

1. **Meeting Called to Order** – The meeting was called to order by David Spirk at 6:32 p.m. at Town Hall.
2. **Roll Call – Present:** Members: David Spirk, Chairman, Tom Butera, Vice Chairman; Niloofar Aflatooni, Frank Thompson, Bill Ross, Barrett Geyer and Keith Meier (joined via phone at 6:37 p.m.); Council Liaison: Mark Inglis; Staff Liaison: Carol Schneider.
3. **Nominations of Officers** –
 - Chair
MOTION: Tom made a motion to nominate Dave as Chair
SECOND: Frank
ROLL CALL: Motion passed 6-0 (Keith absent)
 - Vice Chair
MOTION: Dave made a motion to nominate Tom Butera as Vice Chair
SECOND: Bill
ROLL CALL: Motion passed 6-0 (Keith absent)
4. **Approval of November 7, 2022 Minutes** – Add Bill Ross to November minutes (roll call). Dave moved for approval of the November 7, 2022 minutes with update, second by Frank. Motion passed 6-0 (Keith absent).
5. **Presentations** – None
6. **Citizen Non-Agenda Items** – Russell Rice of Saucon Valley Conservancy (SVC) mentioned that he was here because he saw that the Heller Homestead was on the agenda. Bill asked if the agenda could be amended to move up the discussion on the Heller Homestead (Keith called in 6:37 p.m.)
7. **Updates** –
 - **Pickle Ball** – Dave said it is becoming popular, and he would think we would want to have 8-10 courts. Bill mentioned the lot/field behind the Water Authority would be perfect. Someone asked how many tennis courts are in Township, Dave said zero. Bill added there are some at school and Lehigh, but not in Township. Frank mentioned it may make sense to look at existing park rather than a green field. Bill said he will put a plan together with 2 or 3 options and bring back to next meeting. Niloo added it could cost \$15.00-40.00 per square. Dave said the \$40.00 is probably on uneven ground. Dave said he would like to identify 2-3 locations and bring it back to Parks & Recreation to discuss and present to Mark and extend to Council.
 - **Polk Valley Snack Bar** – Dave said that he would like to have the Polk Valley Plans at the next meeting to have a fresh look to see where it was originally discussed to see where the snack stand was proposed. He thinks a Community Center would better serve the residents/community rather than a snack bar. Dave asked if Carol could bring the original plans back to the next meeting.

Mark mentioned that on the original plans, he believes that the community center was off to the left of the park. Dave would like to table the talk on snack bar and see if we could get things rolling on a community center.

Mark asked Bill if they had water and sewer out at Polk Valley? Bill said sewer would have to be extended down Polk Valley Road and it would be easy to work with because everything would be downhill. Water on the other hand, we would have to put in a pump station. Bill said the water is half way down Polk Valley Road. Dave said that there was a line run to the Saucon Valley

School Environmental Education Center (EEC), and there was a spigot next to the pavilion, so the water line is by the driveway. Bill said the LSA water lines come from 412, and the Borough water line is closer to the Polk Valley Pavilion but Bill said it is still possible for them to connect. Bill mentioned that a well would be significantly cheaper than extending the lines and pumping up hill. Bills also mentioned that any changes would have to go before the Council, he doesn't believe the park has any EDU's allocated for sewer usages. Bill said there would not be significant usage vs a development so there shouldn't be an issue.

Placement and location discussed. Discussion on original plan that was half way up to the left around parking area. Dave asked Bill if the house that we tore down previously on Polk Valley Road was certified public sewer? Bill didn't think so, but he'll check it out. Dave stated that we don't have to put the building (Community Center) up at the top of the park (near the dog park) we could actually put it closer to the roadway and park behind it. Bill said the property to the right of driveway would be better property to deal with to place a community center. Dave said this was a mountain when they purchased it, and they flattened it and he feels this is a beautiful park. He said it is 40 acres and we are only using a 1/3 of it. Dave asked everyone if they are okay with it, have the original plans next meeting and start having discussion and see if they can get things rolling on a Community Center.

- **Movies in the Park** – Carol gave an update on opening the survey up to the residents. The locations are June – Polk Valley Park (PVP), July – Steel City, August – Town Hall. Movies and exact dates will be determined.

Mark asked if anyone has ever thought of doing free concerts in the park? Set up a musician in the park, bring your own chairs. Dave said that's a great idea but he's not sure where you would do it. Carol mentioned the Heller Homestead and Mark said maybe when it's stabilized.

- **Easton Road Ballfield** – Dave said when it went out to bid, it was high. He updated Mark and said he thinks they are waiting for the world of construction slows down. Frank asked if the field will be usable this year and Dave said yes. Frank asked if the upper field was still used? Dave gave the history of the ballfield as he heard it before his son even played many years ago (when the Church owned it and surrounding property owners). The upper field was never use because there were issues with a nearby property owner and people driving up on the private road to get to the field. Dave updated Mark on the fields and sizes. Upper field is smaller, and lower one is larger. Dave said the issue is home plate gets flooded, and he has never seen this happen on any other field. The new field design will be different, the upper field will be removed and the new field will be placed in a new location along with more parking and ADA Compliant. Dave said it is on hold for now.
- **Grant Wish List** – Dave said included in your packets are pictures of where the Town Hall stage was and the newly installed gates at Town Hall ballfield. There was discussion on updating the wish list as the board took items off (Town Hall stage) and changed up the list. Carol will update before the next meeting.

Mark said at Rail Trail meeting they discussed about paving part of it. He asked if this was ever discussed. Bill added he thought there was an issue with paving it because the property is on lease from the railroads, and if the railroads ever pulled it back. He recalls having several discussions on this. Dave said he also recalls. Mark thinks our part of trail is nice and Dave agreed. Mark wanted to update them on what was discussed at meeting.

