



## **North Whitehall Township**

### **Recreation Board**

#### **Regular Meeting**

Monday, March 21, 2022, 7:30 P.M.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**a. Roll Call**

**b. Consideration of Minutes-** January 17, 2022, Regular Meeting

**II. SUPERVISORS REPORT**

**III. CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

**IV. OLD BUSINESS**

**a. Community events**

**b. Township Parks**

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Reorganization of Recreation Board**

- Vacant Position – Deadline March 25, 2022
- Review Ordinance #1998-1

**b. Recent and Upcoming Parks & Recreation Programs and Special Events**

- New beginnings yoga classes at North Whitehall Township – Ongoing
- Swim and Gym program – January 9, 2022, through March 27, 2022
  - South Whitehall Program (includes all Parkland Area residents)
- Parkland Area Summer Rec Camp – Registration starts March 10, 2022
- Township fields and basketball courts open for scheduled play – April 1, 2022
- Hazardous Waste Event – April 9, 2022
- Ironton Rail-Trail
  - Workdays(NWT): April 9, 2022, and July 9, 2022
  - National Trails 5K Run/Walk: June 5, 2022



**c. North Whitehall Township Website**

- Discuss new tabs under the Parks & Recreation Department – Recreation Board, Programs, and Community Resources

**d. Sport Leagues**

- Discuss opportunities for girls and boys in North Whitehall Township and the Lehigh Valley
- Review financial report letters to allocate money

**e. Update on the Comprehensive Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan**

- Review past Study Committee meetings – January through March 2022
- Review plans for all seven North Whitehall Township parks
- Discuss future public engagement opportunities – survey and public meeting

**f. Township Park and Trails**

- Ironton Rail-Trail update from Ray Deutsch

**g. Grants and Recreation Fees**

- Greenway, Trails, Recreation & Park Grant (Park Signage update/branding) – Update
- PennDOT Transportation Alternative Set Aside (Ironton Rail-Trail Crosswalk Improvements) – Status Pending

**h. Future Agenda Items Suggestions**

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Next board meeting: July 18, 2022, 7:30 P.M.



## North Whitehall Township

### Recreation Board Minutes

### Regular Meeting | Via Zoom

Monday, January 17, 2022, 7:30 P.M.

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

##### a. Roll Call

- Ray Deutsch
- Melissa Uff
- Al Geosits (NWT)
- Dan Devine
- Tim O'Brien
- Kayla Mack (NWT)
- Jenny Krumrine
- Dennis Klusaritz (NWT)

**b. Consideration of Minutes-** Ray motioned to accept the September 20, 2021 minutes, Melissa seconded.

#### II. SUPERVISORS REPORT

It was discussed that Al Geosits is the Recreation Boards' new representative, and Dennis Klusaritz will be on the Ironton Rail-Trail Commission.

#### III. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Rob F. commented on his safety concern with Neffs Valley Park. He believes the park needs to be worked on due to the conditions of the buildings and kids trespassing. He noted a shed is falling over; windows were broken, etc. Rob expressed his interest in the Township hosting a community cleanup day for Neffs Valley Park. Kayla Mack replied that the project with Neffs Valley Park is currently with their Township engineer, and the plans are to demolish the pool and buildings. Kayla noted the park is high on the priority list for our Parks, Recreation, and Open Space plan, along with our Recreation Board. She will bring the idea of a community clean-up event to Township management. Dennis commented that it would be good for the Recreation Board to meet at Neffs Valley Park.

#### IV. OLD BUSINESS

Utilizing Open Space Areas – In October, the Recreation Board discussed the small space behind the bike shop on 309 and Independence Park, the playground behind Neffs Bank, and the tract of land along Quarry. Kayla updated the board that the small space behind the bike shop is 3.5 acres and is currently being looked into for the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan as a recreation opportunity. As for the playground behind Neffs Bank, the Township does not own the area, but they maintain it. The tract of land along Quarry is 4.5 acres and was conveyed to the Township by the development of Timber Ridge VII.

