

- 1     **1.     Meeting Called to Order** – The meeting was called to order by David Spirk at 6:34 p.m. at the Heller  
2     Homestead.  
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4     **2.     Roll Call** – **Present:** Members: David Spirk, Chairman, Tom Butera, Vice Chairman, Keith Meier  
5     (phoned in at 6:36 p.m.), Bill Ross, Niloofar Aflatooni and Frank Thompson; Council Liaison: Jason  
6     Banonis; Staff Liaison: Carol Schneider. **Absent:** Member: Krista Baum; Jr. Council Member: Colin  
7     Griffith. **Guest:** Donna Louder  
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9     **3.     Approval of June 6, 2022 Minutes** – Bill Ross moved for approval of the June 6, 2022 minutes, second  
10    by Tom Butera. Motion passed 6-0. (Krista Baum– Absent)  
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12    **4.     Presentations** – None  
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14    **5.     Citizen Non-Agenda Items** – None  
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16    **6.     Special Event Applications** – None  
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18    Approval to Add Improvement of Ballfields List to Agenda Items - Motioned by Dave seconded by  
19    Bill. Motion passed 6-0. (Frank Thompson– Absent)  
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21    **5.     Old Business**  
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23    •    **Steel City Wish List:** Jason mentioned that he took the wish list and spoke with Peter. Peter was  
24    coordinating with Roger to see what can be done on each of the items. Peter was serving an interim  
25    role and we had a special meeting two Fridays ago and we voted unanimously to hire Mark Hudson.  
26    So, he doesn't think that much will get done until the new Manager is up and running. Dave asked for  
27    an update on the arborvitaes and Carol said that we are waiting on the landscaper (Mike Kiefer) to  
28    install them. Donna said that the concrete was put under the bench and the backboard was put in as  
29    well by Public Works. Jason went over the status of the three items Donna had asked for previously  
30    (dog fountain, tree to decorate and two benches). Carol stated that Roger submitted pricing on  
31    everything that Donna had mentioned. After some discussion on Roger's list, Jason mentioned that it  
32    may be more feasible to purchase a water fountain/bowl at all the parks, we would get a better price  
33    if we are buying four or five as opposed to buying one. Dave said that it would be cost-effective or  
34    proactive to buy the frost-free fountains rather than someone forgetting to go and shut it off. Donna  
35    asked if Public Works can add a fountain to the existing fountain? Dave said let's find out if Public  
36    Works is chaining the valve closed or not so let's table this for now. Jason revisited this on the water  
37    fountain and asked Dave to make a motion due to time constraints. This way Public Works could start  
38    moving on this project.  
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40    **MOTION:** Dave made a motion to opt for the less expensive no frost resistant fountain unless Public  
41    Works is turning off the value. Otherwise we go for a frost-free all-season drinking fountain/bowl.  
42    **SECOND:** Tom Butera  
43    **ROLL CALL:** Motion passed 6-0. (Krista Baum – Absent)  
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46    Donna suggested buying 2 benches not bleachers. Dave, Bill and Donna agreed that there wasn't a  
47    need for the bleachers. Dave said to get two six-ft. benches just like we have at Heller Homestead  
48    and attach them to concrete. One placed on Schwab and one placed on Mathews. Dave said to get  
49    two six-ft. benches and stated the bench/bleacher costs along with the tree costs, but it was decided  
50    to 6-7ft. spruce.  
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1 *David Hausman from the Saucon Valley Conservancy walked over and introduced himself and*  
2 *mentioned that signage was removed when the Bridge was removed and he would like another sign*  
3 *placed. He was told by Leslie that the new signs were approved and she would be ordering more.*  
4 *Jason mentioned that it was his understanding that Leslie was looking for something that was more*  
5 *durable, the old signs were blowing down and rotting. David said that he wanted something with a*  
6 *tracking on the bottom so that they can advertise at the bottom. Jason mentioned that it was a task*  
7 *for the new manager when he starts in August. Dave S. said that they should look at the signs and*  
8 *possibly get them with a polymer base (they are going over some stuff).*

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10 Dave continued the discussion on the benches. Jason suggested that we come up with a standardized  
11 form to donate benches for the all the parks and Carol mentioned that we have one in place for the  
12 Memorial Benches which are more expensive (over \$1700.00 each) than the 6 ft. benches being  
13 discussed. Dave said to thank Roger for giving us all this information, but no thanks on the bleaches.

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15 **MOTION:** Dave made a motion to purchase two six-foot. benches on concrete pads and one 6/7-foot  
16 Norway Spruce tree all installed by Public Works.