Niloo does not want #2 on the list (PVP Community Center) to be moved to #12. Frank said if you have a community center where the dog park is, and if you want a hot dog and a coke, there it is. Mark said are you saying we should have both? Frank said yes. Bill said with no water and no sewer? Frank asked if there was electricity at Polk Valley? Carol stated no, not at Polk Valley.

Mark said part of this has to do with the turf field discussion that will be coming up. We want to put in a turf field somewhere in the township. A logical place would be Polk Valley. Maybe the Dog Park would turn into the turf field? I have no idea. So, perhaps it's a mini community center, possibly a field with lights and everything else? PVP could turn into something totally different. A lighted turf field that could be used for Lacrosse, Soccer, Field Hockey when fields can't be used and maybe a half field too. Do we have a grand plan on this? Not yet. Water and sewer are still a necessity.

Tom reminded everyone of the purpose of this list is to keep it updated as to their recommendations in importance so they are ready if grants become available.

Bill asked how committed is the township to adding open space in the Township perhaps for adding a Community Center and a turf field other than at Polk Valley? We would love too! Mark said we have \$10,000,000.00 in open space money. Bill said 22 years ago, this board was not in favor of PVP. They all field the Filler Tract was a better location. It is flatter and more centrally located. Council was not in favor and purchased the Orban Tract which is now PVP. He thinks this would be a fantastic location for a community center, it's flatter, centrally located. You would be able to fit more fields there. Mark said that the only problem is the price, because we can't buy it for more than the appraised value. But were looking for options. Mark asked what are the water & sewer options there? Bill said they have lines coming up Skibo Road and the city has some as well... Dave mentioned there are some sink hole issues off of Meadows Road. Dave said he thinks they should present a sketch plan to Council their ideas for the PVP snack stand and the Community Center on the flat area, and if they do not like this, then they go to second option of both at PVP, and this will give them a good idea of how Council feels about what they are recommending.

Mark asked if anyone had any issues with what he said about the Heller Homestead? Dave said it is a realistic goal and it should be cleaned up because it's an eyesore. Mark said Roger gave him a good history on what happened there.

9. **Event Applications** – None

10. **Old Business** –

- **Stage Update at Town Hall Park** – Removed in December
- **Town Hall Park Gates** – Installed in January

Carol provided an update on both items to the board.

11. **New Business** –

- **Dravec Minor Subdivision #MIN 04-22 - 2388 Apple Street - Request for P&R review** – Carol updated Dave that this was withdrawn and review is no longer necessary.
- **Heller Homestead** – Mark stated that he and Mark Hudson (Township Manager) met with a window restorationist for the windows in the sunroom at the Widow's house. The person they met with did a lot of work on buildings down by where Musikfest is held. He believes that they will be putting this out to bid and will be presented at the February 15th Council meeting and this will be covered by the Grant of \$50,000. They also discussed getting a bid for the windows in the main house. Someone asked if this was also covered under the grant, and Mark said he was not sure how much the grant was, but he was hoping it will fall under that number for the grant. Mark said they would also like to look into painting all of the windows in the main house, and want to start to investigate cleaning up the barn area (stone/timber as they are not original to the barn) along with stabilizing the wall and arch and see what structural stability is left. They would really like to stabilize the wall, and arch so people can be around there safely. Mark would like to see the stone used elsewhere or stored for future use. Russell Rice mentioned that they have had a

number of fundraising events in order to pay for the capping of the arch and stone wall. Russell asked if you can level that off, and through some seed in there? Mark asked if there was a concrete floor there? Russell stated that he doesn't believe all of it is, there is wood flooring and metal piled to the interior of the barn. He feels as though once this is done (and leveled off and grassed) he thinks it will be safe. It's an ideal location for recreational activities, educational experiences, speakers to come and fundraiser events. They've been approached by people wanting to get married in the ruins. Russell asked Mark if he had a dollar amount associated for all of the work and Mark said no. Let's get it cleaned up first and move from there. Russell said that it's a benefit to us, a benefit to the community and a benefit to the visitors. Mark said once it is cleaned up, there will be little maintenance there as well. The SVC will commit funds to cap using the guy that you did. Donna Rice asked what will be presented to Council? Mark stated everything I mentioned.

Frank asked what the status of the key is for the kiosk and the sign for the Heller Homestead, Carol said that Russell was given the key back in September and Kevan from Horizon Signs will have the sign ready in two weeks. Horizon will install the sign at the Heller Homestead once the ground softens after that. Frank told Russell if he would need anything to post in the kiosk, he could get it from Carol.

- **Turf Field in Township Discussion** – This was discussed under Polk Valley Park during Updates.

The following items not listed on agenda were also discussed:

- **Landscaping at Steel City Park** – Mark spoke with Donna Louder about adding landscaping at Steel City Park. Donna wanted to get some ideas on how to make the park look nicer. There was some discussion on where to install bushes/shrubs around the fencing at Steel City Park to give it a friendlier look. Mark will pass this onto Donna.
- **Kiosk Locations** – Carol stated that Roger came across 5 kiosks in the Public Works building. We no longer need to purchase one for Steel City. Frank added Woodland Hills is good. Carol said she know PVP and Reading Trailhead has one. Dave for them to think about it and add the remaining 4 kiosks locations to the next agenda and have Roger set the location/install the Steel City kiosk.

10. **Adjournment** – Motion to adjourn by Frank at 7:56 p.m.; second by Tom. Motion passed 7-0
11. **Next Meeting:** Monday, March 6, 2023 @ 6:30 p.m. @ Town Hall.