

1. **Meeting Called to Order** – The meeting was called to order by David Spirk at 6:33 p.m. via Zoom.
2. **Roll Call – Present** – David Spirk, Chairman; Tom Butera, Vice Chairman; Niloofar Aflatooni (arrived 6:40 p.m.), Krista Baum, Keith Meier (arrived 6:40 p.m.), Bill Ross, Frank Thompson, Members; Jason Banonis, Council Liaison; Mason Simms, Junior Council Member; Brenda Detweiler, Township Administrative Assistant.
Absent – Breanna Kemmerer, Colin Griffith, Junior Council Members.
3. **Approval of February 1, 2021 Minutes** – Tom Butera moved for approval of the February 1, 2021 minutes, second by Bill Ross. Motion passed 5-0 (Absent – Niloofar Aflatooni, Keith Meier).
4. **Presentations**
 - **Eagle Scout Project** – Logan Kade is a Boy Scout in Troop 364 and Junior at Saucon Valley High School. He reached out to the Township last month asking if there was anything the township needed for his Eagle Scout project. He was informed a trail kiosk was needed at the Heller Homestead as the previous kiosk was torn down. There are 2 trail kiosks built as Eagle Scout projects – the Woodland Hills Preserve and the Saucon Rail Trail. He would be building something similar to those kiosks. The project must be completed by his 18th birthday, which is in January 2022. Before he can begin construction on his project, he must complete a project proposal and it must be approved by the Township, as well as his local Boy Scout District. The proposal is an overview of the project and it will likely need to be changed a couple times. After the Township approves the proposal, a beneficiary representative must sign for it which represents Lower Saucon Township. He was informed Frank Thompson of the Parks & Recreation Board is willing to mentor him through the process. Frank said he is happy to mentor him as long as the rest of the Board approves it. Dave Spirk mentioned they have done this many times and he's happy Frank is willing to guide him through it. Logan said inside the park agenda, there is something called Navigating the Eagle Scout Service Project which overviews the whole process. It's a proposal, it gets approved by his side & the Township's side. There is a section that mentions fundraising the project. He was informed through email by Diane Palik that the Township would fund the whole project. He asked if that was correct. Jason Banonis said he's happy to take it to Council at the meeting next week. He will ask Council to approve the fundraising for it. He asked Logan if he knew an approximate cost for the project. Logan said he does not know yet. This is his first meeting. Jason suggested he moves the proposal along and when he finds out how much it is going to cost, he can email Jason. He mentioned there is a group that runs the historical aspects of the Heller Homestead and he will get their contact information to Logan to discuss what they would like to see on the property. They can give him ideas as to location and style. He will send the information to Logan & his mom. Krista Baum commended Logan for presenting to the Board as she knows it's not easy for people. She asked if, aside from approval & fundraising, there was anything else the Board could do for him to successfully achieve his project. Logan said at the moment, he does not need anything further & everything he has heard has been helpful. Jason said congratulations for being on his way to being an Eagle Scout. It's a tremendous accomplishment and very few people reach it. Logan thanked him and said he should be getting it shortly after the project is done. He only has a few more merit badges to go. Frank said he wanted to point out that Logan called it a trail kiosk and he wants to make sure it's understood that it's on the Heller Homestead property, which is separate from the park. Dave confirmed the Heller Homestead is under their purview. Jason said the Heller Homestead was the original Homestead for what is now Society Hill. When the property was developed many years ago they donated the Homestead and a parcel adjacent to the Homestead to the Township to be preserved in perpetuity as a historical structure. It's the original home the Hellers lived in. He believes the Hellers lived in there until the 1950's. The Historical Group operates a museum in there and there are different artifacts from the beginning of Hellertown and Lower Saucon Township. It's operated by them and the Township owns the property and leases it to the group for a nominal amount. It's part of the park system and a nice historical relic. They do a nice job preserving the history of the Township and the Saucon Valley community. Frank said it's his understanding there used to be a kiosk there, but when the bridge was

rebuilt 2 years ago, they took the kiosk down. Logan's timing is perfect because it would be good to have a kiosk there to explain the home and have it back up & running. Frank offered his email and asked for Logan & his mom's email address so they can work on the next steps. When he has sponsored other Eagle Scouts, he always copied emails to a parent or the Scout Master. Jason confirmed Logan's mom's email address. Keith Meier told Logan that he was an Eagle Scout himself and he congratulates him and said we need more young men like him. He looks forward to seeing more about his project. It's a great lifetime skill and he'll always be proud of it.

