

**West Manchester Township  
Recreation Advisory Committee Minutes  
Wednesday, October 15, 2025**

**Members Present:** Jenn Bennett, Tom Wolfgang, Dylan Smith, Lisa Krout, Tim Young

**Delegates Present:** Jeff Ludwig, Roy Gentzler

**School Board Liaison:** Jeanne Herman

**Lions Representative:** Denise Drais

**Parks & Rec Staff:** Kelsey Paul, Connor Gerrick

**Guest:** Debbie Manning

The meeting was called to order by Jenn at 6:00 at the West Manchester Township Building.  
Tom Wolfgang made a motion to approve August 20, 2025, minutes. Tim offered a second to the motion.

**Unfinished Business:**

**Reports:**

- A. School Board Liaison's Report - Jeanne Herman gave us an October/November handout with dates of upcoming WY dates of board meetings, early dismissals, and fall Play at the High School. She discussed the Stadium Project. Two construction companies have bid. No vote yet. They are comparing costs/ A review in November will occur. They will start where the current softball field is.

**New Business:**

- A. Voting of Debbie Manning as a delegate on RAC for term expiring 12/31/25 - Debbie was voted onto the RAC Board.
- B. Programming:
- Walk and Talk continued into October. Staff market/organize the meeting spots and community members meet there. Staff are looking into new programming ideas for the Winter 2026. Thanks Tom for helping with this project. People are loving it!
  - Programs that were held: Stained Glass Art Workshop (Nov/Dec), Story Songs and More, Intro to Pickleball, Senior Strength Series, AARP, Woodcarving.
- C. Events:
- Truck Touch was held on Saturday, 10/4/25. It was great weather & good attendance from many families in our community! Roy announced that the Fire Department raised \$882 towards the fallen firefighters' program. Lisa mentioned comments she heard about strollers being turned over by the wind when Stat Medevac landed. Additional precautions will be taken in the future. Additional vendors will be asked to utilize the grass areas in the future.
  - Staff are prepping for the Murder Mystery dinner on 11/8/25. 195 tickets being sold. Only have about 10 tickets left.
- D. Professional Development:
- Kelsey serves on the Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society (PRPS) Board of Directors and attended a two-day fall retreat 9/11/25 - 9/12/25 in State College, PA.
  - Kelsey attended the We Conserve PA Greenways and Trails Summit on 9/21 9/23 in Harrisburg, PA.
- E. Other:
- The department will be allowing WYSD varsity girls' softball team to utilize Derry Park during the Spring 2026 season (games: March 12 – May 4). No modifications will be needed to the field, other than WYSD to install a temporary fence in the outfield, bring a port-o-john, and rope off/ paint parking spots. All maintenance would be completed by WYSD. All RAC board members were in agreement to allow this (when proposed to use Sunset).
  - Staff will be working on Chimney Swifts are insectivorous birds that play a vital role in controlling mosquito and other pest populations. Once abundant in natural hollow trees, these birds have adapted to using chimneys for nesting and roosting. However, with the decline of open chimneys and large hollow trees due to modern Chimney Swift birds, to help stabilize and potentially increase local populations. The January, February, and March edition of the township newsletter. It will be coming in house and expected to be in residents'

mailboxes around the beginning of December.

- Staff have created a Sponsorship and Advertising Opportunities packet and a Memorial Bench/Tree Planting donation information page on the WMT website.
- Staff have implemented an archery hunting application/permit process for Little Conewago Creek.

**F. Community Engagement:**

- Staff attended the back-to-school night at Wallace Elementary on 8/25/25 & got to promote the department offerings and facilities to a few hundred residents. Staff distributed parks and recreation t-shirts and candy, which was a huge hit!
- Kelsey, volunteered at the United Way's Day of Caring on 9/19/25 with a few other admin staff. Staff helped move and rebuild shelving units and clean out the former museum building at the York County History Center.

**G. Environmental Education & Outreach:**

- Staff have been working with the PA Game Commission on conservation efforts. Staff have built and will be installing a Chimney Swift Tower at Little Conewago Creek, with educational signage. This tower will provide essential nesting and roosting habitat for Chimney Swift birds, to help stabilize and potentially increase local populations. Chimney Swifts are insectivorous birds, that play a vital role in controlling mosquito and other pest populations. Once abundant in natural hollow trees, these birds have adapted to using chimneys for nesting and roosting. However, with the decline of open chimneys and large hollow trees due to modern building practices and deforestation, Chimney Swifts are facing a significant habitat crisis. Their population has declined by more than 65% in the past 50 years, and they are currently listed as a species of concern in many states.
- Staff have been working with a representative from the Blue Bird Society of PA to install blue bird boxes at Dunedin Park & Little Conewago Creek in Spring 2026. We would place them around the path and make it an official blue bird trail in our township.

**Old Business:**

- A. Staff have planned the fall calendar of events/recreation programs (Sept-Dec). Staff have added some new programs based on the needs assessment from our department survey. Staff have also partnered with some local businesses/organizations to mutually benefit resources, community engagement and visibility, program enhancement, and long-term community impact.
- B. Staff are planning the department's 2026 budget.
- C. Sunset Lane Park – fenced off area that is a safety concern.

**Open Floor Discussion:**

- A. Ideas for winter programming? Christmas Light Tour (Vote for favorites & prizes), Trivia/Show, movie night, March Bingo, Prince & Princess Party, Oxymoron Trivia/Show, suggestion for different show, Mystery Scavenger Hunts, grow vegetables in containers, cooking Classes (Penn State Master Gardeners), Janeen Hershey Paint & Sip, Cornhole Competition, Craft Nights, 250<sup>th</sup> Next Year – Lisa will email Kelsey Jim McClure's Contact Info., Have Snow Dates for winter activities.
- B. Engaging RAC members in community events. Brainstorm any ideas for Winter/Spring events that the group can volunteer at and promote the department and what the board does. Possible thought to an Earth Day Fest of Spring clean-up day.
- C. Next BOS Meeting – Thursday, October 23, 2025 @ 7:00 PM
- D. Next RAC Meeting – Wednesday, December 17, 2025 @ 6:00 PM – Suggested restaurant Ideas. Staff will check them out and pick a location.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa Krout, Secretary