17 **SECOND:** Bill Ross

18 **ROLL CALL:** Motion passed 6-0. (Krista Baum – Absent)

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21 • **Town Hall Park Stage:** Dave wanted to know if anyone remembers if they voted to tear down the  
22 stage? Jason said we did. Carol mentioned Roger had submitted notes on the possible roof  
23 replacement and/or the tear down of the stage. Dave said here is the summary of Rogers notes, the  
24 stage can be torn down in-house at a minimal cost or he can get estimates on replacing the roof. Frank  
25 asked if the stage ever gets used? Carol said no and Niloo mentioned that the kids do play on it at  
26 summer camp, but that's just two months in the year. Dave said it was used in the past but replacing  
27 it will happen much quicker after tearing it down. Bill stated that it would be cheaper to tear it down  
28 than to refurbish it. Should we amend the motion to tear the stage down and recommend a new design  
29 to Council? (In auditable comment from Tom) Bill said take it one step at a time and tear it down and  
30 see what happens. Jason said none of the parks have a stage. Bill stated that if the demand arises,  
31 they can revisit at a later date. Jason mentioned that the reasons are, if they are asked at Council - it's  
32 unsightly, it's deteriorated and it's a hazard/aged.

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34 *Dave said that they will keep their motion from the June meeting to tear down the stage at town hall*  
35 *park. Upon further review, no motion was previously made. Parks and Recreation recommended*  
36 *taking the stage down.*

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38 Dave mentioned that according to Roger's notes Roger had a meeting on July 2<sup>nd</sup> and all  
39 items/concerns were addressed at Town Hall and Southeastern fields except for the gates being  
40 connected and the plywood backstop at Town Hall field. Dave suggested getting the padding instead  
41 of the plywood.

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43 **MOTION:** Dave made a motion to ask Council to consider to put the gates up for \$2000.00 and ask  
44 Roger to get a number on padding for behind Homeplate.

45 **SECOND:** Frank Thompson

46 **ROLL CALL:** Motion passed 6-0. (Krista Baum – Absent)

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49 • **Polk Valley Park Snack Stand:** Dave mentioned that Roger's notes state that there isn't any usable  
50 electric or water source in the park, so this is not an option but there are three well heads on the  
51 property. Dave also stated that he just learned today, that there is water fountain at the dog Park. So,  
52 we can run the water from the dog park to the pavilion and/or the new snack stand if we so choose.  
53 Jason asked Bill what the distance was and if there was enough water pressure to carry that distance?  
54 Jason said to his recollection was that the distance was fairly far - it's over 100 yards and it's uphill.  
55 Dave said that this is your water to Bill (meaning LSA). Dave clarified that there is water connected

1 to the SVHS Education Center. Let's find out from Roger what size water line is going to the water  
2 fountain to the dog park. (in audible conversation between Dave & Bill)... Dave said we brought  
3 water to the dog park but we can't bring it to the people? Everyone agreed. Frank said that he visited  
4 the dog park and it's beautiful. Donna asked if was possible to consider having food trucks at Polk  
5 Valley Park. Dave said the pavilion is used as a place to fundraise and parents get involved, it's also  
6 our culture to have a food stand for the organizations. They've been at this for so long. Dave said  
7 there should also be electricity at the pavilion and running water.  
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- 10 • **Steel City Summer Program for 2023:** Dave asked what the status was? Carol mentioned that  
11 she emailed Roberta as to why they didn't offer the program in Steel City this year and Roberta  
12 said that the attendance was too low in the past. I mentioned to Roberta to put on her radar for  
13 next year as there were more children in Steel City now. Niloo asked how much power do we  
14 have over the Saucon Valley Community Center (SVCC) as far as requesting them to host a  
15 program in Steel City? Donna said can we asked the (SVCC) to do a pilot program? Tom asked  
16 if we can advertise this to the Steel City residents and ask them to please respond if they can come  
17 and if they don't come don't do the program? Jason said it should be fairly easy for someone to  
18 go around and get a petition to show some level of interest. We almost have to create a resource  
19 of interest. Donna mentioned that there were kids who showed up to the movies by themselves.  
20 Donna said I understand, my neighbors are good people, they are more worried about keeping a  
21 roof over their kids heads and going to work and putting food on the table rather than their  
22 children's entertainment. She said that I guess I'm asking the Township to be a savoir for the kids  
23 who are kind of lost during the summer. Jason said that this is a conversation that he thinks that  
24 she needs to have with the community center and explain to them what's going on and get their  
25 buy in on it. Jason said I can make a motion at the Council meeting to make a recommendation,  
26 that we encourage them to do this but, I don't think that we are within our right to force them and  
27 tell them how to do their job. They are the ones that have the expertise that we entrust our parks  
28 to them to conduct the programs as they see fit. Donna said that I'm not suggesting that we  
29 micromanage them, I'm suggesting that Council states we want a program at Steel City. Jason  
30 said that he will support if the (SVCC) will offer the program in Steel City but he will not dictate  
31 to them that they have to. Dave stated that he would like to direct the new manager to talk with  
32 the (SVCC) about offering the summer program at Steel City in 2023.  
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34 **MOTION:** Dave made a motion to have Council direct the new manager to start talks with the  
35 Saucon Valley Community Center about adding Steel City to the 2023 Summer Program.

