



Parks Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

**Tuesday, March 5, 2013 - 7:30 p.m.
Municipal Building Meeting Room C**

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

I. Approval of the February 5, 2013 Minutes

The minutes were approved as submitted.

II. Citizen Comments

Laura Wilcox of Sleepy Hollow Road stated she is in favor of considering permission of dogs in all parks as opposed to singling out Williamsburg Park, otherwise it may cause Williamsburg to become a destination for dogs.

Neil O'Brian of Bridgewater Drive stated he was concerned about dog waste, and that if dogs were permitted in one park, they should be permitted in all parks. He indicated he also had concerns about people from other communities bringing their dogs to the park.

Jeff Rogers of Bridgewater stated that the 'No Dogs' sign is not enforced, dog waste is everywhere and people are not being responsible with their dogs, and that the dogs pose a risk to others.

Virginia Rogers indicated her agreement with Ms. Wilcox, and stated dogs run loose in Williamsburg Park, and that pet waste is not cleaned up.

Jonathan Farrel of Fieldbrook Drive, in conjunction with the Nature Conservancy reported on trail mapping activities in Bird, Sunset Hills and Robb Hollow Parks. He stated their efforts include inventorying existing features and identifying areas for improvement and connectivity between parks. He said he is sharing his data with the municipal GIS department. He also stated he would like to see signage to identify the trails and would like to see routine maintenance implemented, and he thought that significant trail enhancements could be implemented for a relatively small investment. He indicated he would like to see the trail improvements incorporated into the Natural Areas Study. He suggested volunteers could work with Public Works' crews to facilitate some of the maintenance and improvements. Kelly Fraasch suggested that the board consider this in future discussions for park improvements.

III. Feasibility of Tree Removal in Main Park for Sledding Safety

David Donnellan reported that the tree is a large, mature tree, and located in an area with underground utilities and that transplanting it is not practical. He stated that the tree could be cut down and the stump grinded, but the administration does not support removing a healthy tree from the park. No further action was taken on this topic.

IV. Review and Prioritization of Park Improvement Projects

Mr. Donnellan distributed a list of outstanding projects from the CIP and the Parks Master Plan, as well as other projects that have been discussed recently. He stated the board could use the list to develop a recommendation for prioritization of park improvements in the Capital Improvement Program.

Ms. Fraasch stated the Commission is interested in lighting improvements in the parks to curb criminal activity.

Susanna Montoya expressed concerns regarding maintenance in various parks. She felt there needed to be more of a commitment to passive park improvements including the Natural Areas Study.

The consensus was to put together two lists of improvements at the next meeting: one for capital projects and one for smaller projects.

V. Recreation Bond Issue Update

Mr. Donnellan reported that the engineer and staff are developing specifications for the improvement to holes 4 and 5 at the golf course with the intent to go out for bids in May and start construction in September.

He also announced that the architect is scheduled to present a concept plan for the swimming pool renovation to the Commission and get public input on March 25.

VI. Robb Hollow Project Options

Ms. Fraasch indicated that the Commission continues to work with DCNR on our options. She indicated that the property adjacent to the park is still for sale, and that a scout troop is working on improvements to the fire circle. She also stated Public Works will work on a steep section of trail in the park in the spring.

VII. Sports Advisory Board

Mr. Donnellan reported that Dave Franklin was appointed as the Parks Advisory Board representative to the Sports Advisory Board. The initial meetings for the SAB are scheduled for March 26 and April 4 from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. in Room D of the Municipal Building.

VIII. Commission Request to Review Rules and Regulations Concerning Domesticated Animals in Parks.

Mr. Donnellan reported that the Commission did not act on the recommendation from the board to permit dogs in Williamsburg Park, and that the Commission asked that the Parks Advisory Board review their recommendation, as well as consider the issue of dogs in municipal parks generally.

The Parks Advisory Board discussed rules and regulations concerning domesticated animals in parks as requested by the Commission. The board deliberated on the various concerns such as enforcement, safety and pet waste. Commissioner Fraasch advised the board that there was not support on the Commission to make the exception for Williamsburg Park and permit dogs, and upon review, the board did not recommend any changes to the existing code as it now stands.

IX. Park Inspection Reports for 2013

It was agreed that the parks would be inspected by board members and reported back to the group in April, July, and October. Park assignments are as follows:

Bird – Susana Montoya
Williamsburg- Bruce Parry
Country Club- Bruce Parry
Sunset Hills- Bruce Parry
Highland Terrace- Patrick Eberz
Meadowcroft- Susana Montoya
Iroquois- Patrick Eberz
Mt. Lebanon (Main) – Kelly Fraasch
Rockwood- Kelly Fraasch
McNeilly- John Vogel
Rob Hollow- Bill Moorhead
Church Place- Dave Franklin
Twin Hills Trails- Hugh Beal

An inspection sheet and instructions will be distributed to the board for park inspections. Electronic submission of the reports is encouraged.

X. New Business

There was no new business.

XI. Announcements

There were no announcements.

XII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.