

Parks and Recreation Board

October 21, 2025

Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER AT 5:00 PM

Chairman Culley called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ernie Helmick, 530 Miller Road, York Haven introduced himself as a write-in candidate for Township Supervisor. He shared his history with the township, noting he served on the Planning Commission for 9 years and was a Supervisor from 2008 to 2013. Mr. Helmick mentioned his community involvement, including coaching baseball and softball and serving as President of the Redland Baseball Association. He stated he has lived in the community for 48 years and requested support from the Board.

Ryan Szuch, 5 Kohler Lane, Etters, introduced himself and stated he attended to observe the meeting. Mr. Szuch explained that he runs his own business, Grow Conservation LLC, providing technical work in land preservation and management planning for public and preserved lands. He also offers management consulting and strategic planning for conservation organizations. Mr. Szuch mentioned he has been doing this work since February 2024 and previously worked for 12 years for the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion made by Secretary Harman to approve the minutes from September 16, 2025, meeting, seconded by Board Member Sietz. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Review all the necessary details for the 5K race for 2026.

Board Member Rittle explained that the 5K race originally planned for October/early November has been pushed to the first quarter of 2026. He inquired about the status of the dog park, which was the original fundraising purpose for the race.

Chairman Culley clarified that the dog park project has been put on hold and will be revisited next year. Secretary Harman suggested proceeding with the 5K race and earmarking the funds for when the dog park project moves forward.

Board Member Rittle emphasized the importance of having a specific purpose for the 5K race to engage the community, suggesting the funds could be used to "improve the amenities of our parks." He proposed scheduling the race for Q4 2026, possibly between Halloween and Thanksgiving as a "turkey trot" type of event.

Chairman Culley suggested setting up a meeting with the Events Committee to develop a more detailed plan for next month's meeting. Board Member Rittle offered to provide the framework for what a 5K should look like, including logistics and administrative requirements. He mentioned the need for water stations with proper sustenance (water, pickle juice, bananas, potassium supplements) to minimize risk of injury, as well as timing gates and other necessities.

The Board agreed that the Events Committee will provide support on certain items, while the 5K Run will continue to be managed by the Parks and Recreation Board. Board Member Sietz later suggested using the funds raised to support the parking lot improvements they had discussed earlier. It was also recommended to include a "doggy walk" as part of the event.

The Board agreed to form a special committee specifically for the race and to reach out to Chief Lutz, who has experience organizing races and could provide valuable information.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion regarding park needs and steps to implement necessary improvements.

i. Shelley Park

Board Member Sietz discussed the lower pavilion at Shelley Park, noting that it is underutilized because of poor accessibility. He explained that visitors currently must walk approximately a quarter of a mile from the parking lot to reach it. Board Member Sietz proposed creating a stone road from the upper parking lot (by the ball field near the elementary school) down to the pavilion, along with handicap-accessible parking adjacent to the pavilion and additional stone parking across the walking path in a large field area.

The Board discussed that the pavilion is rarely rented and is primarily used as overflow when the upper pavilion is reserved. Board Member Sietz emphasized that both pavilions are equally nice, with the lower one potentially better for older children due to its playground.

Manager Schwartz explained that there are currently no placeholders in the budget for park improvements for the coming year. He suggested the Board compile a list of desired improvements with cost estimates for the next meeting, which could then be presented to the Board of Supervisors for budget consideration. Manager Schwartz differentiated between small expenditures that could be included in the operating budget (picnic tables, waste receptacles, light replacements) versus capital expenditures that would require planning and engineering (new parking lots, permanent bathrooms).

Secretary Harman emphasized the importance of budgeting and generating income to support improvement projects. Manager Schwartz suggested allocating approximately \$15,000 for park improvements that would allow the Board to make smaller improvements throughout the year.

ii. Terry Dolan Park

Board Member Sietz mentioned that installing lights at Terry Dolan Park similar to those at Shelley Park could help minimize vandalism. He noted there is already a telephone pole and electricity at the pavilion that might be utilized. The Board acknowledged this might be part of future Grant-funded improvements.

iii. White Oak Park

Board Member Sietz raised concerns about the "No Dogs Allowed" signs at White Oak Park, which he described as a small park (approximately 2.5 acres) with only a basketball court. He suggested removing the signs and installing dog waste bag dispensers to make the park more dog-friendly for the surrounding development.

The Board discussed the practicality of maintaining waste bag dispensers and who would be responsible for refilling them. Chairman Culley suggested investigating the reason behind the existing signs before making any changes, as there might be valid concerns that led to the prohibition.

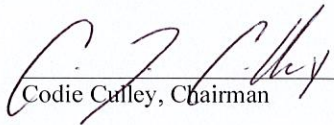
Volunteer Day – Shelley Park

Chairman Culley announced that the volunteer day is scheduled for Saturday, October 25th at 9:00 am at Shelley Park. He explained that the Parks and Recreation Committee, Events Committee and residents had secured 40 trees for the park, which were picked up during the week. Volunteers will meet to plant these trees, which are approximately 3-4 feet tall and relatively easy to plant. He noted that the trees came with protective sleeves to prevent deer damage. Chairman Culley encouraged additional volunteers to join the effort.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Secretary Harman to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Board Member Rittle. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,


Codie Culley, Chairman