5. **Citizen Non-Agenda Items** – None

6. **Updates**

- **Little Free Library at Southeastern Park** – Dave said he's been discussing it with Tom and they have some good ideas and suggestions for it. Tom said after the last meeting, he reached out to the family to discuss the material list. They responded the carpenter they had to help build the project is no longer available to them. They are still interested with the responsibility of the stewardship of the library, but they have no one to build it and asked if Parks & Rec could help. Some of the sticking points were the materials. In the interest of moving this forward and keeping with the barn theme, he would like to look at something like board & batten on the side of the building with a metal roof standard seam in a traditional barn look and feel. They would omit the stone component which they have all had some struggles with. He looked into if they could do the stone but any type of tile will freeze and crack through the weather. He will draw something up in keeping with their idea but more in line with something that can be built. He will send something back to Bridget and cc the group to see if she is happy with that suggestion. Krista asked if stone veneer was explored. Tom said you would need plywood, wire mesh, concrete, stone veneer and mortaring the joints. The structure would be several hundred pounds. It's not practical for a structure that is 2 feet wide. Dave said they have had many conversations about it. He thinks Tom has a great idea and it will look good at Southeastern Park. Jason asked if it would make sense to have uniformity to each of the libraries. Dave said the one at Polk Valley has been up for quite a few years. They had a contest and this family won the contest for Southeastern. The contest was for designs of Little Free Libraries in the particular parks. He thinks everyone would feel best to stick with what they told the public and participants who put the time and effort into it. Jason agreed as he wasn't aware of the history of the Little Free Libraries and retracted what he proposed.
- **Little Free Library at Steel City Park** – Dave said they are still working on it and struggling with the weight aspect to incorporate the steel for Steel City.
- **Blessing Boxes** – Dave asked if Krista had anything further. She said she had followed up with the Board after the last meeting asking if there was an update but never heard back. Dave said he missed the last meeting and was asking where someone proposed a Blessing Box. Brenda Detweiler said the last discussion was that everyone was in favor of it, but weren't sure where to have it. Krista said in looking at the minutes, they wanted Kristen Lockett to discuss the details at a meeting. Dave asked Brenda if she could reach out to her to participate in the May meeting.
- **Snack Stand at Polk Valley Park** – Dave asked Jason if he had any insight to the stone building the Landfill may be donating to the Township. Jason said he received information today in regard to estimates for relocating the building. Two of the companies said they are not interested; one company said if it was even possible due to wires, roads, etc. the price would start at \$500,000; another company said if they were to dismantle it, the estimate to start without even looking at the building would be \$500,000. Based on that, it seems to be a tremendously heavy lift. He doesn't foresee the Township footing the bill and he doesn't know the Landfill would be willing to foot the bill. As much as he's a preservationist and he likes the historical structure he doesn't know that ½ million dollars to preserve a building that's otherwise in disarray is worthwhile to relocate to Polk Valley. He doesn't think it's going to be a viable option. There's desire to have a snack stand up there, but they may need to go in a different direction than having the structure relocated because of the cost. Dave said ½ million dollars doesn't make sense. He joked if the Township is willing to spend ½ million dollars on it, let's have them build a \$450,000 building and save them \$50,000. Dave would like to make a suggestion they ask the Township to explore, with Hanover Engineering, the possibility of building a snack stand somewhere in the size of 12' x 15' or 12' x 20' out of concrete block. Just a simple structure with a

peaked roof. A little pad in front of it just off one of the paths. He believes they are interested in the spot below and to the right of the existing play area and picnic area. It is where the 3 paths come together, to the right of the path in the elbow. They would extend a path off of the elbow of the path. They would like to have electricity, but no heat. The block structure could be painted. As time moves forward, they could do more things to it. Big enough, but not too big that they'd have to put in a retention pond or other stormwater management system. His motion is to ask Council to ask Hanover Engineering to explore a small building. If they get the green light, they would get all the players in the park system together and figure out what each can donate. Someone can donate the block, another can donate the plywood and the shingles, etc. They can get ownership from the teams and make it a community driven concentric. Distill it to make a motion to ask Council to direct Hanover Engineering to study the possibilities of a snack stand at Polk Valley Park. Bill Ross seconded the motion. He added if anyone has time to check out the Community Park on Preston Lane in Upper Saucon, they have a nice brick/block combination kitchen, snack stand, and bathroom. He thinks they have composting toilets there. It's a nice structure and may be something they want to look at as a model. Jason asked if he knew the size of the building. Bill thinks it may be larger than 12' and longer than 20', probably closer to 35' – 40' because they have a bathroom built in there as well. Jason asked if they are looking to have a bathroom as well. Dave said the Township has a compost bathroom at Kingston Park and it's a stand-alone unit/pre-cast concrete. He believes it might be cheaper to buy another pre-cast unit than to try to build it all in one structure. He thinks Polk Valley Park has sewer there because the sewer plant is right down the road. Bill said he was correct. Dave said there is water at Polk Valley Park so the composting toilet as a stand-alone unit would be more cost effective method. The consultants could look into it. If Jason could reiterate to Council & Hanover Engineering, perhaps that could get the ball rolling in the right direction. Jason asked Brenda to add it to the Council agenda for the 4-21-21 meeting. Motion passed 7-0.