36 **SECOND:** Bill Ross

37 **ROLL CALL:** Motion passed 6-0. (Krista Baum – Absent)  
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- 39 • **Movies Night in the Park:** Dave said we owe a bit a gratitude to Carol for all her hard work.  
40 Thank you to Carol for doing this. Carol said it was really nice to see all the kids that came out  
41 by themselves as Donna mentioned. They drove past on their bikes and came back with their  
42 families. Donna said it was fantastic! Dave said that everyone's feedback was great. Carol said  
43 we can start a survey early on to give lots of notice and Jason said that the locations were great  
44 too and he wants to do this again next year.  
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- 47 • **Pickleball Update:** Dave said there is no Pickleball update.  
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- 50 • **Grant Wishlist:** Dave asked if there was an update on current grants and Carol mentioned there  
51 was no update.  
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54 **6. New Business:**  
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- **Memorial Trees:** Dave mentioned that in the past month, the Township received two requests to plant a tree. Should we (Parks & Recreation) be involved with people asking where they can put it? Is there a form that already exists? Carol mentioned that Roger has a list of trees and locations in place at Southeastern Park due to the Lions Club placing trees in memory of past members. Dave suggested that instead of a tree we should suggest a bench and a form should be created for these memorial benches (just like the pavilion request) for people wanting to have someone memorialized at one of our parks and staff can handle this like a pavilion reservation.
  - **Update on Easton Road Ballfield:** Jason said that all the plans are finished and we received the NPDES permit and the design has been sent out to bid. We should have the bids in the next 12-14 days and it will be probably be on the next Council agenda. Hopefully, we have some bids that we can work with and start the project in the fall. We had one electrical connection issue, we were hoping to tie into the PPL transformer by the lane however, the property owners would not agree to one or more of them. They provided the limited easement strictly to their homes and not adjacent properties. PPL had to get electric off of Easton Road from the transformer that is in front of the church and I think that's all been ironed out. Jason also mentioned that he and Tom Carocci purchased the foul poles for the field as a donation and they are hoping that others will donate certain pieces needed for the field and hopefully get it built out in the fall and be able to use in the spring. He said that we are expecting that the funding will be more than what they thought, it may be close to \$1,000,000.00 however we have three sources of funding that they are planning on using. Jason reviewed the funding and stated that we have a \$1.9 million dollar surplus funding left from last year, some of which we are using to repave the entire Saucon Terrace neighborhood with a paving contract for \$1.1 million dollars. By doing this, our Public Works will have freed up over 2.5 years' time. We will also look at doing a similar program to repave the entirety of Steel City as the roads are in bad shape and long overdue. If we are able to do this, this would advance Public Works bandwidth to pave other parts of the Township by five years total. So, some of the money from surplus we'll use this year and depending on what money we have left over, we hope to do the same next year in Steel City next year and we should have money left to use toward the ballfield. We also have about 1 million dollars left over from the American Relief Fund (Covid money) toward the ballfield and can also use a percentage of Open Space, and right now we have over 10 million in Open Space Funds. So, even with a 1million dollar ticket, we will be drawing from three different sources that can only be used for limited purposes. So hopefully we will be able to build it out and get it all done. Frank asked about the lighting and Jason said that the lighting is coming in, it's been sent out as a bid for removing the field that needed to be removed from the outfield, rotating the field, putting in a drainage system, re-turfing, putting in a lighting system, new dug outs, fencing, box in the back, a paved parking lot, basin underneath. This is going to be a nice asset for most people because they been heavily impacted with the warehouses across the street. The next phase that we would like is to put a pavilion there. There will be room in the outfield with a large parking lot on Easton Road. Phase one is to build out the field and phase two would be a pavilion and maybe a small playground set for kids. I could see this as being the preferred pavilion in the Township with the proximity to the road, a nice parking lot, a ballfield. Jason said that it would be a nice place to have a family event. wouldn't want to go and have a family event there? I think it will be nice if we can get all of this done. Jason gave thanks to all for their support and he thinks they will get through this in the next couple of weeks. Frank said that we appreciate you getting this ballfield turned around. Dave asked how do you know the neighbors don't want to share the electric? Jason said that PPL told the neighbors that it's a limited easement and they didn't want to expand the scope of work for it. Jason said he didn't know if it was one or more neighbors. We were thinking of approaching them and saying we would like to acquire the roadway and dedicate it as a Township road and we would be responsible for the maintenance of it (pave, plow etc.). But the fact that they were resistant on the electric suggest that we may not be able to approach them. One last thing, we have a new Council member - Mark Inglis, he was sworn-in in June, and was at the meeting in July. He will be getting more involved with different committees however, we haven't ironed out yet what committees he will be taking yet, this may be one, it may still be me, so if you don't see

1 me here that's why. I'm not saying I'm looking to give this up, he wants to be more involved on  
2 Council and he's a really-good asset to the Township. He has lived here for a long time and has  
3 a lot of good experience in landscaping and land development and he thinks he'll be a great asset  
4 to the Township.  
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7 **7. Public Comment** – None

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9 **8. Adjournment**

10 Motion to adjourn at 7:54 p.m. by Frank Thompson Second by Tom Butera. Motion passed 6-0. (Krista  
11 Baum – Absent)

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13 **9. Next Meeting:** Monday, September 12, 2022 @ 6:30 p.m. @ Polk Valley Park.