

Manor Township Park & Recreation Minutes

Monday, January 25, 2021

7:00 p.m.

The Manor Township Park & Recreation Commission met on Monday, January 25, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Manor Township Municipal Building located at 950 West Fairway Drive, Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Vice-Chairman Maher Hattar led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Members Present: Andy Lebo, Josh Barben, Maher Hattar, Edward Rand(on zoom), Dan Fisher, Matt Eberts

Members Absent:

Visitors Present: Christine Brubaker
Carla Vinson
Mike Vinson
Maria Cattell

Chairman – Josh Barben nominated Edward Rand as Chairman, Andy Lebo seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Vice-Chairman – Josh Barben nominated Maher Hattar as Vice-Chairman, Andy Lebo seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Secretary – Josh Barben nominated Andy Lebo as Secretary, Matt Eberts seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of January 27, 2020 Meeting Minutes and October 26, 2020 Meeting Minutes– Vice-Chairman Maher Hattar motioned to approve the January 27, 2020 Meeting Minutes and October 26, 2020 minutes as submitted, and the motion carried unanimously.

We wanted to recognize two long term members to this Board, Carla Vinson and Maria Cattell. Our Chairman Rand recognized Carla Vinson and Maria Cattell for all their years of service on the Park and Recreation board. Maria served on the Board for at least 12 years and Carla for more than 20 years. Chairman Rand commented that both Maria and Carla helped give advice on some projects that were accomplished over the years. A few of them were the fitness equipment at Herr Park, Blue Rock Park and Trail, Turkey Hill Classic, and Enola Rail Trail bridge project. Chairman Rand thanked them again for their years of service. Mr. Harris presented Ms. Cattell and Ms. Vinson with a plaque for their commitment to the Board and years of service.

Business From The Floor

Christine Brubaker of 22 Birch Court commented that since 1977 the West Branch of the Little Conestoga Creek and Indian Run were listed as potential linear parks. The members of the Park and Recreation should have access to historic documents. Also, in 1998 Rettew developed a

Manor Township Park and Open Space plan, including the use multi-use trail, proposed/existing greenway, I would hope that you have accessed to them for all agenda items.

New Business - Mark Harris made a slideshow presentation. Some highlights were:

- 2020 Park Projects Review- Public Works did install a new playground at Herr Park. We see a lot of families at the park playing lacrosse, soccer, etc. at the Manor Middle School complex so we thought it was advantageous to install a playground. That was the longest timeframe to construct playground because we started the construction before Covid.
- Ash Tree – the Emerald Ash borer has ravaged the Ash Tree population. There was a strip of trees located at Charlestown Park by the Strickler Pavilion that we had to spend an enormous amount of time removing the trees because they were completely dead.
- Hand Dryer– The Public Works department installed these hand dryers in the Charlestown Park restrooms. When paper supplies were running short during COVID, we were having theft problems with the hand sanitizer. We decided to install electric heaters on the wall in hopes that it would be more affective. In 2021 we are looking into installing the electric heaters at Greider Park as well.
- 2020 Park Use – We are thrilled about the upper number on our trail. We have a trail counter along the Enola Low Grade. There were 81,395 users on the trail in 2020. The Public Works department has seen a large number of users for the Blue Rock Park. The trail that we built which goes behind the Springdale Farms and Manor Oaks development has been well used. The basketball courts at Charlestown Park were also heavily used. Some parks were totally closed during Covid, but we kept our parks opened all Spring but had signs out advising people of proper protocols to use. Herr Park disc golf Mr. Harris reported that had one of the highest uses that he has ever seen.
- 2021 Blue Rock Park-Public Works budgeted to build second pavilion at the park. We have a lot of requests to use Township pavilions. Part of our vision at the Blue Rock playground was to have a pavilion that was not rented but families can set their picnics right beside the playground and not have to worry about things. We have received a lot of calls about renting that pavilion, so felt it best for the community to build an independent pavilion down in the woods.
- Safe Harbor Trestle Bridge – This project did begin in September of 2020, there are 27 spans on the bridge. Since September they have been working on spans 1 through 9, the repairs have been going very slowly. We had job conference today and believe that the job is 11 weeks behind schedule. The delay is a result of the number of repairs that are required for the first 9 spans. We had originally had a goal to have the Bridge

