



Parks Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 11, 2013 - 7:30 p.m.

Municipal Building Room C

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Susana Montoya called the meeting to order.

Recreation Director David Donnellan called the roll. The meeting was attended by Board members, Hugh Beal, Dave Franklin, Wayne Jones, Susana Montoya, and Bruce Parry. The meeting was also attended by Commissioner Kelly Fraasch and Recreation Director David Donnellan.

Carrie Beck and John Vogel were not present.

II. Citizen Comments

There were no citizen comments.

III. Approval of the September 3, 2013 Minutes

The minutes were approved as submitted.

IV. Invasive Species Management Report from Debbie Larson of the Mt. Lebanon Nature Conservancy

Ms. Larson updated the board on the history and efforts of Mt. Lebanon Nature Conservancy's Invasives Task Force. She said the task force was established in 2010, in response to concerns regarding invasive vegetation encroaching on Bird Park, and damaging native plants. Public Works Director Tom Kelly gave approval for the Conservancy to work in the park and attack the invasives manually. Public Works provided bags and gloves to the volunteers.

The Commission allocated \$5,000 to the budget for vegetation management. This allowed for a contractor to apply herbicides, while the task force continued to perform manual removal of invasives. The task force focused on removal of English ivy, bittersweet, knotweed, tree of heaven, garlic mustard, and grapevine.

The conservancy has also been planting native trees in Bird, Twin Hills and Robb Hollow parks.

The conservancy is removing knotweed in other municipal parks, including Twin Hills, Robb Hollow, Williamsburg, and McNeilly. The Taskforce meets once a month to work in Bird Park and would like to do the same in Twin Hills Park. They will continue to seek \$5,000 in annual funding from the commission.

Ms. Larson will be updating the Commission on November 12, 2013.

V. Trail Mapping Update from Jonathan Farrell

Mr. Farrell distributed draft maps from his trail mapping project to the board. Mr. Farrell asked the board to submit any requests for modifications to the maps to him.

Mr. Farrell said he created a GPS database with over 100 infrastructure and invasive vegetation points. The points include above-ground features such as manholes and survey pins. He said this database should be useful for the municipality, the board, and the conservancy when doing site assessments, planning, locating utilities, and identifying dense vegetation infestations.

Ms. Montoya suggested providing and posting a trail map in each park for park visitors.

Mr. Farrell recommended contacting DCNR for possible grant money for addressing invasive species in Bird Park.

VI. Sunset Hills Park Project Update

Mr. Donnellan reported that the single bid received for the Brafferton Park Project was well over the budgeted amount. He said the Commission formally rejected the bids on October 28. He stated that the Sports Advisory Board recommended the remaining funds be put toward a turf project at Wildcat and Middle Fields.

VII. Park Inspection Reports

Ms. Montoya reminded the board that the final park inspection reports were due in October. She asked the board to complete their inspections if they haven't done them.

VIII. New Business

A. PAB Report to Commission on Priority Projects

Mrs. Montoya reported that after the September Parks Advisory Board Meeting, she and Mr. Beal spoke to the Commission about the recommendations made by the board for capital and smaller park projects. It was suggested that project priorities be reconsidered.

Project lists were reviewed, and several suggestions were made regarding revisions.

B. Space issues at Robb Hollow Park/Cedar Blvd (Hugh Beal)

The Public Works Master Plan and other proposed improvements to Robb Hollow Park were discussed. For clarification, Mr. Donnellan pointed out that the Public Works

Master Plan is supervised by the Public Works Director, and that maintenance of the parks is a function of Public Works. Mr. Donnellan announced that the consultant on the master plan will review their preliminary recommendations with the Commission on November 12 at 6:30 p.m.

C. Update on the work to be done at the pool (Hugh Beal)

Mr. Parry suggested that the Parks Advisory Board advise not only on matters related to parks, but also for recreation facilities. He expressed concern that the swimming pool renovation project was over budget.

Mr. Donnellan indicated the swim center cost estimates were approximately 10% higher than originally estimated in 2012, and that the project was higher than budgeted because of that 10% increase, and several alternates that were selected and approved by the Commission. Mr. Donnellan indicated the total project cost, including design, was estimated to be \$4.1 million at this time.

IX. Announcements

A. Historic Preservation Board National Register Designation Meeting- December 5 at 6:00 p.m. Room C, Municipal Building

Mr. Donnellan announced the meeting.

B. Ms. Fraasch announced that no community members were in attendance at the first budget review meeting. She encouraged the public to attend upcoming budget review meetings on Thursday, November 14 and Monday, November 18 at the Municipal Building. She also announced that there would be a hearing on the budget on December 10.

X. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.