Community Event – With Senior Day and Veterans Day being canceled due to COVID-19, the Recreation Board looked into other ideas or if the event could be held outside. Kayla presented that community days, walking programs, park clean-up days, and aquatic activities were the highest recommended community event from the public survey. It was discussed that moving forward with community days was a good idea because the event is held outside, but we want to make sure seniors and Veterans are included. Tim mentioned he enjoyed Veterans Day when they would do speeches, and they could do that at the community day. Another idea that could be held at a community day or an



event itself was having booths of different clubs. Kayla will bring these ideas to the Township to host an outdoor event during the summer. However, with COVID-19 being a concern, Kayla brought up the idea of hosting virtual competitions such as submitting a photo of North Whitehall Township and then a scavenger hunt for the younger generation to receive a prize. The Recreation Board agreed this is a good idea to move forward.

## V. NEW BUSINESS

### a. Reorganization of Recreation Board

Resignation of Norma Visnar (Secretary) – Kayla Mack will fill in the secretary position.

Resignation of Amy Long (Chair-person) – Al Geosits will fill in the chairperson's position.

### b. Recent and Upcoming Parks & Recreation Programs and Special Events

Christmas Tree Lighting – Kayla reported that the Township held their first Christmas Tree Lighting on December 12<sup>th</sup> with Greater Northern Lehigh Chamber from 5 pm – 7 pm. Participants enjoyed a series of vendors, holiday music and performances and had the chance to take a photo with Santa.

House Decorating Contest – Kayla assisted the Greater Northern Lehigh Chamber in marketing their house decorating contest. This event ran from December 14<sup>th</sup> through December 20<sup>th</sup>. Other Townships involved were Slatinton Borough, Walnutport Borough, Lehigh Township, Washington Township, Heidelberg Township, Weisenberg Township, and Lowhill Township. The winner of the contest was a family in Weisenberg Township.

Swim and Gym Program – Kayla mentioned the Swim and Gym program that South Whitehall Township runs. She said it was a program for family swimming recreation and pick-up basketball for Parkland Area residents. The program is held at Parkland High school from 1 pm – 5 pm on January 9<sup>th</sup> through March 27<sup>th</sup>.

New Beginnings Yoga Classes – Kayla gave a brief update that New Beginnings Yoga Classes were starting back up on January 20<sup>th</sup> from 5 pm – 6 pm every Thursday at the Townships Municipal Building. There was a pause due to safety concerns with COVID-19 around the holidays.

Township Fields and Basketball Courts – Kayla discussed further detail under the Sports League agenda item, but the goal is to have the spring season start April 1, 2022.

Ironton Rail-Trail Spring Historical Walk – Kayla discussed the historical spring walk that the Ironton Rail-Trail Oversight Commission is hosting. The event is free and is estimated to take 4 hours (weather permitting).

Ironton Rail-Trail Workdays – Kayla provided the Ironton Rail-Trail calendar of events that showcases all their workdays. Ray mentioned the trail is 90% maintained by the oversight commission and is always looking for volunteers.

Summer Youth Recreation Program – Kayla discussed a partnership with South Whitehall Township and Upper Macungie Township. This program will be expanding South Whitehall Township's highly regarded Summer Playground.



Program. The first day will be held June 13<sup>th</sup> and end on August 5<sup>th</sup>. For the program, there will be 5 locations to choose from: Ironton Elementary (NWT), Parkland Manor Elementary (SWT), Orefield Middle School (SWT), Kratzer Elementary (SWT), and Veterans Memorial Elementary (UMT). The committee members asked if there were any financial help offered, mask regulations and if volunteers could take their child for free. Kayla mentioned that she meets with South Whitehall Township and Upper Macungie Township weekly and will bring up those questions in time for the next meeting.

### **c. Sport Leagues**

Discussion on 2022 Spring Season - Kayla explained that she updated the field and court request form, which can be found on the Townships website. She mentioned 29 teams requested to use the baseball/softball fields, one team for basketball, and one for the multi-purpose fields. It was noted that this could change.

