



Parks Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 4, 2012 - 7:30 p.m.

Municipal Building Meeting Room C

Attended by: Board members Hugh Beal, David Franklin, Susana Montoya, Bruce Parry and John Vogel. Also present were Commissioner Kelly Fraasch and Director of Recreation, David Donnellan.

Absent: Board Members Patrick Eberz and Bill Moorhead.

I. Approval of the August 7, 2012 Minutes

The minutes were approved as submitted.

II. Citizen Comments

There were no citizen comments.

III. Recreation Capital Improvements

David Donnellan reported that the Commission introduced an ordinance on August 24 regarding amending the budget for various recreation capital projects, and that there would be a public hearing on September 11, and a vote on the ordinance on September 24.

Donnellan reported that the Commission also approved beginning the process to borrow up to \$5.5 million for recreation improvements, and to begin the process to create an ad hoc committee to raise funds to install an eco-friendly turf field on an athletic field in Mt. Lebanon.

Regarding proposed improvements to parking, there was concern among the board regarding loss of green space, and an incremental approach was suggested.

The Parks Advisory Board made the following recommendation on parking:

"The board favors a plan that extends or develops the lot by Wildcat field, and does not develop something that isn't currently a parking lot."

IV. Approved Park Improvement Projects to Church Place, Iroquois and Rockwood

David Donnellan reported that the projects were moving forward, play equipment was ordered for Church Place and Iroquois, but no installation date was set yet.

V. Funding Sources for Park Improvements (Susanna Montoya)

Susana Montoya suggested that the municipality should pursue grant opportunities for unfunded park projects, particularly the stream restoration project in Bird Park and the arboretum project.

VI. Validity of Park Master Plan (Kelly Fraasch)

Pros and cons of updating the plan were discussed, but no clear consensus was reached. This was deemed a work in progress. Commissioner Fraasch shared her concern that some residents viewing the Master plan on the municipal website may misinterpret the plan as a guarantee that the parks would be improved as per the plan recommendations. A note of clarification on the website was suggested.

Discussions on the Parks Master Plan and park improvements led to a discussion on the role of the Parks Advisory Board, and whether it should be concerned with recreation issues and other recreation facility improvements.

VII. Process for Park Upgrades (Kelly Fraasch)

A process whereby a minimum amount of private fundraising would be required before a park project was recommended was discussed. The consensus was that the Parks Advisory Board has recognized private fundraising when prioritizing projects, but will continue to look at all factors including existing conditions, availability of funds and level of interest in the project from the neighborhood.

VIII. New Business

Commissioner Fraasch will do a presentation on a potential recreation bond issue at the next board meeting.

IX. Announcements

A. Reminder: Park Inspection Reports Due Next Month

B. Commissioner Fraasch announced there would be a volunteer cleanup effort in Main Park on Saturday, September 29 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

C. It was announced that the Centennial Parade would be held on Saturday, September 8 at 3:00 p.m.

D. Commissioner Fraasch shared a Parking Board recommendation to grass over the upper parking lot at Rockwood Park.

X. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:53 p.m.