

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
NOVEMBER 14, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson, Mark Bedle called the Recreation Advisory Committee (RAC) meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 14, 2023, at the Washington Township Municipal Building.

ROLL CALL

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

TAPING OF MEETING

The Chairperson asks if anyone is taping the meeting this evening. It was noted that no one was taping the meeting this evening. The meeting was documented by the RAC Secretary.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

All members approved the Draft October 10, 2023, Meeting Minutes.

SPECIAL REQUEST

None

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

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

- After Hours Use - Township park rules need to be updated to reflect occasional after dusk use.
- Barto Community Park Parking Lot Lighting – This is currently being addressed by the Township BOS and Manager.
- Previously discussed changes to the current Township park rules:
 - Add the use of any vaping devices (tobacco, CBD or flavored) to list of tobacco/"other" products not allowed to be used in any Township parks or open spaces.

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- 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 permissible 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 permissible in the Township parks and open spaces. Must be always on leash and under control of the owner. Must pick up 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.
 - Add it is illegal to create new trails within any Township parks and open spaces.
 - After hours use of the Township parks or open spaces is only allowed with permission from the Board of Supervisors.
 - No hunting in Township parks or open spaces.
- It was agreed upon by all members of the RAC to send a letter to the Township Board of Supervisors (BOS) with proposed revisions to the Township Park rules and regulations. Chairperson will draft letter for RAC review at next meeting.

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
- Sidewalk Art Contest – 9-12 prisses

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- Concert Events, Amateur Hour (Student Bands)

Open Space –Review and approval of draft letter from RAC to Township BOS requesting an opportunity to review and provide recommendations regarding subdivision and land development plans’ open space / fee-in-lieu requirements, to the Township Planning Committee and BOS.

- All members approved the draft Township BOS recommendation letter, with the noted revision.

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 – Review and approval of draft letter from RAC to Township BOS making a recommendation to the Supervisors to go forward with a Township wide comprehensive parks development plan.

- All members approved the draft Township BOS recommendation letter.

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.
- Update Township Website with correct committee members.
- Possibly develop a RAC specific Facebook page.
- Procedures to communicate with Township Planning Committee and BOS.
- Township Recreational Budget should be reviewed by the RAC and allow RAC to provide recommendations to the Township BOS.
- Hoffmansville open space – Native PA prairie grasses – A discussion took place regarding the importance of working with the Environmental Advisory

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Council when moving forward to park development.

<https://extension.psu.edu/warm-season-grasses-and-wildlife>

- Chairperson will contact Rich S. to discuss Marvin Steward, Facebook posting, follow-up on lighting (redbarn), grants to prepare comp. park plan.
- A discussion took place on meeting with adjacent township and borough recreation boards / committees. It was agreed that we would initially limit the meeting to both Bally and Bechtelsville Boroughs. Additional discussions took place regarding known contacts within each borough. Chairperson will reach out to each to discuss possible 1st quarter 2024 joint meeting.
- A discussion took place regarding agencies that would assist with the Township park's development.
 - Berk Nature
 - Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy
 - EAC Network
 - We Conserve PA
 - PA Bluebird Society
 - DCNR

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.

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Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Bedle". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mark Bedle
RAC Chairperson