Township is hoping to hear back from the Pennsylvania DCNR and DCED grant programs within the next month on pending grant applications from their respective programs.

### **AUTUMN FESTIVAL PLANNING**

Mr. Phifer reported that things are coming into form for the upcoming Autumn Festival event on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. The event will take place at East Bradford Park from 12:00 to 4:00 pm. Mr. Phifer solicited volunteer support for the event if any of the Board members are available and interested. Staff can use extra help before, during and after the event with setup, orchestration, and clean up. Everyone is hoping for good weather and a nice turnout.

### **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

Mr. Phifer reported that new signage concerning dog rules and etiquette has been placed at Shaw's Bridge Park and that no recent incidents or reports about improper off-leash dog behavior have been received. Mr. Hatzipavlidis stated that he thought the summer went very well at Shaw's Bridge Park and that the traffic and use there was noticeably lighter than in recent years. The Board agreed that the West Chester Police coverage on weekends was a large benefit and one of the main factors for the summer having been unproblematic at the park.

Mr. Fidler mentioned the deteriorating asphalt on the Brandywine Trail in the one location just north of the old trolley cut. Mr. Phifer will discuss that with the Township staff to determine an approach to repairing the asphalt and stabilizing the embankment.

**ADJOURN:** On motion of Mr. Colley and seconded by Mrs. Bausinger, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

**NOTICE:** The next meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board is scheduled for Wednesday, October 25, 2023 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rich Phifer  
Secretary