

1 **1. Meeting Called to Order** – The meeting was called to order by Kevin McGovern at 6:34 p.m. at Town Hall.

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3 **2. Roll Call – Present:** Members: Kevin McGovern, Chairman, Phil Spohn, Vice Chairman, Maia Simon, Jerry
4 Holum, Shaun Yanchuk Robert Blasko and Niloo Aflatooni (6:40 p.m.); **Council Liaison:** Laura Ray (VIA
5 phone); **Staff Liaison:** Carol Schneider; **Absent Council Liaison:** Priscilla deLeon. **Guests:** Christine Seita.

6 **3. Approval of September 9, 2024 Minutes**

7 **Kevin McGovern**

8 Alright, why don't we get started, folks, we'll call the meeting to order. I appreciate everyone coming tonight.
9 It's sad we're not outside, but I appreciate everyone being here. We have Kevin McGovern, we have Phil. We
10 have Robert. We have Jerry. We have Maia. Welcome back. Glad you're with us. We have Laura Ray on the
11 phone. We have Carol. We have Phil, anyone I missed, and we have our new member, Violet, anyone I missed?
12 Okay, we're good to go. Why don't we stand up? We're going to mix it up and do the pledge allegiance to the
13 flag. Start with that. Alright, and I'll start us out. Everybody join us for the pledge allegiance.
14

15 **Kevin McGovern**

16 Noah and Cole just came in. Welcome. Welcome. Okay, let me start out by welcoming Violet. Welcome. A little
17 bit about Violet, she became interested in becoming a junior council member to become more involved in her
18 community, and is intrigued to see who she is able to assist in the township. She's a junior at Saucon Valley High
19 School and is a member of the debate team model, UN National Honor Society and Future Business Leaders of
20 America. All right, so you're pretty smart. Her favorite subject in and out of school is English and everything
21 that is reading and writing focused. She is looking forward to being a member of the junior Council program,
22 and loves to make a difference in her community. Welcome. We're very glad you're here. That's awesome.
23 Sounds like you're pretty smart.
24

25 **Carol Schneider**

26 Just a reminder, when you're talking, make sure you turn on the microphone in front of you, or near the
27 microphone in the middle is on. So, just as a reminder, because we haven't been in this setting for a few months
28 and it's helpful when I transcribe, so I just wanted to remind everyone again.
29

30 **Kevin McGovern**

31 Wonderful, good reminder. Okay, so let's talk about the minutes we met back on September 9. It was our last
32 outdoor meeting. We were at the ball field. We talked about a lot of different things. We talked about and
33 approved the apple fest event, October 12, which is coming up. That's always good up at the old schoolhouse.
34 We talked about the newsletter. Sebastian did a great job on the Gaga pit. We thanked Carol a couple times,
35 especially for the movie in the park event. Robert told us about an update on the fountain. They're going to
36 replace that or update that at Polk Valley. That was an important discussion. We talked about the license plate
37 reader in place. We talked about Ellie's garden a little bit that Roger is going to go back and address that. We
38 thank Kathy for her follow up. There was a lot of discussion at the last meeting, and then the meeting before that
39 really wasn't an official meeting about the concerns of the residents next of the new ball field. And just a shout
40 out to Cathy. I thought she did a great job addressing that. We talked about it at our last meeting. And I know, I
41 believe it was two Mondays ago that there was a meeting with that group of people with Cathy, I believe, out
42 there at the ball field. I don't have minutes of that discussion, but it's really great to see Cathy be so responsive
43 to those folks. So, we want to give her a little bit of a shout out to talk about Phil brought up the brown circles
44 out of the wildlife refuge (Sandra Yerger Preserve).
45

46 **Phil Spohn**

47 I saw notes that it was going to be addressed by Roger. I saw it in the email or something.
48

49 **Kevin McGovern**

50 Okay, so we'll have to follow through on that.
51

52 **Phil Spohn**

53 Is he the person to talk to? I'm glad to reach out. But Roger is who I should talk to.
54

1 **Kevin McGovern**

2 Thanks. Great. And then we talked about the development of a QR code, something that we talked about a couple
3 meetings with. And then we also talked about doing a survey, which we'll address in a little bit. So, with that
4 said, do I have a motion to approve the minutes? Robert so moved a Second. Second by Jerry. Any comments,
5 concerns, questions, okay, everybody in favor?
6

7 **Parks & Recreation Board**

8 Aye.
9

10 **Kevin McGovern**

11 Minutes, stand approved. Thank you very much. Okay, any comments, concerns or thoughts from Cole, Noah
12 Violet? I know it's your first meeting, so you guys are good.
13

14 **Carol Schneider**

15 Kevin, it's Noah's first meeting as well.
16

17 **Kevin McGovern**

18 Oh, I'm sorry. I apologize. Yes, you're right. Let me tell you about Noah. Noah is a sophomore at Saucon Valley
19 and has lived in the township his whole life. He became interested in the LST Junior Council program after
20 learning about it from his brother Cole. Had a good experience last year, and Noah wanted to follow suit and
21 gain the same experience. That's true. He had a great experience. He would like to learn about how things work
22 behind the scenes in the parks and recreation board. Noah excited about the Easton Road baseball field, and there
23 are many players like himself looking forward to playing there. He is a member of the National Junior Honor
24 Society and future business of business leaders of America again, another smart person, great. He participates in
25 wrestling and baseball at Saucon Valley High School, and shares that both teams have been very successful. His
26 favorite subject is math, and his future goals are to attend a four-year college, majoring engineering. Noah also
27 enjoys hunting and fishing. Very much. Welcome. Glad you're here with us. Have you been out deer hunting
28 yet?
29

