

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
OCTOBER 10, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson, Mark Bedle called the Recreation Advisory Committee (RAC) meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 10, 2023, at the Washington Township Municipal Building.

ROLL CALL

The following members were present: Dwayne Henne, Tara Christman, Mark Bedle, and Dave Laxx. RAC Secretary, Rich Sichler Absent. One member of the public was present at the meeting.

TAPING OF MEETING

The Chairperson asks if anyone is taping the meeting this evening, other than the RAC Secretary. The Secretary was absent, and the meeting was not recorded. It was noted that no one else was taping the meeting this evening.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None

SPECIAL REQUEST

None

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Safety and Rules – Open discussion about revisions to the current Township park rules.

- Firework Incident – Fireworks were setoff at the Washington Township Park during an after-school sporting event.
- After Hours & Lighting Incident – Activities are taking place in the Barto Community Park after the park closure at dusk (youth sports). There are safety concerns due to the lack of area lights working and or are enough present in the parking lot near the Township Offices.
- Discussed changes to the current Township park rules:

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- Add the use of any vaping devices (tobacco, CBD or flavored) to list of tobacco products not allowed to be used in any Township parks or open spaces.
 - Add that the use of drones is not allowed in any Township parks or open spaces.
 - Remove the allow use of hitting golf balls in any Township parks or open spaces by special permission from the Township.
 - Add biking as a permittable use in the Township parks or open spaces. Will be dependent on specific park / open space / trail. Needs to include reference to e-bikes and limits.
 - Add dogs are permittable in the Township parks and open spaces. Must be always on leash and under control of the owner. Must pickup waste and deposit in appropriate waste receptacle.
 - Add it is illegal to cut, trim or damage any type of vegetation in the Township parks and open spaces.
 - Add it is illegal to setoff or use any type of fireworks in the Township parks and open spaces.
 - Possible camping allowed at Hoffmansville Road open space? Water source available, no electric. Would require very specific rules and regulations.
- It was agreed upon by all members of the RAC to send a recommendation to the Township Board of Supervisors (BOS) to repair/improve the lighting present in the Barto Community Park parking lot.
 - It was agreed upon by all members of the RAC to table making any recommendations to the Township BOS about revisions to the Township park rules, until a later date.

Potential Activities and Events – Open discussion on events and activities the Township may potentially offer at the Township parks.

- Farmers Market – Barto Community Park – Monthly, Spring – Fall, Longacres, 2 farms north of Bally, Winer’s, Wendy’s Flowers, Crow Hill Farms, Flower Farm, Sweets Café, Boyertown Farmer’s Market – Thursdays.
- Easter Egg Hunt – Barto Community Park - Easter
- Bingo – SSM Community Room – Monthly, Weekends Afternoon – Possibly jointly with Bally Senior Center.
- Car Show – Not recommended.
- Seed / Plant Swap – Barto Community Park - Spring
- Community Yard Sale – Barto Community Park - Spring
- Craft Fair – Barto Community Park & SSM Community Room – Fall, crafts only, possible bands

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- Sidewalk Art Contest – 9-12 prizes
- Concert Events, Amateur Hour (Student Bands)

Open Space – Open discussion on the importance of Recreation Advisory Committee to be aware of new subdivisions and potentially associated open spaces. Given the recent acquisition of open space on Hoffmansville Road from the proposed Edison Walk subdivision, the potential to augment our current parks’ footprints exists. Should we request from the Board of Supervisors the opportunity to advise the Board about potential open spaces / fee-in-lieu?

- It was agreed upon by all members of the RAC to send a recommendation to the Township BOS to allow the RAC to review subdivision development plans (limited to open space / fee-in-lieu specification) and make recommendations to the BOS.

Washington Township Parks, Recreation Areas, and Open Space Ordinance – Open discussion on recommendations for revisions to the ordinance.

- It was agreed upon by all members of the RAC to table this discussion until the final Recreational Study Report was received and reviewed by the RAC.

Comprehensive Recreation, Parks, and Open Space Plan – Open discussion on making a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to go forward with township wide or individual park development plans.

- It was agreed upon by all members of the RAC to send a recommendation to the Township BOS to move forward with a Township wide comprehensive parks development plan.

SUBDIVISION AND OPEN SPACE REVIEW

- Camp Camino – No open space provided.
- Kate’s Place, and Reserve at Barto – Unclear if there is a potential for open space.
- 1606 Main Street – Minor Plan, no open space required.
- Beverly Melcher and Stauffer Road – Minor Plans, no open space required.
- Edison Walk – Major Plan, open space satisfied.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

- Update committee member’s contact information.
- Possibly develop an RAC specific Facebook page.

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- Township Recreational Budget should be reviewed by the RAC and allow RAC to provide recommendations to the Township BOS.

COMMUNICATIONS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Board of Supervisors meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 26, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

The next Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 2, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 14, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Mark Bedle
RAC Chairperson