

MINUTES

RECREATION AND PARKS BOARD:

LOWER ALLEN TOWNSHIP

REGULAR MEETING

MARCH 26, 2025

The following were in ATTENDANCE:

BOARD MEMBERS

Megan Klenzing, Chair
Rick Grove, Secretary
Greg Mahon
Scott Duncanson

TOWNSHIP PEPRSONNEL

Helen Grundon, Administrative Assistant
Tom Stambaugh, Parks Operation Supervisor
Ben Powell, Public Works Director
Renee' Greenawalt, Recording Secretary

LIAISON

Commissioner Josh Nagy

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Klenzing called the March 26, 2025, Regular Meeting of the Lower Allen Township Recreation and Parks Board to order at 7:15 pm.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Duncanson motioned to approve the minutes, with corrections of the February 26, 2025, Regular Meeting. Mr. Grove seconded. The motion passed 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Highland Estates

There was no public comment.

TOWNSHIP STAFF REPORT

Ms. Grundon presented the Recreation and Parks Staff Report.

Reporting on activity at LACP, she provided photographs of the new sheds that had replaced old ones at several of the ball fields. Additionally, the bathrooms were repainted, the concession stand electric panel was replaced, new flooring was installed in the dressing room, on the lower level of the barn, dead trees were cut down and removed, pond brush was cleaned up and a broken pole at the boat launch was replaced.

Trails at Beacon Hill, Creekwood and Jacobs Trail at LACP were cleaned up. Winter storm prep and trash collection had been completed in all the parks. Parks staff assisted with painting offices at the municipal services center, brush was cleared from around the solar field at the public works building and parks equipment was brought in for maintenance.

OLD BUSINESS

Easter Egg Hunt

The annual easter egg hunt will be held at LACP on Saturday, April 12, 2025, at 10 AM. Ms. Grundon reported that preparations were nearing completion and that the eggs and goody bag stuffing would be handled by residents of Cedar Run and Cargill employees. Advertising of the event will be posted online and distributed throughout the community. She reviewed the extensive list of businesses who had been solicited for donations. Volunteers were directed to arrive by 9 AM at the pavilions.

Gardeners Gathering

The event will be held at LACP on Saturday, March 29, 2025. Ms. Grundon reported that all preparations were complete. Stauffer's of Kissel Hill donated a door prize. A garden themed basket will be put together for an additional door prize using available funds budgeted for the event.

Gardeners Fall Fest

There was no update on the event. A tentative date for the event is October 18, 2025.

Lower Allen Township 175th Anniversary Celebration

Ms. Grundon noted that an event is being planned for October 4, 2025, with a small, founding ceremony held in partnership with Upper Allen Township on October 26, 2025. Ideas for the event are in the early development phase.

NEW BUSINESS

Hope Grow – ALS Fundraiser Proposal

Ms. Grundon reported that Lura Sawyer, President for Let Hope Grow, Inc, a small non-profit organization, had inquired about the potential to host a fundraiser to raise awareness and to support people living with ALS. They propose to host an event in collaboration with small businesses and organizations at the park and wish to have food trucks in attendance.

Board members requested additional details for the event, seeking information regarding the event type, activities, the number, and type of vendors, expected attendance, associated cost, and required staff.

Highland Park Tennis Courts

Mr. Ben Powell, Director of Public Works, presented the item as an update for discussion and feedback. He showed a rendering of the proposed project to reconstruct and resize the court, and to provide additional parking and ADA accessibility. The resulting widened playing surface adds 3000 square feet of impervious coverage which must be mitigated with the installation of a rain garden to provide infiltration. The proposal includes six new parking spaces in addition to the ADA accessibility. Removal of an old, no longer used 4-square pavement surface towards the back of the park and the other tennis court is recommended. \$40,000 has been budgeted for the project.

Mr. Mahon expressed appreciation for the design and the associated improvements to the tennis court and the ADA access but noted some frustration that other amenities such as the swing and play items had been removed without a plan to replace them. Mr. Powell suggested that by providing a brand-new amenity with the upgraded tennis court, it may increase residential use of the park, providing justification for more future investments.

Mr. Duncanson noted some concern that the added parking might draw visitors from outside the neighborhood which is something that is not desired by the residents for the pocket park. Mr. Powell said that the park rules, including the dusk closure, would not change and a significant increase in visitors was not anticipated. The off-street parking might benefit the residents by providing more on-street parking spaces.

Members discussed alternative stormwater collection ideas to preserve space for play. Mr. Powell explained that moving a stormwater facility further from the parking area would be more costly and would require additional maintenance. Mr. Mahon suggested reducing the size of the parking lot.

Director Powell thanked members for their feedback and said that the project would likely be completed over the summer.

ADJOURN:

The Regular Meeting of the Recreation and Parks Board was adjourned at 8:02 PM. The next meeting will be April 23, 2025, at 7 PM.