30 **Noah Hubert**

31 Not yet.
32

33 **Maia Simon**

34 You can come deer hunting in my backyard.
35

36 **Phil Spohn**

37 They're an invasive species, aren't they?
38

39 **Kevin McGovern**

40 So, any comments from you folks, anything that comes to mind? All right. Well, welcome again. We have no
41 citizen non agenda items. We don't have any special event applications for tonight. So, what we'll do is we'll
42 move to the park updates. Niloo is not here.
43

44 4. **Presentations:** None

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46 5. **Jr. Council:** (Cole Hubert, Noah Hubert & Violet Whitley)

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48 6. **Citizen Non-Agenda Items:** None

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50 7. **Special Event Applications:** None

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52 8. **Park Updates:**

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54 1. **Town Hall (Niloo)**

55 **Kevin McGovern**

56 That's great. Good. Good to hear that Niloo Town Hall Park.

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Niloo Aflatooni

I have nothing

2. Southeastern Park (Kevin)

Kevin McGovern

I will give a comment on the southeastern park as well as Kingston Park. Southeastern still is in great shape. No major problems out there. Couple trees are down, kind of in the wooded area, but nothing to really be concerned about. And then the Kingston Park, that's in good shape as well. We talked about the flower garden in that hey there, and that's something that, you know, we can probably address a later time. But for those two parks, no major issues that I'd report back on. I think they're, you know, maintained very well from our park parks service team.

3. Steel City (Shaun)

Kevin McGovern

Shaun, how's things of Steel City Park?

Carol Schneider

Let the record show that Niloo walked in at 6:40 p.m.

Kevin McGovern

Does it? Yeah? Okay, so the ball, when we say work, what does it need?

Shaun Yanchuk

It's just always the ball field that needs work. It's just needs to be regraded.

Maia Simon

Okay.

Phil Spohn

That's where we had the Movies in the Park? That ballfield.

Shaun Yanchuk

Yes.

Kevin McGovern

Okay, we'll pass that on. Anything else there that you want to bring up. No, all right, wonderful Polk Valley Park. Robert.

4. Polk Valley Park (Robert)

Robert Blasko

I was up to Polk Valley Park yesterday. The door that was on their free library is repaired. It hadn't been the time I was up before that. The porta potties are being serviced regularly; I was glad to see. The dog park fountain is done. The pickleball court is not done. I emailed Cathy. She emailed me back. She said that there are priorities that need to take place, paving projects, mostly, that need to be done before they can focus their attention on the pickleball court at this time.

Kevin McGovern

It's a well-used Park. That's great community asset.

Robert Blasko

Yes, it is.

5. Kingston Park (Kevin)

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Kevin McGovern

Kingston Park, that's in good shape as well. We talked about the flower garden in that hey there (Niloo arrived at 6:40 p.m.), and that's something that, you know, we can probably address a later time. But for those two parks, no major issues that I'd report back on. I think they're, you know, maintained very well from our park parks service team.

6. Easton Road Ballfield (Jerry)

Kevin McGovern

Jerry, Easton Road ballfield.

Jerry Holum

Hanover Engineering is going to be doing our final inspection.

Maia Simon

We can barely hear you, Jerry.

Jerry Holum

Hanover Engineering is going to do their final inspection for the field before they release, before they

Kevin McGovern

Pull it a little closer, Jerry, sorry. Pull it real close.

Jerry Holum

Before they release.

Kevin McGovern

Nope.

Phil Spohn

Do you want this one?

Jerry Holum

Thank you. Before they released their final payment, township releases their final payment, there's there was issues that are that were addressed. One was the sodding. You may recall when we were out there, the sod, the way it was put down the seams needed seating. They did a reseeding. They did a cross seating of the field. They stopped the sprinkling of it. When I was out there recently, it looked like the seating was taking place or holding and things look favorable. There are some issues that still have to be addressed. One, as we know when we're out there is the privacy issue the neighbors are complaining about a number of things. One was the lights and the other one was noise that's being addressed by Cathy and public works. So, the other one is, is the lighting from the outfield was shining over, onto the houses and yards. So that's being addressed there. They attempted to adjust the lights, but I think it needs some more tinkling. Still. Do some work on that. So, in conclusion, I guess you would say that things are on target, probably not, obviously not, not going to be playing any fall ball there. But I would imagine would have, we'd have some kind of ribbon cutting in the spring and open the field. But you know that certainly is up to council to make that decision.

Kevin McGovern

A little late in the year to get in right now. I would assume.

Phil Spohn

Will there be a need for like leaf removal? Who does leaf removal? Is it the same people who mow the lawn?

Carol Schneider

We don't dispose of leaves. What do you mean?

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Phil Spohn

I'm sure that field's gonna be... Well, how late does baseball go? Would they be playing if it was open?

Cole Hubert

Mid, late October.

Phil Spohn

Okay. So, I guess the people who do the lawn mowing would take care of leaves there.

Carol Schneider

All they're subcontracted to do is to cut the grass.

Phil Spohn

Who takes care of it here? This one right here is that they're playing the ball there.

Carol Schneider

I don't know of anybody doing that.

Maia Simon

So, leaving the leaves is environmentally and ecologically important, because the leaf litter does a number of things. It hosts Luna moth cocoons over the winter and a bunch of other beneficial critters. And it also provides a soft landing for the critters that are falling from the trees, caterpillars, baby birds, you know, whatever. So, it's really important, whenever you can, to leave the leaves. If they're on at your homes, if it's on your driveway and your walkway, you just move them off or into a pile in the corner. But please don't bag them or mulch them, because mulching them kills all the critters that are in it.

