

Meeting Minutes
September 2, 2014
7:30 PM
Conference Room C
Mt. Lebanon Municipal Building

Parks Advisory Board

Attendees:

Megan Zadecky
Jonathan Farrell
Carrie Beck
David Franklin
Hugh Beal
Steven Silverman, Commission Liaison
Tom Kelley, Staff Liaison

Absent:

Wayne Jones
Bruce Parry

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

Citizens Comment: Although there were citizens present at the meeting, no comments were made.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: The previous meeting on August 5th was cancelled so no meeting minutes were available.

Flower Bed Enhancement-Discussion and Recommendation Committee and Gateway:

In early August members of the Flower Bed Planting Committee met with representatives from the municipality and Gateway Engineering to discuss a strategy to redesign fifteen of the most prominent flower beds within Mt. Lebanon. Nicole Oeler, Landscape Architect and Patrick M. Lydon of Gateway Engineering met with members of the committee on site and prepared designs, and selected plants for the fifteen flower beds. In late August the committee reconvened at the municipal building and Nicole presented the group with cost estimates, designs and a list of plants for installation at all fifteen beds. At the Parks Advisory Board Meeting on September 2nd, Nicole and Patrick presented the plan and other documents that the planting bed committee had approved in late August. The plans and documents presented to the Parks Advisory Board are attached to these minutes. The 2015 Operating Budget request contains a service level requesting funding for the installation of the new planting beds, and subsequent budgets will contain a service level to provide an enhanced maintenance service at the fifteen beds. The motion made and approved by the board is listed below.

Invasive Species Discussion and Recommendation:

For the past three years the Mt. Lebanon Nature Conservancy has worked with the municipality to eliminate invasive plant species at Bird Park and Twin Hills Park. The municipality has provided \$5,000 per year for herbicide applications and the volunteers from the conservancy have put in the hard labor of cutting and removing invasive plants. Tom Schevtchuk of the Mt. Lebanon Nature Conservancy presented the board with a program prospectus and provided an overview of the Conservancy invasive control program for 2015 and 2016. The Conservancy is seeking \$42,000 from the remaining 2013 Unassigned Municipal Capital Fund balance. These funds will be used to undertake large control projects at Twin Hills Park and Bird Park. Mr. Schevtchuk indicated that the Conservancy would be looking for outside grant funding from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and private foundations. Approximately \$26,000 of the re-appropriated funding would be used to treat and remove invasive plants and the balance would be used for replanting. This project is the number one priority of the Nature Conservancy. The Environmental Sustainability Board and the Parks Advisory Board. The motion to support the Conservancy's efforts is listed below:

Parks Summit Conclusions – Chairman Beal discussed the meeting between members of the Environmental Sustainability Board, Parks Advisory Board and the Mt. Lebanon Nature Conservancy that was held earlier this summer. Members in attendance agreed that resources and material should be appropriated to combat invasives, reestablish forestry within passive parks, improve the ecology of streams within the municipality, develop bike paths, provide foot bridges within the passive parks, encourage additional planting of trees and noninvasive species within the passive parks, view the passive areas as assets and embrace and promote passive areas throughout the municipality, and to develop an active management structure to do more work in the parks. It was suggested that an urban forester position be created and filled to address these tasks.

Bird Park play equipment – in June the wooden play structures were removed from the lower portion of Bird Park. These structures were deteriorated and presented a safety hazard. The commission requested the public work's director to obtain pricing to replace the existing structures and to also consider installing outdoor fitness equipment adjacent to the play equipment. Price quotes for the play and exercise equipment were received from Game Time, a Pennsylvania Costar's vendor. Copies of the equipment cut sheets and pricing was distributed to the Parks Advisory Board members. After a brief discussion, with input from members of the Nature Conservancy, it was decided to table the playground and exercise equipment. Members of the Conservancy feel that this open area should not be used for a playground. This is a passive park and the Main Park which has an abundance of playground equipment is relatively close to Bird Park.

New Business:

Parks Naming Policy-Several years ago the municipality prepared a draft policy for naming assets, for example fields, within municipal parks. The commission and manager would like the Parks Advisory Board and the Sports Advisory Board to review the policy draft and return their

comments and recommendations to the manager in October. The policy draft will be distributed to the members of the Parks Advisory Board and an agenda item for the review and recommendation will be placed on the October Parks Advisory Board agenda.

