

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 12, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER – 6:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL

The following members were present: Dwayne Henne, Tara Christman, Mark Bedle, and Dave Laxx. Also, present was Township Manager Rich Sichler and Board of Supervisor Romney Long. No members of the public were 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 November 14, 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 - Mark Bedle noted that this is already addressed in the current park rules and regulations.
- Barto Community Park Parking Lot Lighting – Rich Sichler noted that the parking lights have been replaced and are functioning correctly.

Review and approval of draft letter from the RAC to Township BOS with recommended revisions to the Township Parks, Recreation Areas, and Open Spaces Ordinance.

- All members approved the draft Township BOS recommendation letter.

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

- Previously discussed potential activities and events:
 - 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 prizes
 - Concert Events, Amateur Hour (Student Bands)

- Newly discussed potential activities and events:
 - Yoga in the Park – Barto Community Park
 - Bomb Fire – Barto Community Park

Comprehensive Recreation, Parks, and Open Space Plan

- A review and discussion on member’s revisions and suggested improvements to the Draft Comprehensive Recreation, Parks, and Open Space Plan was completed.
- A list of priorities moving forward was discussed and agreed upon by the members.
- It was agreed upon to have the Chairperson send the revisions, suggested improvements and priorities moving forward to YSM. A copy of that email is attached to these minutes.

SUBDIVISION AND OPEN SPACE REVIEW

- Kate’s Place, and Reserve at Barto – Unclear if there is a potential for open space.
- Camp Camino – Minor Plan, no open space provided.

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- 1606 Main Street – Minor Plan, no open space required.
- Beverly Melcher and Stauffer Road – Minor Plans, no open space required.
- Edison Walk – Edison Walk land swap was approved by the court. Will add an additional 2.53 acres to Barto Community Park.
- Barto Road Re-alignment – Will add an additional 2.50 acres to Barto Community Park.

RECREATION FUND

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

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

- Update committee member’s contact information.
- Possibly develop a RAC specific Facebook page.
- Edison Walk open space – Native PA prairie grasses (<https://extension.psu.edu/warm-season-grasses-and-wildlife>)
- Contact made with BARDS and Bechtelsville Org. and both groups are interested in meeting during the 1st quarter 2024. Date?
- It was agreed upon by the RAC members to incorporate Edison Walk, Hoffman Estates and Reserve at Bally Spring open spaces under the name “Middle Creek Nature Preserve and The Woodlands”. The chairperson would prepare a recommendation letter to BOS with new name. Rich S. will place the RAC recommendation letters on the December 21, 2023, BOS meeting agenda.
- It was agreed upon by the RAC members to start the process to develop township wide map with locations of lands that future acquisitions would benefit our parks and recreation areas. Rich S. noted that they are called Official Maps and include an ordinance.
- It was agreed upon by the RAC members to have Rich S. looking into a potential Washington Township Tree Fund. Options to obtain trees for our parks was also discussed.

COMMUNICATIONS

None

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Board of Supervisors meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 21, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

The next Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 4, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next RAC Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Mark D. Bedle
RAC Chairperson