Phil Spohn

So, no parks have any, none of the parks they need for leaf removal?

Jerry Holum

I don't think you have a problem out there, Phil, because there's no trees around there.

Kevin McGovern

Just up on the bank.

Jerry Holum

There are trees on the neighboring property.

Kevin McGovern

All right, Jerry, anything else on the ballpark?

Jerry Holum

No, I think that about covers it.

Kevin McGovern

Cole & Noah, have you guys seen it?

Cole Hubert

We drove past it a couple times.

Kevin McGovern

Nice improvement, right? All right, we'll have to go and watch you guys play next year. It would be like a day out. All right? Any other comments on the ballpark? Okay? Maia, Heller homestead?

7. **Heller Homestead Park (Maia)**

Maia Simon

No report.

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8. Sandra Yerger Community Recreation Area & Nature Preserve (Phil)

Kevin McGovern
Phil, Sandra Yerger Preserve?

Phil Spohn
It's fine. It just, I do want to find out about those brown circles, somebody's doing some type of research or something out there. If you walk it, I don't know if you walked it, they have these.

Maia Simon
I can't hear you.

Phil Spohn
I took some pictures. There's there. They're doing some buddies doing some type of research, because they have fenced circles. And then it's like, killed inside that, it's totally brown. So, I'll call Roger and give you update next time.

Carol Schneider
I think I asked for you to send me the pictures, because I don't think I ever received them, but if you could do that, then we can start the conversation with Roger and he'll be able to see that.

Phil Spohn
I'll send them right now. Perfect.

9. Saucon Rail Trail (Maia/Jerry)

Kevin McGovern
Thank you. Phil, Maia and Jerry the Saucon Rail Trail?

Maia Simon
I don't have a report.

Kevin McGovern
No, okay.

Jerry Holum
The Saucon Rail Trail has finished their project on identifying, over the railroad stations. I don't know if anybody's been on the rail trail, but if they have, you can see the nice signs that they have at each one of the railroad stations. They're also in the midst of approaching the repair or replacement of the mile markers, the mile markers that were that were originally placed some years ago, at decayed. So, they're looking at replacing they're not quite sure what they're going to be doing, if it's going to be metal, or if it's going to be something other than metal. So, that's all I have with the rail trail. I mean, our portion of our rail trail is in fine shape.

Kevin McGovern
Okay, thank you.

Maia Simon
So, I will report that at the Reading Road entrance the there's a native plant garden there that is maintained by volunteers, and it's just fabulous make it a point to get over there and look at it. There's a group of about 15 to 20 people that are not all there every time, but it's a very well supported project to keep that going.

10. Invasive Plant Inventory (Maia)

Kevin McGovern
Okay, awesome. Thank you. And then Maia we had on here as a follow up item, the invasive plant inventory.

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Maia Simon

Yes, so in the letter that I sent to all of you last month when I wasn't going to be here, I remarked about how nothing happened over the summer because A, I was out of circulation with a hip replacement, and B, the weather was completely intolerable for us old folks, right Robert, and so the challenge in doing invasive plant identification in the fall is that it'll be hard to identify things except for trees and bushes. But when it comes to identifying mug wort and stilt grass and other things it'll be hard to do. So, what I am hoping we could do is get started in April, and since we haven't been able to put together a time for us to go out and do it. I was hoping that we could get permission to advertise it to the public, for volunteers. There was something else...

Kevin McGovern

You were talking about in the spring when yeah and things returned in April.

Maia Simon

Getting old is not for this faint of heart.

Kevin McGovern

You're doing fine.

Maia Simon

There was something else I wanted to say, Hang on, oh, the Ellis Garden at Kingston Park. Yep. Uh, that work we could do this fall. That is a park. The flower bed was built in 2013 and has not been touched since. And there are a lot there's a lot of mug wort, which is an invasive plant, and it's also very easy to identify and very easy to pull. So, if we had even half a dozen people for three or four hours, we could make a big dent in that and the other strategy for that garden is to clear the invasives around the natives, you know that, so that they can keep growing and not be pushed out by the invasives. If there were high school kids who would be interested in helping with that, you know you guys might talk it up at the high school and see who would want to give a couple of hours pulling weeds. I did speak to Cathy, and she said, we just need to make sure there's nobody planning on having an event on the day we're going to do it, and I she wants all of the stuff we pull to just be put in the woods so we don't have to lug anything away. So, I'm so I don't know what we need to do in order to get permission to ask the public, do we have to get that from Council?

Carol Schneider

I'll have to talk to Cathy and see we could absolutely put it on Facebook if you want to write something up, yeah, and then I can pass it by her and see if that's something we can do with a date, as far as an event at Kingston, if you come up with a date, we can definitely block that off so that nobody else would interfere.

Maia Simon

Okay, is there anybody in the room who thinks they might join? Oh, fabulous, fabulous, happy to join. Yeah, so I'm figuring a Saturday morning. How about the 19th of October? No, how about the 26th of October.

Kevin McGovern

Maybe I'm thinking, I can look.

Maia Simon

26th sixth. No, not for you.

Kevin McGovern

I'm just looking.

Maia Simon

Hold on, how about the 12th? The 12th is this Saturday?

Kevin McGovern

No, the 26 would be possible. I want to check one thing, but 26th.

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Niloo Aflatooni
What time do you want?

Maia Simon
9:30? 10?

Kevin McGovern
No earlier. The earlier the better. That works. So, we want to look at the 26th and what other day? What other dates would work?

