

A meeting of the Open Space and Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, September 9, 2025. Those present were Greg Churach, C. Note, Sherry Paup, Gary Novack and Mark McKinnie. Also present, Township Manager, Michelle Reddick & Planning & Zoning Admin; Assistant Sherri Griffith.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Those assembled pledged allegiance to the flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JULY 8, 2025 – Motion by C. Note, second by G. Novack and unanimously carried to approve the July 8, 2025, minutes as presented.

REPORTS

- A. Green Allies** ~ A letter from Ken was included in the packet. Included some dates of events coming up:
 - Saturday, September 6th ~ Wedding (4pm to 10pm)
 - Saturday, September 13th ~ PA Fig Festival (10am to 4pm)
 - Thursday and Friday, October 9 and 10 Haunted Woods (7pm to 10pm)
 - Friday and Saturday, October 24 and 25 Night Hike for Kids (6pm to 9pm)

- B. PARRC** ~ Mark McKinnie went over July & August Reports that were part of the packet.

- C. Chair** ~ G. Churach submitted report:
 - 1. Montco has started a new program specifically for the acquisition of land for open space uses. It includes funding for conservation easements as well as outright purchases.
 - 2. Montco has raised fines to \$300 for E-Bike violations
 - 3. The water level at Sure Catch Pond in Sunset Park is low, but the milfoil growth is minimal.
 - 4. There have been horses using our trail system. A neighbor complained to PW about it. This has never been a problem, and they are not specifically prohibited.
 - 5. The extra cost for additional NPDES work at Hollenbach Park was approved by the BOC in July. Bids for construction of the walking trail, pavilion, and disc golf course will be let in spring of 2026.
 - 6. Park 911 address signs have been installed.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Discuss turf management plan for parks and open spaces***

A 2-page Turf Management Plan was included in the packet. G. Churach went over the plan. Motion by C. Note, second by G. Novack and unanimously carried to recommend the Board of Commissioners to approve the Turf Management Plan dated August 26, 2025.

- B.** Discuss viability of applying for a 2025 PECO Green Region grant.
G. Churach recommends passing on the grant as there is no shovel ready projects currently. All Open Space Board members agreed to pass on the grant.
- C.** Discuss sponsorship of Hollenbach pavilion for naming rights.
All Open Space Board members thought it was a good idea. G. Churach will have it on his chairman report for the Board of Commissioners to discuss.
- D.** Discuss future park maintenance budget *
G. Churach mentioned he would like to create a chart to track maintenance on each of the parks. Manager, M. Reddick mentioned the EIT is no longer funding the cost to maintain our Open Space. She recommends an ongoing plan so we are proactive & not reactive.
- E.** Motion by M. McKinnie, second by S. Paup and unanimously carried to add line-item E to the agenda to discuss adding a sub-section on the ordinance #480 for rules on the trails. All members agreed to create additional rules to present to Board of Commissioners to approve in the future.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Discuss status of Gilbertsville Road Trail Crossing** ~ Manager, M. Reddick informed the Opens Space Board that the estimate that was received from LTL was well over the budget and she asked if it was possible to stay within the budget but has not received a response. All Open Space Board members agreed to get a quote from the townships alternate engineer Al Gryga and see if he is able to come within the budget.

BOARD COMMENTS – None

PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Went into executive session at 8:05 PM to discuss real estate with no action to follow. The Board reconvened at 8:20 PM.

ADJOURNMENT – Meeting was adjourned at 8:21 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Sherri Griffith
Planning & Zoning Administrator