

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 27, 2021**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Yon at 7:04 p.m.

II. ATTENDANCE

Present: Mark Yon, S. Joseph Jablonski, Mary Lasher, Shamus Petrucelli, Matthew DiGirolamo, Mary Lee Mahon, Michael Veltri*

Staff: Julie A. Jakubec, CPA, CGMA, Township Manager

(*) denotes late arrival

It was noted the Manager's Secretary sent the incorrect virtual meeting link and some members had difficulty connecting to the meeting.

Manager Jakubec noted procedures for participating in the virtual meeting.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Review of Township Parks Rules and Regulations

Manager Jakubec stated Council has made a request for Parks and Recreation Commission to review the park rules and regulations, with particular attention to tobacco use and e-cigarettes in parks. Currently tobacco products are prohibited from playgrounds. She asked if the Commission feels prohibiting tobacco in parks should be expanded. She also noted Council requested a review of all park rules for any updates.

Mr. Petrucelli supported a full ban of any tobacco products, as did Mr. Jablonski and Ms. Lasher. It was noted smoking is prohibited in bars, restaurants, malls, and other public places.

Manager Jakubec explained one thought was if a parent is watching their child's baseball game, and the parent is standing far down the baseline alone, would it be a problem. She noted enforcement would be complaint driven.

Mr. DiGirolamo stated he could see both sides and needed time to think about it.

(*) Mr. Veltri noted 'no smoking' could be a rule to enforce, even if the Township overlooks it when it's happening.

Manager Jakubec agreed, noting if it is something extreme/obnoxious the Police would address the situation. She believed if 'no smoking' was a rule a lot of people would comply because it is prohibited pretty much everywhere.

Chairman Yon indicated he would go with the consensus; Mr. Jablonski stated if it is on the books, and it needs to be enforced, it could be enforced.

The Manager suggested further consideration and continued discussion at the February meeting.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

Manager Jakubec updated the Commission on the status of the historical information signs for O'Hara Township Community Park. Letters were sent to Native American Nations with the signs, requesting they review the information for accuracy. If there is no response by mid-April, she suggested Parks and Recreation Commission provide a recommendation for Council to consider in May. Mr. Petrucelli, Mr. DiGirolamo, and Ms. Lasher supported the timeline.

The Manager stated last year's drought had devastating effects on the Edible Trail and Crofton Bird and Butterfly Preserve. Several shrubs at the Community Center also died. Staff intends to order trees in March to replace the dead plants.

Manager Jakubec stated no major changes are planned in the parks, other than court coatings. Due to Covid-19, the Township is currently not renting park shelters. The number of cases is decreasing, but there are new strains of the virus now. If a vaccine becomes more readily available, the Manager might consider renting shelters in August or September. The ballfields will be available for rentals under the same guidelines as last year. Restrooms will not be open.

The Manager recalled in the fall staff contacted 'Joel the pond guy' who is treating the pond for parrot feather that is beginning to grow back, and will continue to treat the pond as needed.

Manager Jakubec stated staff will repair the collapsed walking bridge at the back of the park, pending revenue received.

The Manager explained the COVID-19 protocols in place at the municipal building.

IV. MINUTES

A. October 28, 2020

Motion by Mr. Petrucelli to approve the subject Minutes as submitted was seconded by Mr. Jablonski and carried unanimously.

VI. COMMENTS CONCERNING NON-AGENDA ITEMS

No comments.

VII. COMMISSION COMMENTS OR CONCERNS

No comments.

VIII. STAFF CONCERNS

The Manager noted the parking lot at George Sacco Park is getting ruts and will be paved this year as part of an agreement with St. Juan Diego Parish.

The Manager informed the Commission that new zoom information will be provided for the February meeting.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Ms. Lasher to adjourn the meeting was seconded by Mr. DiGirolamo and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Cathy Bubas, Recording Secretary