Maia Simon
Well, I think we're going to just choose one tonight, and then we'll put it on Facebook with that date, inviting people to come. And that's not going to work for you, though, right?

Do you want to push out? Do you want to try to get what about the would the first weekend in November? Work?

Maia Simon
November 2.

Kevin McGovern
November 2.

Maia Simon
Also, no good.

Niloo Aflatooni
I cannot do 19th.

Maia Simon
Okay, so October 26, and I'll put it in the Facebook copy that anybody who has a wheelbarrow would be helpful to have and also to bring people's own gloves and hand tools. Thank you, friends.

Kevin McGovern
That'll be fun, right?

Carol Schneider
You said, October 26 at 9am all right? Can you write something up?

Maia Simon
I will. You'll get it tomorrow.

Kevin McGovern
Nice job. Nice job.

9. Event Updates: None

10. New Business:

- 1. St. Luke's Medical Office P/F Land Development #LS 02-24 - Review for (Future) Recreation Fee Allocation**

Kevin McGovern

1 Okay, we don't have any events to update, except the one we just talked about on the 26th so three new.
2 Business items tonight. The first item is the St Luke's Medical Office, land development proposal. We
3 have plans here, I think they were also included in our packet tonight, and that is going to be across the
4 street from the Giant. Our role here is not to approve this. It's for awareness. And Carol explained to me
5 that what will happen is, if this is approved, there will be a fee that I believe St Luke's will pay, or the
6 developer will pay, and a portion of those funds are allocated to the park and rec for distribution, and
7 what Carol shared with me is those typically go to the closest park to that area. So tonight, all we're
8 doing is raising awareness with this group. What I think will happen is when this gets approved, and at
9 some point, in the future, we will have a discussion here on how those funds are to be allocated within
10 the park and rec system. Make sense? So, if I'm thinking Hellertown, I'm trying to think what will be the
11 closest Park?

12
13 **Maia Simon**

14 Heller homestead.

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16 **Jerry Holum**

17 Saucon Rail Trail.

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19 **Kevin McGovern**

20 Rail Trail. Yeah.

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22 **Niloo Aflatooni**

23 Can we divide it?

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25 **Carol Schneider**

26 \$3,300, it might be more because it's commercial. I'm not quite sure.

27
28 **Phil Spohn**

29 What kind of money are you talking about? Ballpark?

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31 **Kevin McGovern**

32 Yeah, okay, great. Okay.

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34 **Maia Simon**

35 And where's Gus going to live?

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37 **Kevin McGovern**

38 I assume that's the buffalo.

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40 **Maia Simon**

41 I haven't seen him, but his owner keeps saying on Facebook that he's fine.

42
43 **Kevin McGovern**

44 Well, we all hope he's fine, questions, concerns, comments about that. All right, just FYI, right now. So,
45 what we do is we just talk about it, raise awareness, and then a later time, we'll have a discussion, and
46 we'll allocate those funds.

47
48 **Shaun Yanchuk**

49 So, there was like no point to even have that in the packet, right? I mean, honestly, is going to say yes
50 to do it regardless, because that's money in their pocket.

51
52 **Kevin McGovern**

53 Shaun, you're correct. What we're doing, the point of having in the packet is just for awareness. You're
54 right. We don't, we don't make a decision on that. You're right. That's councils. So, okay, other
55 comments, concerns?

1 **Phil Spohn**
2 Where's the actual building? It's just parking lots?
3

4 **Robert Blasko**
5 Gray rectangle. Top left.
6

7 **Kevin McGovern**
8 Open it up if you want to look at it.
9

10 **Phil Spohn**
11 Oh, I thought it was part of parking.
12

13 **Kevin McGovern**
14 Okay, nope, that's the building.
15

16 **Phil Spohn**
17 I got you, okay, I see the parking is going to be, I got you.
18

19 **Kevin McGovern**
20 The building, yep, okay, move on? I'm seeing head shake, okay.
21

22 2. **Formulate Questions for Resident Park Survey**

23 **Kevin McGovern**
24 We talked about our last meeting. We were approved the formulation for questions for the resident park
25 survey. What I'd like to propose on this, if people are okay, is, I'd like to draft the questions and send
26 them out for folks to review. I've done some research on this. I don't think it has to be lengthy. What
27 we're trying to do here is get feedback from our community on what they think of the current parks and
28 what they think would make it better. That's all we're trying to do. Just ask questions to get feedback
29 about the current parks that we have in our community. So, if people are okay with that, I will take that
30 on. I will send it out via email to folks for the questions. Laura, I think you and I have to talk. If you
31 haven't brought it up already to the council, we have to do that, but that would be my proposal.
32

33 **Maia Simon**
34 So, I may be misremembering, but I thought that several months ago, when we discussed this, we
35 identified some other organizations surveys that we might look at.
36

37 **Kevin McGovern**
38 When we talked about this several months ago, it was the, I believe it was the Saucon Valley School
39 Board that had sent out a survey, I believe, and that was a postcard with a barcode on it, QR code to do
40 the survey. I believe that's how. So, we will definitely look back at that as well and other surveys that
41 have been done to get some questions about what we're interested in understanding. Questions on that?
42

43 **Phil Spohn**
44 like maybe 10, questions?
45

46 **Kevin McGovern**
47 15 to 20 at max. I think, I think what you just start with is a little data. You know, how many times have
48 you used a park? What parks do you use? What do you find to be beneficial? What is the what is the
49 most engaging part of the parks? What is it that we're missing? And so, if you get a survey back and 10
50 people say that they really like the Saucon Trail, but mile markers would be helpful, or they really like
51 Kingston Park, but would somebody clean out the flower area? That's what we're looking for. Or it would
52 be great if we had pickleball. It would be great if we had X, Y and Z. How about more benches here?
53 What we're doing is just trying to get some information from the community on what would make the
54 parks better.
55

56 **Maia Simon**

1 Great.

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3 **Cole Hubert**

4 You could also have the people like rate the parks that they've been to like on a scale of one to 10,
5 because that's like easier to start with, and then you can get into more specifics later.