7. **Special Event Applications**

- **Saucon Valley Youth Lacrosse Club** – Dave said it appears all their paperwork is in order. He asked if this is their normal yearly event. Brenda said she believes they have hosted it in May in previous years. Dave said they have done a really good job over the years and there haven't been any problems with them. He asked if there were any questions about it. Krista asked if there is ever a rain date as part of the application. Dave said he believes they have done it in the past in the rain. Krista asked if that is something that should be on an event application or should it be a completely new application for a rain date. Dave said he has an event center and the problem with asking for two dates is that you're now reserving & precluding others from reserving a date. He doesn't know they should be allowing people to reserve two dates. Krista thanked him for answering her question. Frank moved for approval of the Special Event Application, second by Bill. Motion passed 7-0.

8. **Old Business** – None

9. **New Business**

- **Park Locations for the May, June, August, and September Meetings** – Dave said he'd like to hear what thoughts were on having in person meetings in the parks. Jason said he can't give an official legal opinion as he'd have to defer to Linc on that as the Township's solicitor. He can't give an official position as far as Council is concerned. He does know they had informal discussions on having in-person meetings and they are not there yet. Governor Wolf relaxed restrictions last week, but what is significant is he is still strongly recommending people work remotely. He's still strongly encouraging social distancing. That being said, the meetings would be held in an open space in a public park where certain behaviors and interactions are given greater leeway. If it's their preference to have meetings in public parks, go for an official position from Linc and Council authorizing them to do so. He understands that it's important to have the meetings in a public park so citizens may come out and participate. It creates greater engagement & awareness of their park system. Dave said if they have a meeting in the park it precludes the Zoom participants. In this day & age, there may be some people that say no. There may be some who say they'd like to keep distance from people and like the idea of attending a Zoom meeting. If they have it in the park, they can't have it in Zoom at all. He thinks they should meet via Zoom in May and wait for Council's direction/Linc's direction.

Jason said before the Governor released his statement, the mindset was to resume Council meetings perhaps in the fall. He doesn't know what effect that order has on that time frame. He does know there are greater precautions being urged as a result of the variants out there. If you do start having meetings in person, you potentially preclude certain people that otherwise may participate. He realizes there aren't a great number of citizens on this meeting tonight, but at the same time he doesn't want to operate in a way that prejudices them potentially. Dave said he agrees. If they were meeting in Town Hall, they could also be Zoom. In the middle of a park would preclude the Zoom component. He suggests they meet in May via Zoom. Frank suggested they put down a park for May, June, August and September and name what park they would be emphasizing for that month. For example, if they want to emphasize what is happening at the Polk Valley Park, someone could attend knowing they were going to talk about that park. It's a good idea to go through the months and put down the park they want to focus on that month. Dave said it's a great idea. The members could make a trip out there a week prior to look around. Dave asked for suggestions. Krista suggested to assign a board member or two to each park and report back at the meeting. They could discuss any concerns or highlight the positives of the park. Tom mentioned the point of all going to the park is for all of them to see the park. He thinks they should all go to the park, not just one or two people. Krista agreed and said she would be willing to commit to it. Jason asked they are going to go as a group. Dave said no, they would go out individually. Jason asked if it would make sense to set up a time to all go out to do a walk through the park so they could observe all the same things. They could announce they are not holding a meeting at the park, but doing a walk-thru as a cohesive group and if citizens had any questions or concerns could interact with them. Dave said it would be an issue of having a quorum and having an actual meeting, so it would be best not to go as a group. For the May meeting, they picked Southeastern Park; for the June meeting, they picked the Heller Homestead; for the August meeting, they picked Polk Valley Park; for the September meeting, they picked Steel City. Jason said he will mention during his Council report they will be doing a Spotlight of the particular parks. This will raise awareness and if citizens have concerns or ideas, they can get them to Parks & Rec.

- **Action List** – Krista asked if it's possible to create an action list that is part of their meeting minutes so they know if something needs to get done there are assigned responsibilities. She thinks it would be good to have accountability. Dave said Brenda will be reaching out to Kristen for the Blessing Box information; Tom is going to give a sketch of the Southeastern Little Free Library. Other than the motions, he believes that is all. Frank said under Old Business, he will give a monthly update on the Boy Scout's progress.

10. **Public Comment** – None

11. **Adjournment**
Motion to adjourn by David Spirk at 7:29 p.m.; second by Tom Butera. Motion passed 7-0.

12. **Next Meeting**
Monday, May 3, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.