

Meeting Minutes

May 6, 2014

7:30 PM

Conference Room C

Mt. Lebanon Municipal Building

Parks Advisory Board

Attendees:

Wayne Jones
Jonathan Farrell
Hugh Beal
David Franklin
Bruce Parry
Rudy Sukal, Staff Liaison
Steven Silverman, Commission Liaison

Absent:

David Franklin
Megan Zadecky
Carrie Beck
Tom Kelley, Staff Liaison

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairperson Beal.

Citizens Comment:

Regis McDonough, 1118 Cedar Blvd – Gave information about storm water drainage, on field across from his house. Park storm water crossed Cedar Blvd and dumps in the creek behind his house and travel down to Lindendale. His point is that if ball fields are carpeted, it's he's believe that rainwater will be added to that system.

Last fall the Federal Emergency Management Association changed mapping of flood zone in this borough and made house behind creek a flood zone. His concern is that even with a little extra rain water flooding can occur.

Says that the engineer or architect, that he spoke with at meeting, mentioned that they based their water drainage on a two year storm. In the last 17 years we have had two or three 100 year storms. He is asking Parks Advisory Board to recommend to commissioner that this is not a good thing for neighbors. He feels they should use worst case scenario rather than an average.

Regis thinks that the Parks Advisory Board should get more involved with this issue and Hugh agreed to continue with the discussion under the "new business" portion of the meeting.

Kimberly Schevtchuk, 519 Lyndhurst Avenue – She encourages the Parks Advisory Board to join in the discussion about the fields. She handed out information about some of the health concerns, especially for children. She feels that the health impact is horrific.

She believes that the Parks Advisory Board should “step in” and get involved because when field presentation was formally made they never addressed health and environmental issues and she believes the Parks Advisory Board represents the community.

She says there is scientific data confirming the health risks and asks that the board step in and people are welcomed to call her for any information.

Charlotte Stephenson, 110 Crescent Drive – she understand that the field issue recently came up on the Parks Advisory Board’s agenda and she is frustrated that board wasn’t included with decision making and wants to know what is expected from Parks Advisory Board.

She discussed her health and has concerns with the effects the field could have on her. Wants to know where her rights are?

Hugh promises to discuss after citizen comments.

New Business:

Hugh suggested that board discusses the field at this time. He has been approached by members of the Nature Conservancy and ESB ask what the Parks Board will do or should do about this project. His response was that the Park Board has oversight of the Parks and that was a field project and under the Sports Advisory Board. Their response was the impact of that project will impact the non-field component of the Main Park. Because of the impact on the heat island and potential run off down water shed to Robb Hollow he asked the board if they should get guidance from the commission liaison and get involved.

It was determined that they would try to take a stand to make a statement (draft below) to the commission.

“The Parks Advisory Board is writing the commissioners to express concerns related to the pending field-turf project being pursued by Mt. Lebanon on Cedar Boulevard. Although athletic fields are not strictly under the purview of the Parks Advisory Board, we are concerned about potential negative impacts of this project on nearby parks and recreation areas, and the nuisances presented to adjacent recreational open space. These concerns have also been voiced by citizens who have presented at PAB and Commission meetings.

Specifically, the PAB is concerned about:

1. The use of crumb-rubber infill, which contains hazardous materials, including heavy metals such as lead, zinc and chromium. In addition, gases that are emitted by the decomposing rubber infill are known to aggravate respiratory diseases such as asthma and COPD. This will prevent vulnerable residents from accessing these fields and nearby park space.

2. The potential to increase storm water runoff due to the impervious cover used in the construction of this field. The resulting storm water may overwhelm the downstream Robb Hollow Park area and exacerbate Cedar Boulevard flooding events, further disturbing Cedar Boulevard residents. In addition, this storm water may carry with it the infill (and hazardous materials) and biocides/chemicals used to maintain the fields.

3. Artificial-turf fields are known heat islands, which may have spillover effects on other adjacent park and recreational areas, including the tennis facility and swimming pool area.

Therefore, the PAB advises that:

1. The municipality should request that entities bidding on this project be asked to address these concerns directly.

2. The municipality should reconsider the use of crumb-rubber infill and ensure that the fields will not exacerbate storm water problems in the Robb Hollow watershed area.”

Bruce Parry made a motion to approve the submission of the statement to the commissioners which was seconded by Wayne Jones and unanimously approved.

Approval of May 6, 2014 Meeting Minutes: Member of the Parks Advisory Board reviewed the May 6, 2014 meeting minutes and Hugh Beal made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted which was seconded by Wayne Jones and unanimously approved.

2013 Budget Actuals: Referred to orientation package that Hugh passed out last meeting. The three budgetary areas that affect the parks are field maintenance, planting areas and forestry. Hugh questioned Rudy about drop in park maintenance budget numbers. Rudy clarified that he wanted to know why did we spent so much less in 2013 after 2012 larger expense number. Rudy said he will get answer for June meeting.

Passive Park Sign Update: Suzanna Montoya produced a summary because she wants to integrate the municipal into this effort. She wants to share everything that is done with the municipality. Mr. Feller should be in receipt of summary and he will provide someone with design experience so they can provide input into the signage.

The first sign is being built by an eagle scout. Depending how much money is raised, Café Io is doing fund raiser also.

Bruce Parry made a motion to approve the submission of the summary which was seconded by Jonathan Farrell and unanimously approved.

Park Inspection Report for Robb Hollow: Wayne Jones thinks that Robb Hollow can be a destination spot. Hopes that public works can address cleaning up as soon as possible.

Invasive Species Discussion: Jonathan Farrell did a brief presentation.

Recycling Containers: Tom is doing research for a less expensive option.

Announcements: Tom pursuing ALCOSAN project near Cedar.

Adjournment: Bruce Parry made a motion for adjournment which was seconded by Wayne Jones and unanimously approved. The next meeting will be held on June 3, 2014. The meeting was adjourned at 9:37 p.m.