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7 **Kevin McGovern**

8 That's a good idea. I like that.

9
10 **Phil Spohn**

11 And then we would brainstorm how to get this survey out, correct? We talked about a bunch of different
12 ways that we could do that.

13
14 **Kevin McGovern**

15 Yes. Questions on that?

16
17 **Jerry Holum**

18 I missed that comment. What was, what was your suggestion?

19
20 **Cole Hubert**

21 One of the first couple questions in the survey could be having like, if it's a Google form or something,
22 you can have whoever's filling it out rate the parks that they're responding to on a scale of one to 10 and
23 then get into more specific questions later on.

24
25 **Kevin McGovern**

26 Thank you.

27
28 3. **Update 2023 Parks & Recreation Wish List**

29 **Kevin McGovern**

30 Thank you. Okay, and then one of our last items tonight is the update of the 2023 Parks and Rec wish
31 list. This, I found interesting, Carol. Thank you very much. For sure, that's good. We talked about this
32 at our last meeting, and we thought it would be great to have this brought forward tonight. You have in
33 your packet. I believe this was done from the last park and rec committee. I thought they had some really
34 good suggestions here. They start with the reading trailhead, the resurfacing that was completed. They
35 talk about Polk Valley, permanent concession stand, town hall, touchless sink and toilet. Southeastern
36 touch the sink and toilet Polk Valley, replacing the split rail fencing. Install an exercise station near
37 walking trail and Polk Valley. Install permanent restroom with the trailhead, Reading Trailhead. Install
38 swamp pavilion area, Reading Trailhead. Town Hall, replace stage near pavilion, and then finally, pave
39 the nature trail by the town hall and a couple different comments and progress. So, what I'd like to do is
40 ask folks today, would they like to update this? And we don't have to do this tonight. This is a discussion
41 tonight. Would we like to make our own quote wish list and then bring that forward to council? Would
42 we like to wait on our wish list until we have our survey completed and maybe give us a little more
43 information from our community members and give us a little more background on what they're
44 thinking? I like this, I thought this was pretty neat. I thought this was well organized. Comments,
45 thoughts?

46
47 **Laura Ray**

48 I think getting..... (in auditable).

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50 **Kevin McGovern**

51 Laura, say that one more time.

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53 **Laura Ray**

54 I think getting feedback from people was important.

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Kevin McGovern

Okay, all right. Shaun, what do you think makes sense?

Shaun Yanchuk

Yeah.

Jerry Holum

I think we have to get a foundation. I don't I think we want a starting point. I think we should discuss things now. I think we should get a starting point on all these parks.

Kevin McGovern

Okay. Okay.

Phil Spohn

I would just say, though this survey could give us a lot of information. That would be included in this that might even supersede this. Say, you know what this is? You know when, you get an overflowing information about town hall, and it doesn't include touchless sink and toilet fixtures, do we need to discuss that now? I think this was the team's right opinion. We're looking to get a bigger opinion.

Jerry Holum

Well, why wouldn't we get a starting point? Why use the survey as the starting point? Why wouldn't we get a starting point? We could add to it as a result of the survey?

Kevin McGovern

I think we could do that. I don't think there's a right or a wrong way to approach it. I think we could have a discussion today. So, Jerry, if you said I think we should do X, Y and Z, we could talk about that. Then we could add it to the list, and then we could do the survey, and we can compile a final list. I don't think that would be a bad approach to it.

Maia Simon

Okay? I have something to put on it, all right, and that is to maintain the nature trail at Heller Homestead, it should have mulch or something put on it at least once a year because it's very uneven footing.

Phil Spohn

How long is that?

Maia Simon

Oh, quarter of a mile.

Kevin McGovern

Okay. Jerry, any other, as you said, starting point? Anything you'd recommend?

Jerry Holum

Yeah, I have a number of items, okay, Saucon Rail Trail. What we should have on the Saucon Rail Trail is, is shelter. In the summertime, you get these quick storms may leave or get on the rail trail at a certain point, and within a short period of time, the weather changes and it starts raining. I think what we should have along the trail between Meadows Road and Mill Road is a lean-to where people could seek shelter and get out of the rain. Okay, I think, I think it could be approached the Rail Trail Oversight Committee would be a good person or a good group to partner with we as the township would try to get Saucon Rail Trail people to buy in on this, okay, and possibly, possibly do something like we did on the pickleball court, up where we had, where we had an Eagle Scout, and he probably know more particulars on that. I'm sure I would think there would be some scouts out there that are eagle scouts that are eagerly looking for project, and you know this could be one of those projects.

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Kevin McGovern

Okay, so what I hear you saying again, we're just making the list tonight. We have at the Heller homestead mulching the path, and we have Jerry saying that on the Saucon Rail Trail, build a shelter for inclement weather. And then there's options of how that would happen, correct. Okay, other thoughts that come to mind, and this is not going to be our last time discussing this.

Jerry Holum

I have thoughts on the Easton Road complex. We spent two to \$3 million on that thing. Two of the three things that a baseball complex need was overlooked in the project, and there has been some discussion at council about them, but there's a need for them to be addressed. One is obviously bathrooms. I'm not talking job Johnny. So, I mean, if you get a, if you have a complex, that's, you know, two, \$3 million and you don't have a bathroom of flushing toilets, doesn't look good. The other thing that does wasn't addressed as a water you know; all baseball players would want to go to a fountain and get a drink of water. There's no water for the baseball players.