Financial Report Letters - Kayla discussed that the financial report letters were sent out to head sports organizers to allocate money at the next Recreation Board meeting. Last year funds were split amongst North Parkland AA, Omrod Playground Association, Laurys Athletic Association, Schnecksville Playground Association, Neffs Playground Association, and Orefield AA. Jenny shared her screen with the Recreation Board of the funds allocated last year and the percentage of girls/boys on the team. Both Jenny and Tim mentioned that their daughters were on a team together with no other girls, and it is important to get the information out. Kayla replied that she would reach out and look into other organizations that offer girl sports/activities for the next meeting and showcase all opportunities on the website.

### **d. Update on the Comprehensive Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan**

Review Past Study Committee Meetings – Kayla reported that the meeting finalized the public survey, looked into recreation opportunities, and discussed the upcoming public visioning meeting on December 8<sup>th</sup>.

Review Public Engagement Results – Kayla received 188 responses on the public survey, and 20 residents attended the meeting on December 8<sup>th</sup>. Below are the survey results:

- Most visited parks were Kolapechka and Independence Park
- 72% of residents use the Ironton Rail-Trail, and no one is dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with maintenance
- Recreation activities most visited in the Township are fitness paved trails and playgrounds
- Baseball, soccer, and basketball are the highest participated sports in the Township
- Barriers that prevent guests from visiting are lack of restrooms and are unsure where the parks are
- 88% of residents support environmental protection

Next Study Committee Meetings – Kayla mentioned the next meeting is on January 19<sup>th</sup> and will go over the structure of the Recreation Department, review the Townships maintenance plan, and set the next public meeting date. Setting a date early now means the Township can market it on the front page of the next Newsletter.



#### **e. Township Park and Trails**

Ironton Rail-Trail Update - Ray Deutsch gave an update on the Ironton Rail-Trail. He went into detail on the Ironton Rail-Trail Commission's work and the current fundraiser they are hosting. He discussed that the IRT acquired the locomotive in October from the Cement Co. in Odessa, TX. It is on display at the Portland St. Trailhead in North Whitehall. The goal is to receive \$4,000 to restore the locomotive to its original colors at the Dragon Cement Co.

Inventory on Trees and Shrubs - Kayla discussed a consultant hired to inspect trees and shrubs in Township Parks except for Old Post Fields, Neffs Bank, and Neffs Valley. The project is predicted to start in winter 2021 through spring 2022. When talking about parks, Tim asked if there was any idea of when the flagpole will be put in at Independence Park for the sports teams, and Kayla said she would follow up. Interest for a flagpole also sparked at Kolapechka Park.

#### **f. Grants and Recreation Fees**

Greenway, Trails, Recreation & Park Grant– Kayla discussed that Representative Day and Senator Browne helped secure \$11,937 in the GTRP grant to install entrance signs at the parks in the Township. Kayla showed the design NWT was looking to go with for branding and asked if anyone had suggestions. The timeline to finish the project is June 30, 2024. Al commented that the City of Allentown does a great job branding their park signs, and the Recreation Board looked into their design and agreed.

PennDOT Transportation Alternative Set Aside Grant – Kayla reminded the board that the grant was for flashing rapid beacons and white strips at Mauch Chunk Road and Quarry Street crossings. This would reduce exposure for pedestrians and bicyclists utilizing the Ironton Rail-Trail. The status of this grant is pending.

Recreation Fees – Kayla presented that the Township received \$1,620.00 in recreation fees from Scribbles and Drips. For the Jaindl Farms Development, the Township is expecting another \$92,500. However, no plans have been submitted yet. Al asked what the recreation fees determine, and Ray asked how much we received for 2021. Kayla replied that she would have this information ready for our meeting in March.

#### **g. Future Agenda Items Suggestions**

### **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm. The next board meeting: March 21, 2022, 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kayla Mack, North Whitehall Township Representative