

**WEST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING
May 21, 2008**

Attending: Bob Cifone, Jennifer Dobbins, Mary Lou Enoches, Jerry Napiecek, Michael Pillagalli, Nancy Pine, Ed Smith, and Megan Zug

Township Representatives: Casey LaLonde, Ken Lehr, Ed Meakim, Tom Steines, and Kent Wise

Meeting called to Order: 7:00 PM by Chair Mary Lou Enoches

After a review of the minutes submitted for the April 16, 2008 meeting, a motion was made by Michael Pillagalli to accept the minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Jerry Napiecek and passed.

The Financial Report dated April 30, 2008 was reviewed. There were no questions or comments pertaining to the Financial Report.

Parks: Kent Wise reported that the crews are busy cutting grass and grooming the Township's ballfields. Kent Wise stated that three crews are required to keep up with this effort: two crews are cutting grass and the third crew is doing the trim work. Kent Wise informed that repairs have been made to the tube slide at Hamlet Crest Park that was damaged by vandals several weeks ago. The replacement parts cost the Township \$785.00 and required additional time for installation. Kent Wise informed that the play schoolbus donated by the Friends of West Goshen Parks in memory of Robert McCardell has been installed at Coopersmith Park. Kent Wise reported that the crews spent a week trimming/cutting shrubs and doing bed work at the Township Building. Kent Wise indicated that the crews started working on the beds at Community Park this week (week of May 19th). Kent Wise said two summer helpers (Timothy Camlin and James Forsythe) have recently started assisting the Parks crews. Finally, Kent Wise reported that there were no new instances of vandalism at the Township parks.

Recreation: Tom Steines, reporting on the Summer Recreation Program, reported that registration sessions were held on Saturday, May 10th (8:00 AM to 11:00 AM) and on Saturday, May 17th (9:00 AM to 11:00 AM). Tom Steines offered thanks to Jerry Napiecek, Michael Pillagalli, Nancy Pine, and Ed Smith for providing support. Tom Steines informed that there was a light turnout at the second day of registration. At this time there are 91 campers registered at Barker Park, 81 campers registered at the Community Park, and 47 campers registered at Coopersmith Park. Last year, the final totals were 110 registrants at Barker Park, 120 at Community Park, and 88 at Coopersmith Park. Tom Steines said anyone interested in registering a child for the 2008 program can do so at the West Goshen Township Administration Building. Non-residents can now register for the program. Tom Steines reported that all of the Counselor positions have been filled at this time. The Summer Recreation staff orientation is scheduled for Saturday June 7th from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. The orientation program will include first aid and CPR instructions provided by Good Fellowship Ambulance Company. The first aid and CPR instructions are scheduled to begin immediately after the lunch break (around 12:30 PM). An orientation session for the Junior Councilors is scheduled for Wednesday, June 11th. This session does not include first aid or CPR training. The 2008 Summer Recreation Program is scheduled to begin on June 23rd and run through August 15th.

Tom Steines, reporting on the Summer Teen Program, informed that registration sessions were held on Saturday, May 10th (8:00 AM to 11:00 AM) and Saturday, May 17th (9:00 AM to 11:00 AM). At this time there are 22 campers registered for the program compared to 21 for the 2007 program. The 2008 Summer Teen Program is scheduled to begin on June 23rd and run through August 15th.

Friends of the Park: Megan Zug, reporting for the Friends of West Goshen Parks, informed that the annual membership meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 22nd at Coopersmith Park. Megan Zug