Phil Spohn

I would think, Polk Valley Park is used more than the ballpark is going to ever be used.

Jerry Holum

Pardon me.

Phil Spohn

I would say the Polk Valley Park is good, is used and will be continued to be used by many more people than will ever use the baseball field. Yes, and I there's no there's no permanent bathrooms at that and there's no water as far as I know, and people take their themselves. I mean, you're not going forever. It's not that kind of park. You go for a soccer game, you leave. You go for a baseball game, you leave. I mean, I would say if you're going to do that, you do it at the park that's really used, and that's Polk Valley Park.

Jerry Holum

Well, that's why we have a wish list.

Phil Spohn

Yes, that's right, that's right.

Cole Hubert

I would say that most of the baseball players like they bring their own water for their game, like not many, not so many people. I know that Dimmick Park has a water found by the baseball field there, and not too many people use it.

Kevin McGovern

Good to know.

Maia Simon

I think in this day and age, when people are going to be out for several hours, they bring their own water.

Kevin McGovern

Okay. Any other thoughts that come to mind?

Jerry Holum

Another thing that's needed, and I spoke about it when we had our visit out there last month, is that railing, that railing that goes from the parking lot up to the field.

Kevin McGovern

You mean the lack of a railing.

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Jerry Holum

The lack of a lack of a railing. Yeah, there should be a there should be a railing. I mean that rise is like about 16 feet. It's about 16 feet from the parking lot up to the field itself, to the stands. That's quite a rise for seniors. And there should be some attention given to the need of a railing, okay, along the wall, or you couldn't put it on the right-hand side when you go up to the field, but you would need to attach it to the wall in some manner.

Kevin McGovern

Gotcha. Okay, good suggestions. So, we talked about a shelter. We talked about bathrooms out at the ball field, potentially water. Good discussion there and a railing. And we talked about mulch out at the Heller homestead. Any other ideas that come to mind?

Maia Simon

I just really want to thank Jerry for his careful attention to all the things that fall in his purview. I mean, he doesn't miss a trick.

Kevin McGovern

He does a nice job. I agree.

Jerry Holum

Thank you.

Kevin McGovern

Violet, Noah, Cole, anything from your guy's perspective, from the community perspective that you're hearing, okay, all good?

Maia Simon

Oh, I have an idea that you could post posters or something at the school saying, do you have ideas about What we could do with the parks? Because the survey is going to go to households and the high schoolers might not see it. So, if you, amongst the three of you, put together, you know, a couple of places that people could put in a suggestion and then bring those to us that would be really helpful.

Kevin McGovern

I think we talk about that in our community survey. We talk about different approaches to that.

Maia Simon

I'm saying that the teenagers aren't likely to see the survey.

Noah Hubert

If you're doing in QR code, you can post a QR code pretty easily.

Maia Simon

Yeah. Okay, good.

Kevin McGovern

I think that's the way to go. Good point. But good suggestion, good suggestion.

Phil Spohn

And you can put, you can put QR codes all over the place.

Maia Simon

Have we done everything about that?

Phil Spohn

Well, I had mentioned earlier that if once the survey is created, then we need to figure out how to market or get it out there, even using soft and source, I'm sure they would do it for Josh, to do it for nothing,

1 and you put the QR code in that people, I mean, I think you can get immediate traction with using a QR
2 code and for a few bucks laminating it and putting it at the park trailheads and around and making sure
3 it doesn't become litter.
4

5 **Kevin McGovern**

6 And Niloo, you had said you can help.
7

8 **Carol Schneider**

9 What was that? Laura?
10

11 **Laura Ray**

12 We want to see....(in audible).
13

14 **Kevin McGovern**

15 Laura, we have, we're having extreme difficulty understanding what you're saying.
16

17 **Laura Ray**

18 I'll text you.
19

20 **Carol Schneider**

21 She said she'll text you.
22

23 **Kevin McGovern**

24 Is she texted me or she texted you?
25

26 **Carol Schneider**

27 You I believe.
28

29 **Kevin McGovern**

30 Okay, we can put a this is from Laura. We can put QR code in the newsletter. Great. That's a great idea.
31 Some other place. Love that. Yep, thank you, Laura. Okay, so some progress, okay, that comes to the
32 end. Anything else, anything from the public? Ma'am, you're good, wonderful.
33

34 **Phil Spohn**

35 You need a microphone.
36

37 **Christine Seitz**

38 The signs on Rail Trail. Those boxes, you know, they have glass. Who cares for those?
39

40 **Carol Schneider**

41 The Township employees.
42

43 **Christine Seitz**

44 Oh, it's the township.
45

46 **Kevin McGovern**

47 Are you seeing some concern there?
48

49 **Christine Seitz**

50 Yeah, we put a sign in it earlier this year. But I think Maryann Snyder had to wash the whole box down
51 before she put it in. She cleaned the whole thing, and the signs, the old signs, were like, really disgusting.
52 So that's all I was asking.
53

54 **Kevin McGovern**

55 I appreciate that. Thank you very much.
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Jerry Holum

The answer to that is the Oversight Committee is looking at replacing all those signs, okay, talking about the ones with the geology stone, the stone geology are the signs you're talking about?

Christine Seitz

The information that's in those boxes.

Jerry Holum

Oh, in the boxes?

Christine Seitz

Yeah, the kiosk.

Jerry Holum

Or in the kiosk.

