

**Lower Salford Township  
Park Board Minutes  
September 26, 2023**

The September 26, 2023, Park Board meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Chairman Kent Krauss. Also in attendance were Jan Johnson, Andy Lazzaro, Ryan Beltz, Amy Burch, Mark Kelley and Secretary Holly Hosterman. Also in attendance were Heckler Plains/Historical Society members Joan DiMaria and Don Orcutt. Also in attendance at this evening's meeting was Doug Jones, Public Works Director for the Township.

Chairman Krauss asked for a motion to approve the June 27, 2023, Meeting Minutes. Jan Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes and Mark Kelley seconded. Minutes unanimously approved as written.

Chairman Krauss introduced Derek Dureka, Parks and Recreation Director for Upper Dublin Township. Mr. Dureka is the consultant provided to the Township through a RecTAP Grant from Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society (PRPS). This grant was used to fund a study of the Township's field usage. Mr. Dureka commended the Township on the excellent use of the fields as well as their upkeep and diversity of sports being serviced. He had also spoken with not only Township staff, but also the stakeholders of the many sporting organizations that use the fields within the Township. These discussions led Mr. Dureka to formulate the needs of the area sporting organizations. Mr. Dureka had prepared a PowerPoint presentation for the Board. Fees, maintenance time, usage intensity and additional grant funds were discussed as part of the presentation. For a complete version of the study, please contact the Lower Salford Township office, and the presentation will be provided. Mr. Krauss thanked Mr. Dureka for the time invested in the study and informed the Park Board members that the results of the study would be reviewed, and next steps taken.

Present to discuss the latest updates with the Heckler Plains Historical Society were Joan DiMaria and Don Orcutt. Joan reposted that the Heckler Fest was a huge success and that the next event on the calendar was the Carol Sing in December at Heckler Plains. She also inquired about pest control, and that their current service provider had increased costs significantly. Therefore, the Society inquired about using the Township's service provider for pest control at the historical sites.

Chairman Krauss asked Ms. Hosterman to provide the Planning Commission Agenda. Ms. Hosterman said that a revised plan had been submitted for the trails within the 355 Maple Avenue renovations. She said that the developer has added the revisions previously requested by not only the Park Board but also the Planning Commission and the Trails & Sidewalks Committee.

**The following reports were given for the various Township parks:**

**Alderfer Park** – Jan Johnson reported that everything looked good. She noted that one of the swings was missing from the playground equipment and also that the kiosk needs attention.

**Bergey Park** – Andy Lazzaro noted the park looked good.

**Briarwyck Park** – Amy Burch noted that the pond looked great.

**Bucher Park** –Mark reported that the recently resurfaced basketball courts look amazing! The sharp edge of one of the benches is still a hazard.

**Dannerth Park** – Mark noted that the cover is hanging open on the telephone box on the adjacent pole near the parking lot. Doug Jones said he would look into this asap.

**Groff's Mill Park** – Andy reported that the park looked fine and asked if there was a possibility to replace the bench that was removed due to deterioration.

**Heckler Plains Farmstead** – Pete Harubin was not in attendance; however, Joan DiMaria said that the park was in good shape and that there are 2 Eagle Scout projects on the horizon that will enhance the features of the park. She will keep the group updated as those move along.

**Kulp Road Pond Park** – Good shape

**Park Avenue Field** – Amy reported that football was in full swing.

**Reed Park** –Pete was not in attendance, but Public Works Director Doug Jones noted that the pickle ball courts were very close to being finalized and ready for play.

**Reiff Park** – Ryan Beltz reported that there had been 10 school groups visit the park since Labor Day, allowing over 140 students to experience first hand the environmental efforts happening at the park. He also noted that the Township and the PWC had been chosen as the recipients of this year's Montgomery County Conservation District Environmental Stewardship award for their stream bed restoration project.

**Roth Park** – Mark Kelley reported several rails were missing on the split rail fence and that the wire fencing around the playground equipment needs replacing. Mr. Jones noted that this is a project slated for 2024.

**Trail Report** – Jan Johnson noted the new bench that was near the trail where it connects to Indian Crest Way. This bench was installed as a memorial to Lori King, whose daughters, Anita & Lori, provided the funding for the bench.

**Wawa Park** – It was noted that the park was in good shape.

**Kiosk Report** – Amy Burch had no report. Ms. Hosterman noted that she does not believe there will be discount ski tickets this year but would check with the PRPS who provides the program.

### **New Business & Correspondence:**

Ms. Hosterman told the members of the Board that there had been a recent complaint from a resident who had reserved the pavilion at Reed Park. The resident's event was on Sunday and there was garbage on the ground and it appeared that the previous renters of the pavilion did not take their garbage with them when they left. Due to the Public Works crew not working on Saturday or Sunday, the Township hopes that the pavilion users will be responsible and leave the pavilion as they found it, or better. Ms. Hosterman told the Board that she had apologized to the resident.

Public Works Director, Doug Jones, was present to discuss a recent opportunity that he had heard about to install an outdoor fitness park. The National Fitness Campaign had contacted the Township about getting grant funds to install an outdoor workout facility. Mr. Jones presented the information and asked the Park Board if they would like him to pursue the project further. After some discussion, Chairman Krauss said that they were in agreement to look into the project. He also noted that the best place to put the outdoor fitness area would be in the vicinity of the Harleysville Community Center. The other Board members were in agreement. Mr. Jones will follow up in the future.

**Old Business:**

Members Andy Lazzaro and Amy Burch reported that the next Walkable Lederach Open House would be in November. A flyer and additional information would be forthcoming from McMahon Associates.

Mr. Jones gave an update on the 2 new basins that were being installed at the Alderfer Road Open Space and the Community Center. Mr. Jones said the Township would be planting meadow grasses and would be borrowing the County's seeder for the project.

There being no further business, Chairman Krauss entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 p.m. Andy Lazzaro motioned for approval and Ryan Beltz seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly Hosterman, Secretary