indicated that she would be stepping down from her position as Treasurer, and that Jennifer Dobbins is on the ballot for the open position. Megan Zug reported that the secretary position is still open at this time. Megan Zug informed that the fundraising for the Summer Concert Series is ongoing. Ken Lehr reported that the Friends of West Goshen Parks received a \$25,000 contribution from Paul March (nephew) on behalf of the estate of Jesse March. Paul March indicated Jesse March regularly attended the Sunday night concerts at the Community Park and requested the donation be utilized to benefit West Goshen Township Park and Recreation programs. Ken Lehr stated that the funds could be set up as an endowment where the income could be utilized to support the Summer Concert Series. Megan Zug suggested placing the funds in an interest bearing account so the Friends and Township can designate how the funds should be utilized. Casey LaLonde indicated that the Township would send a letter of thanks to the estate for the generous donation. Michael Pillagalli asked if the general public was aware of this donation. Ken Lehr said Paul March indicated Jesse March would not have wanted public acknowledgement for the donation. Ken Lehr indicated that the members of the Friends of West Goshen Parks and the Park and Recreation Board should look for ideas on how the donation could be used, and that the Township should extend the courtesy of informing Mr. March on how the donation funds would be utilized. Mary Lou Enoches stated that a donation like this confirms that the events and recreation opportunities the Township is providing touches many people. Additionally, Mary Lou Enoches indicated the members of the Park and Recreation Board would want to have input on how the funds will be spent suggesting they should be utilized for something associated with the Summer Concert Series. Michael Pillagalli indicated that the Township should find a way to acknowledge the donation without identifying any names. Additionally, Michael Pillagalli stated that Township residents would be astonished at the generosity of this donation and indicated this knowledge may inspire others to do something similar. Ken Lehr asked if a committee should be set up to come up with recommendations on how the donation funds should be utilized. Casey LaLonde indicated recommendations for how to utilize the funds should come from the Friends of West Goshen Parks and the Park and Recreation Board. Mary Lou Enoches, Jerry Napiecek and Nancy Pine volunteered to serve on the new committee. Megan Zug reported arrangements are underway for the dedication of the new playground equipment (play schoolbus) at Coopersmith Park. Megan Zug reported that she has transitioned the Treasurer duties of the Friends of West Goshen Parks over to Jennifer Dobbins.

Old Business: Ken Lehr, reporting on Township bus trips, informed that he had to line up a bus from Academy Coach for the December 6th trip to the American Music Theater in Lancaster since Krapf's Coaches did not have a bus available for that date. The trip will feature 3-4 hours of shopping time, the Christmas concert at the American Music Theater, and a family style dinner at the Good'N Plenty restaurant. Ken Lehr indicated that the cost of the trip will be in the \$75.00 to \$80.00 range per person. The Township would start advertising for the trip in July. Ken Lehr reported that the August 17th trip to Yankee Stadium (with the tier reserved seats) sold out in three days (three buses), and that the Township has added a Tuesday, September 16th trip that will leave West Goshen Township at 2:00 PM and arrive at Yankee Stadium at 5:00 PM, allowing ample time to visit Monument Park prior to the 7:00 PM start of the game. Ken Lehr reported that the cost of the trip is \$40.00 per person. The Township lined up two buses for the trip. Ken Lehr informed that the June 21st trip to New York City is sold out with a wait list. Ken Lehr indicated that the Township lined up two buses for the trip to Shea Stadium on Saturday, September 6th to see the Mets battle the Phillies. At this time 66-68 of the available seats have been filled. Ken Lehr reported that eleven people have signed up to date for the trip to Cape Cod. The buses for this trip will depart from the Chester County Chamber of Business and Industry (Paoli Pike across from East Goshen Township Park) on October 2nd and return on October 6th. Ken Lehr stated that 36 tickets would need to be sold to break even and allow the trip to be offered. The Cape Cod trip is a joint venture between East Goshen Township, West Goshen Township, and the Borough of West Chester.

Ken Lehr, reporting on the Senior Water Walking, informed that at this time all of the spring sessions are filled with a wait list. Ken Lehr indicated that the Township would look to line-up the fall sessions in the early summer.

Ken Lehr, reporting on the Yoga-Pilates sessions, informed that the third/final session of this popular class is scheduled to run from April 29th through May 27th. The cost of the session is \$50.00 for West

Goshen Township residents and \$60.00 for non-residents. Ken Lehr indicated that he would meet with Ida Ladner to plan future sessions.

Ken Lehr, reporting on the Adventure Boot Camp which runs from April 14th through May 9th, informed that Fox 29 News's Sue Serio provided live weather updates from the Boot Camp at Community Park last week.

Ken Lehr, reporting on the April 26th "Teen Scene" at ACAC, informed that the event was cancelled due to a low registration (18). Ken Lehr stated that this type of event historically does better in winter/cold weather months. Ken Lehr indicated that ACAC is planning some expansion next winter and cannot commit to supporting an event like the "Teen Scene" during that timeframe.