Christine Seitz

They're different flyers. They're different things.

Jerry Holum

Well, each of them is special to that rail to that train station.

Christine Seitz

And just wondering who maintained.

Jerry Holum

It's the Saucon Rail Trail.

Carol Schneider

If you're talking about the kiosks, they have locks. And we have the keys. Public work has keys. And I think I have some keys in my office, so we try to update them as much as we can. I know there are some old items in there currently, so I'll make note of that and send that out and see if we can get that removed. But as far as cleaning it, I think it's plexiglass. I don't think we don't really clean them. I don't know if they're dirty. What one or what one?

Christine Seitz

The one I'm thinking of is by the native plant garden.

Kevin McGovern

Okay, so it needs attention. That's what you're saying.

Christine Seitz

Maryann cleans it, she has a key and we change signs.

Kevin McGovern

Okay.

Carol Schneider

I think she has access to that one only. Okay. Thank you.

Kevin McGovern

Thank you.

Niloo Aflatooni

How many do we have?

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Carol Schneider
Probably, like, five or six of them.

Niloo Aflatooni
So, can we clean up? Because each of us has our own park, can we clean it? Can I come and get the key from you and return it?

Carol Schneider
I guess you would be able to get the key. You could borrow the key.

Niloo Aflatooni
Let me know. If I can, I'll clean my town hall.

Kevin McGovern
Very nice. Okay, very nice of you.

Maia Simon
Speaking of your town hall, who maintains the native plant garden here?

Carol Schneider
Watershed Committee.

Maia Simon
The native plant garden out here. I don't, I can't do direction.

Carol Schneider
It's over here. Yeah, I know what you're talking about. Jennifer Helton is part of EAC, but she is on the watershed committee, I know she goes out there, and she's been out there twice, I think this year, cleaning up.

Maia Simon
Great. Could you give me the name again?

Carol Schneider
Jennifer Helton, H, E, L, T, O, N.

Maia Simon
Thanks.

Kevin McGovern
Okay, any other items that folks want to discuss?

Jerry Holum
Yeah, I have one. Kevin. It relates to the ball field and how it's going to function. All right, I think what we should do fight HLS and Saucon Valley, Diamond sports. Invite them to a meeting to explain to us how they would envision our field is going to be used. I mean, they're going to use it. But I mean, we have other organizations. We have we have Connie Mack, we have Legion, and I think we should try to get our arms around it at this point to find out, you know, what they expect, or what they envision doing at that field.

Kevin McGovern
Are they the only stakeholder, Jer?

Jerry Holum
I beg your pardon.

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Kevin McGovern

Are they the only stakeholder? Are they in charge of that? Are they just one of the groups that will be using it?

Jerry Holum

Probably one of them going to be the primary one I would envision.

Kevin McGovern

Okay, I don't know.

Jerry Holum

Touch base with the township as it relates to that field. If they did, I don't know who it was.

Kevin McGovern

It's a good point. My understanding from our last meeting, Carol said to us that the scheduling is handled by her office. I believe we're an office in the by the township, correct Carol?

Carol Schneider

Our receptionist takes care of the applications for the fields, and I don't know how long ago, but it's always been the Saucon Valley Youth Sports organizations have first dibs. That's how it's always been. With the exception of Town Hall Park, we have an adult league on Wednesdays. So other than that, Hellertown, Lower Saucon Little League/diamond sports, which is softball, they have the primary use. So, when they give their application, and it's a blanket request from spring until fall, or actually spring until summer, and then the new requests go out for fall ball. So, that would be August until early November.

Kevin McGovern

Okay, so Jerry, my question to you is, that's a good point, and your question's good, understanding that process is there a need for us to take any action as a committee? It sounds like that works pretty well, unless you're hearing something that is broken that we want to address. What do you think?

Jerry Holum

I don't know.

Kevin McGovern

Let me ask you, this, has anyone expressed an interest?

Jerry Holum

If there's an application, is that the only application? Are there any applications now, Carol?

Carol Schneider

I don't handle the applications anymore, but I know fall ball, they have Hellertown Lower Saucon Little League/Diamond Sports has for fall ball, soccer, I think there is fall soccer. And then I don't know if lacrosse does anything in in the fall they used to in the past. So, I don't know what applications we have on file, but I would assume that those are three that we have for different parks. Now that's not to say that if there's some time available that we couldn't, you know, squeeze another organization in there, maybe on Sundays. That's been done at Easton Road in the past, not for Connie Mack, but for, I forget what other Baseball Organization it was. I think it was an adult League. So that would have to be worked out. If baseball has a blanket request, then that would have to be worked out with baseball, the township and the other organization wanting to play on whatever day. Saucon Valley Youth Sports, we don't charge, but other organizations would be charged.

Maia Simon

So when, when those organizations put in an application, they don't say what dates, they just say, we want it for the whole season?

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Carol Schneider

Not necessarily baseball. They usually use the field every day. There are multiple teams, so they schedule their own games and practices. So, they usually give a blanket request, like I said, Monday through Sunday, you know, from the spring until, okay, June, and then in between there, if some somebody wanted to come in and use a specific day on a specific field, that would have to be worked out. But we require liability insurance, fees from other organizations, and then the application, with the dates and times and everything, and then we also request rosters.

Maia Simon

Great. Thank you for helping me understand.

Kevin McGovern

So, Jerry, what do you what do you think? I think there's a, there's an issue here?