completed by October 2021, but it will go well into 2022. The amount of budgeted steel repairs was 24,000 pounds, and the contractor has already replaced 33,000 pounds of steel. The repairs are critical which is why it is taking longer than expected. Every connection was riveted, and those rivets have to be replaced. There is also a piece of falcon netting that goes beneath the bridge that needs replaced, there has been a lot of wind and the fabric has been compromised. This falcon netting which has to be put back into place by February 15th. After February 15th is when the nesting seasons will be start taking place. Mr. Eberts commented after having a devastating fire, are they putting in anything that is fire retardant? Mr. Harris commented that at the Martic Forge Bridge, they let the old railroad tiles on and then they put a wood deck on top of that. When the arsonist started the fire there was a tremendous amount of wood source out there. Our staff felt it would be best served to put a concrete deck on the bridge. A couple of reasons for this, with the long-term maintenance of the bridge it was cheaper to put a concrete deck on rather than keep replacing boards all the time. The Public Works team has been working on a few things to compliment the project that is happening. When you drive into the Safe Harbor Dam and the bridge is above you, the land on the left side as you are driving in is the Conestoga Township side, but we own 900 feet of trail because of the bridge. The Public Works team decided to build a network of stairs, so people are able to park at the Safe Harbor Dam and walk up to the top of the bridge to be able to see the beautiful sites from the bridge. On the Manor side we also have built an observation platform. Families or an individual can walk up to an elevated point to see a panoramic view. We are also looking to put a pavilion, benches, flagpole, watch box, binoculars, and an information board. The Public Works team wants the bridge to speak for itself, but we also want to add some features to enhance that. The Public Works teamed with the PA Game Commission to develop an educational panel to place by the bridge to learn more about the Falcons. The residents can learn how rare and unique the bird is. Mr. Rand asked Mr. Harris mentioned about the delays and the extra work, how does this affect the budget? Mr. Harris commented that it does not affect the Manor Township portion of the budget. The overrides are right now coming out of the PennDOT funding. PennDOT will step up to assist with paying the overrides.

- Township Official Map – As a result of the Northwest River Trail and the Enola Low Grade Rail Trail Gap Study the Township has indicated on the Official Map a desire to have Water Street and River Road widened when possible to accommodate trail users.
- The Proposed Barley Farm Project – In October 2020 the Park and Recreation Board reviewed the sketch plan. The area along the West Branch of the Little Conestoga, we all felt very strongly to see access to the West Branch of Little Conestoga be provided for in the formalized plan. We also talked about creating a trail to follow the West Branch that would then tie into the network of sidewalks throughout the development with the potential of following South of the West Branch of the Little Conestoga. The committee is wanting to see that open to the community, but we want it to be opened and maintained by the Homeowners Association. Mr. Strohecker commented we originally

talked with the developers the amount of space did not lend itself to any nice parklands. We would rather receive a fee in lieu of to the Township so that we can use that money for other parklands in the future. The value that we discussed at that meeting, was found if we just have some access points. The riparian buffer that Mr. Harris referred to are able to utilize those kinds of credits for our MS4 program. The timing that Mr. Harris sets forth will fit nicely in line with the timing of this development.

Ms. Brubaker made a comment that in 1977 the West Branch of the Little Conestoga was listed as a potential linear park. She is a founding member of the Advisory for the Little Conestoga Water Shed Association, which includes the West Branch. What you could benefit from is a Wildlife corridor in addition to linear trail? Ms. Brubaker is requesting that you take a look at all the slides that she sent to Mr. Harris and understand that this area lends itself to stormwater management. Ms. Brubaker suggested a “pocket park” where the church land is located. Mr. Harris commented that they have talked to the developer about the possibility of installing tot lots. Ms. Brubaker asked the committee to make the whole West Branch its own entity. Mr. Strohecker commented we are looking at negotiating the West Branch of the Little Conestoga with the developer to assist with repairs.

The next scheduled Park and Recreation will not meet due to the Turkey Hill Country Classic – May 1, 2021. Township will send out invitation to all of the Board members for the planning session.

Vice Chairman Hatter again thanked Maria Cattell and Carla Vinson for their years of services for volunteering with the Park & Recreation board.

With no further business to discuss, Vice Chairman Hatter entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Josh Barben so motioned, Andy Lebo seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andy Lebo
Secretary

Recording Secretary
Adrienne Kautz