



**Parks Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 3, 2015 - 7:30 p.m.
Municipal Building Room C**

I. Call to Order

Commissioner Beal called the meeting to order and called the roll. The meeting was attended by board members Hugh Beal, Carrie Beck, Jonathan Farrell, Wayne Jones, Bruce Parry and Megan Zadecky. The meeting was also attended by Commissioner Steve Silverman and Director of Recreation David Donnellan.

David Franklin was absent.

II. Citizens Comments

There were no citizen comments.

III. Approval of January 6, 2015 Minutes

The minutes were approved as submitted.

IV. Board Reorganization (Beal)

Hugh Beal was elected Chair.

Wayne Jones was elected Vice Chair.

V. Board Vacancies (Silverman)

It was noted that the board expects to have two vacancies at the end of March. Commissioner Silverman encouraged board members to provide input to the Commission into the process.

Mr. Beal asked members of the Mt. Lebanon Nature Conservancy to inquire with its membership to see if anyone was interested in serving on the board.

Mr. Beal also noted that the Parks Advisory Board liaison position to the Sports Advisory Board would be vacant. Commissioner Silverman suggested waiting until the April meeting, when new members would be appointed to the board, to nominate someone for this position.

Mr. Beal inquired about the feasibility of conducting an orientation for new board members immediately prior to the April meeting. Commissioner Silverman said this would be acceptable provided there was not a quorum of members.

VI. Status of Parks, Buildings and Grounds Coordinator (Silverman)

Mr. Beal reported that this new position is funded for 9 months in the 2015 budget, indicating the position could start April 1.

Commissioner Silverman stated this position is on hold pending the hiring of a new Public Works Director. A Public Works Director is anticipated to be selected by March 1.

Mr. Donnellan will serve as the interim liaison to the board until a new Public Works Director is hired.

VII. 2015 Parks Advisory Board Work Program (Beal)

Mr. Beal stated that he would like individual board members to focus on various board concerns. The board agreed as follows:

Wayne Jones, Robb Hollow
Jonathan Farrell, Invasive Species
Carrie Beck, Municipal Planting Beds
Megan Zadecky and Hugh Beal, Hiring Process of Parks, Buildings and
Grounds Coordinator

It was noted that \$35,000 was budgeted for the redesign of high visibility municipal planting beds this year.

VIII. Robb Hollow Improvements (Silverman/Nature Conservancy)

Commissioner Silverman summarized memorandums from Gateway and reported that the low bid to complete the house demolition was \$4,700, and that roughly \$40,000 remained in the budget for improvements to Robb Hollow. He noted that trail upgrades were estimated at \$5,000 and an additional trail connecting Robb Hollow and Bird Park was estimated at \$23,750. He asked the board to determine how they would like the Commission to utilize the remaining funds.

Mr. Beal stated that he was open to the creation of a trail along Cedar as proposed by Ron Block from the Nature Conservancy. Mr. Block said he envisioned the trail along Cedar would be more level and accessible, and would include parking spaces. He stated the delineation of public works boundaries was important to prevent encroachment.

Beautification of the land along Cedar Boulevard was suggested as important to park improvements.

Commissioner Fraasch noted that there is parking at the entrance to the public works facility off Lindendale. She also stated that the Public Works Master Plan has

beautification in that plan, and that the plan calls for the public works yard to extend beyond the salt dome. She also said the Commission still receives requests for a dog park.

Wayne Jones stated there is a lack of awareness that this is a park, and suggested some funds could be used for better signage. He also suggested moving the southern boundary to the north, to reduce the public works footprint.

Bruce Parry asked about the current status of the Public Works Master Plan. Commissioner Silverman said the current report is on the municipal website. He said the Commission will need further discussion to gain consensus on this plan.

Thomas Schevtchuk of the Nature Conservancy said he would like to see funding go towards improving the existing trails in Robb Hollow.

Pam Burrett stated that the board should delay a recommendation on Robb Hollow until the Commission decides what to do with public works.