Jerry Holum

I think there's other like, it's a, there's other things. As you recall that one unofficial meeting that we had out there, and I don't remember, I think the gentleman, his name was Greg Best, I'm not sure, he was saying about, yeah, we're interested. We're interested in doing that, and we're interested in helping them on the maintenance All right, so if we brought them in and they told us what their package is all about, it might save taxpayers money by having them do it. I mean, we found out the whole, you know, the whole ball of wax, what they're going to be doing when they're going to be doing it. Are they going to need a lawnmower? Do they have a lawnmower? They're going to be doing maintenance. You know, there's issues there. I think if we had them here, we could talk, talk about them, and get a better understanding.

Kevin McGovern

Okay, what do other folks think? What's the rest of Team thinking?

Robert Blasko

I believe those guys said they had all their equipment. They already took care.

Kevin McGovern

I don't know if there's been any follow up. We did have that informal non meeting, and they did articulate that they would like to handle a field. It sounds like they did that in the past, that they were in charge of the maintenance up there. I don't know if there's been any discussion with that group and with Rogers team, who assumed those the rest of the parks. I'm just not sure.

Maia Simon

It seems to me that it's Roger who should be meeting with those folks and not have us as an intermediary.

Kevin McGovern

I would agree. I would agree with that, Jerry, do you remember who that was? Do you have any contact information with him?

Jerry Holum

Yes, as a matter of fact, I contacted all the board of directors. I contacted all of them and asked them if they could come tonight.

Kevin McGovern

Okay.

Jerry Holum

I copied you, I believe, on the email. I didn't get any replies from any of them.

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Kevin McGovern

Well, why don't we do this? I think it's a fair point. Why don't we see if they're going to get back to you on that? I like Maia's idea of that they should talk directly to Roger, because it is not in our purview to say they can or cannot do the maintenance. I think it's a neat idea. Personally, it sounds like they did that in the past. I don't know that arrangement. I don't think any of us do, but I think that should be directed to Roger's team. You agree, Jer?

Jerry Holum

Roger has to pull the trigger on it. No doubt, no doubt about it. But I know, I know there are concerns. I mean, they want, they want the park groomed, you know, and those guys did a good job. They did it on the old field, and that was, that was in bad condition, and they did the grooming on that to the point that now they have a field before they didn't have an additional field.

Kevin McGovern

Right. Okay, all right, why don't we pursue that down that road, to encourage them to talk to Roger, and then if anything else comes up, we can address it here.

Jerry Holum

So, we're not going to invite them?

Kevin McGovern

I don't see a reason to but I'm looking around the room if other people think we can just play this out a little bit. So, they come here and they say what they told us last time we'd like to do this, and we're going to say, okay, and we'll talk about it, and then we'll say, one of us should talk to Roger, or you guys should talk to Roger. And as Robert said, they should talk to Roger directly. Oh, we're going to be as the intermediary, I think. But I am open to all suggestions. Approve anything. Yeah, they can obviously come it's open to the public. They can. They're more than welcome to come here and talk to us about it. Absolutely, I wouldn't say they can't ever. We would never say that. But if, if they want to come here and talk about it, that's fine. I would recommend it. That sounds like a maintenance idea that's under Roger's purview. That's what he does. That's his team. And if there was some arrangement in the past that they did that, they should extend that conversation out. Say, hey, that field's going to need maintenance, probably in the spring, starting in the spring, you know, getting the winter crud out of there. And that should be a conversation with Roger. But of course, if people want to come here, they're more than welcome. Other thoughts?

Niloo Aflatooni

Have we told Roger?

Kevin McGovern

Have we told Roger?

Niloo Aflatooni

So maybe we should.

Kevin McGovern

No. We can tell Roger. I'm trying to get Jerry to tell that team to reach out to Roger directly, but we can go back to Roger and tell him that Sure.

Niloo Aflatooni

Well, at least let him know that there is a potential group. I wasn't at that meeting, so I just somehow, we have to connect them.

Kevin McGovern

So sure.

1 **Niloo Aflatooni**
2 CC Roger too in one of your emails.

3
4 **Kevin McGovern**
5 I will be happy to email Roger tomorrow morning. That's easy to do. Good point. Everybody okay with
6 that? Jerry, make sense to you? Shaun, you're good. All right. Anything else tonight? We're a little bit
7 ahead of schedule. Anything else that people want to kick around?
8

9 **Jerry Holum**
10 Yeah, special recognition.

11
12 **Kevin McGovern**
13 Yes, sir.

14
15 **Jerry Holum**
16 Cole. Quite some accomplishments you have on your resume, everything from wrestling and now that's
17 not a big thing. I thought was the accolades you got in baseball as it relates to the player of the valley.
18 That's quite an accomplishment. I'm not sure if anybody else saw that in the newspaper about not that
19 accomplishment, but it's quite an accomplishment.
20

21 **Kevin McGovern**
22 Tell us more about a Cole.

23
24 **Cole Hubert**
25 I was awarded the morning call Picture of the Year for this past baseball season.

26
27 **Kevin McGovern**
28 Wow, congratulations.

29
30 **Cole Hubert**
31 Thank you.

32
33 **11. Adjournment**

34 **Kevin McGovern**
35 That's great. That's really good. That's an that's a big accomplishment. Well, done. Well, done. I'm glad
36 you brought that up, Jerry. All right, last call. All right. We're going to meet back on November 4. I
37 appreciate everybody coming tonight, especially Cole, Noah and Violet. Thank you very much for your
38 first meeting. I really appreciate you coming now. People have any comments or concerns. I think we
39 have each other's phone numbers, texts and emails, and we'll go from there. All right. Meetings
40 adjourned at 7:32 p.m. Thank you very much.
41

42 **12. Next Meeting: Monday, November 4, 2024 @ 6:30 p.m. @ Town Hall.**