Acquire property at Williamsburg Park – Ron Block of the Nature Conservancy presented the board with a map listing delinquent tax properties abutted Williamsburg Park. Ron will obtain additional information and report back to the board at a future meeting. The intent would be to have the municipality purchase the property, if it is for sale, and add it on to Williamsburg Park.

Motions of the Parks Advisory Board-September-September 2nd 2014

Mt. Lebanon Nature Conservancy Expanded Invasives Control Program: The parks Advisory Board supports the use of unassigned fund balance to expand the treatment and removal of invasive plant species as outlined in a program prospectus prepared by The Mt. Lebanon Nature Conservancy as set out in the attachment and presented to the Parks Advisory Board on September 2nd 2014. So moved David Franklin, seconded Megan Zadecky, and unanimously approved the members of the Board.

Background:

The Nature Conservancy is seeking an appropriation of up to \$42,000 of the remaining FY 2013 Unassigned Capital Funds for the implementation of two large specific invasive species control projects, one in Twin Hills Park and one in Bird Park is requested. Pending completion of a Work Plan, the proposed project areas are were shown on maps provided by the Conservancy. They include approximately 6.5 acres in Bird Park along Washing Road and Beadling Road (Figure 1); and 9.0 acres in the eastern half of Twin Hills Park (figure 2). In Bird Park the focus would be on areas around the soccer field. In Twin Hills, this would be areas overgrown with bush honeysuckle. The projects would include the removal or chipping of the debris to prevent fire hazard (bittersweet would have to be removed); reseeding the area initially with meadow grasses and wildflowers to stabilize the soil and lessen the chance of new invasives moving in; replanting with native trees, staked and fenced; monitoring and follow-up treatments in future years to watch for invasive return. Ideally these would be done over two years (2015 and 2016) if possible.

Flower Bed Enhancements: The Parks Advisory Board strongly recommends that the Commission considers the plans, drawings and maintenance specifications prepared and presented by the Resident Flower Bed Committee* and Gateway Engineers, as set out in the attachments and presented to the PAB on September 2nd 2014. So moved Davis Franklin, seconded Carried Beck, and unanimously approved the members of the Board.

Background:

Flower Bed Enhancements: Over the past two months representatives from The Gateway Engineers have been working with the Flower Bed Committee* to develop plans and drawings to enhance the fifteen most prominent municipal flower beds in the community. The Committee selected the most highly visible municipal flower beds, and

the landscape engineers from Gateway prepared the planting plans and maintenance standards required to plant and maintain perennials.

Landscape Installation of Municipal Flower Beds

Flower Beds	Opinion of Probable Cost
L101 Cedar at Beadling	\$ 3,059.00
L102 Greenhurst at Bower Hill	\$ 2,795.00
L103 Greenhurst at Cedar - South	\$ 4,117.00
L104 Greenhurst at Cedar - North	\$ 3,818.00
L105 Jefferson at Washington - Entrance	\$ 2,116.00
L106 Jefferson at Washington - Lower	\$ 2,576.00
L107 Longuevue at Washington	\$ 2,185.00
L108 Martha's Playground - Entrance	\$ -
L109 Martha's Playground	\$ 207.00
L110 Park Entrance at Washington	\$ 3,071.00
L111 Parkside at Sunset	\$ 2,254.00
L112 Standish at Washington - Bed 1	\$ 1,990.00
L113 Standish at Washington - Bed 2	\$ 1,380.00
L114 Standish at Washington - Bed 3	\$ 3,841.00
L115 Beverly at Newburn	\$ 2,438.00
Total	\$ 35,847.00

The installation costs listed above are onetime costs. Going forward an annual appropriation of \$36,000 will be required to contractually maintain the 15 enhanced beds.

*Members of the Flower Bed Committee: Barbara Logan, Kelly Fraasch, Janice Seigle, Ron Block and Nancy Smith.

Adjournment: At 9:07 p.m. David Franklin made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Jonathan Farrell. Next meeting will be held on October 7th.