Ken Lehr, reporting on the Battle of the Bands, informed that only one band signed up to compete at this year's event and as a result, this year's Battle of the Bands was cancelled. Ken Lehr informed that the band that did sign up to compete ("Drop Out Academy") would be given the winner's prize (\$300.00) contingent on the band performing at the Skate Park on June 21st as part of the Township's "Go Skateboarding Day" festivities.

Ken Lehr, reporting on the Summer Concert Series, informed that this year's events are scheduled to begin on June 22nd. Ken Lehr indicated he would distribute a sign-up sheet at the June Park and Recreation Board meeting, asking members to volunteer to provide support for one or more of the concerts. Megan Zug asked to have advertisement for the Community Day Headline Band Concert added to the Summer Concert Series fliers. Information on the 2008 Summer Concert Series is listed below:

Date	Theme	Featured Performers	Location
June 22 nd	Children's Concert	Yosi and the Superdads	Community Park
June 29 th	Party Music	Goodfellas	Community Park
July 13 th	Motown revisited	Special Blendz	Community Park
July 27 th	Country Western	Straight Shooter	Community Park
August 10 th	Concert Band	West Chester Band	Community Park

Ken Lehr, reporting on Community Day, informed that he had given representatives of the band "Blackthorn" until the end of April to confirm whether or not they would be able to perform at this year's Community Day. As a result, Ken Lehr informed that he contacted representatives from the Greaseband, and that the band is willing to hold the date (September 14th) and the rain date (September 28th) for the Township. Ken Lehr reported that Peggy Niemeyer requested a "check-in" meeting to make sure everything is on track for this year's event. As a result, a Community Day planning meeting is scheduled for 6:00 PM on Wednesday, June 18th prior to the next Park and Recreation Board meeting.

New Business: Ken Lehr began a discussion on the "Watch Dogs," informing that he and Casey LaLonde conducted a meeting with users of the dogpark who have volunteered to make visitors aware of park rules and etiquette. Besides educating their peers of safe and sanitary dog park practices, "Watch Dogs" serve as liaisons with the West Goshen Park and Recreation Department and Township Manager, notifying the Township of concerns and issues they see from the perspective of dog owners. The "Watch Dogs" will receive official baseball caps identifying them as volunteers. Ken Lehr informed that 22 people attended the first meeting and indicated that there appears to be more patrons that want to help. Both Ken Lehr and Casey LaLonde indicated that they were very pleased with the turnout and the enthusiasm of those in attendance. Mary Lou Enoches asked Kent Wise if he sees any improvement in how people are taking care of the facility and following the rule to clean up after their pets. Kent Wise indicated he

sees great improvement in both areas. Casey LaLonde informed that he visits the dogpark a couple of times a day to make sure everything continues to move in the right direction.

Ken Lehr, reporting on Harvest Day, informed that the Philadelphia Eagles schedule is out, and that there is a 1:00 PM game scheduled on October 26th and nothing scheduled for October 19th. As a result, Ken Lehr indicated that the 2008 Harvest Day festivities would be schedule for Sunday, October 19th at Community Park.

Kent Wise expressed concern that the Township's 300 year old weeping beech tree is being neglected by the current property owners. Kent Wise indicated that this is the largest beech tree in Chester County. The members of the Park and Recreation Board recommended someone from the Township contact the property owner. Casey LaLonde indicated he would follow-up on that request. Megan Zug suggested contacting a representative from Longwood Gardens to see if they would be able to provide help with maintaining the tree.

Kent Wise gave an update on the Box Elder Pond, informing that the pond is doing well, the water is clearing up, and about 80% of the new plantings have survived.

Casey LaLonde provided an update on the status of the Jerrehian property, informing that the family has submitted a land development application. Representatives from the Township are scheduled to meet with an attorney representing the Jerrehian family on Friday, May 23rd. Casey LaLonde informed that the Township is working on a revised zoning that would result in more open spaces for the Township when the property is developed. Casey LaLonde indicated that he did not expect any significant development to start on the property for the next 3-5 years.

Casey LaLonde provided an update on the construction currently underway at the intersection of Turner Lane and Paoli Pike (next to the Acme). The property will be a shopping center containing a bank and a strip mall. Casey LaLonde indicated that he did not have any knowledge of who the tenants would be at this time.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for June 18, 2008.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ed Smith