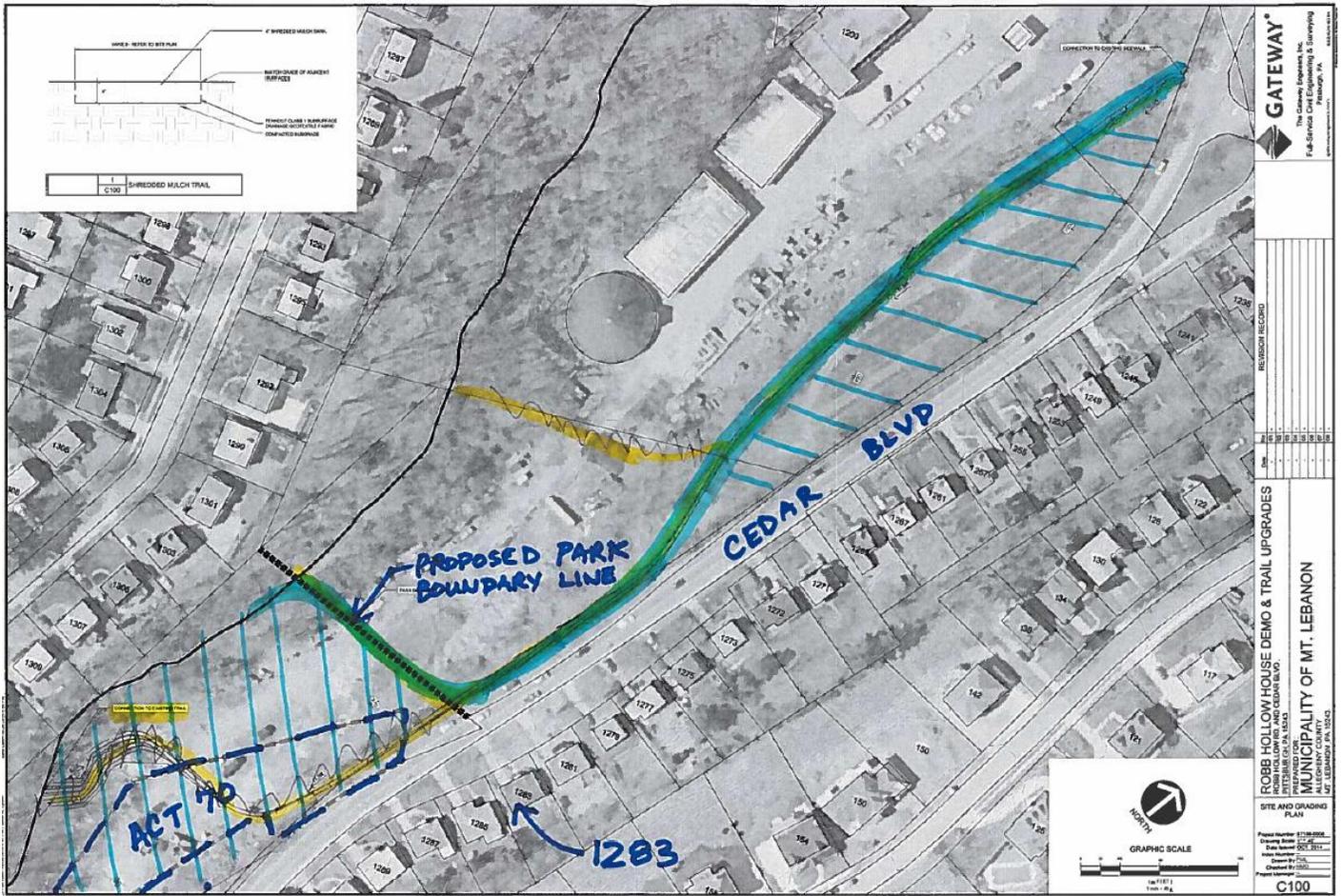
Mr. Beal stated that he believes that the board needs to make an immediate recommendation on the location of a trail, before the land is dedicated to public works.

Mr. Block suggested removing debris and grading the area along Cedar to make the area more inviting and accessible.

There was a consensus that a boundary be designated between park use and public works use, and that the area along Cedar Boulevard extending to the southern part of Robb Hollow Park be improved.

The board unanimously approved the following recommendation:

The PAB recommends the creation of a clear boundary line to preserve park space in Robb Hollow and clearly mark Public Works space. Specifically, the line to firmly establish park space should be drawn starting at the intersection of Beadling Road and Cedar Blvd., extending South through the existing nursery, then turning West at 1283 Cedar, and extending through the park. Please see the attached diagram, in which the proposed boundary is marked. (This demarcation would follow the southern-most perimeter of the proposed Public Works master plan, ending north of the parking lot included in that plan.) The PAB also recommends (1) that Public Works remove all materials and detritus (such as construction materials) from the park space; (2) that the commission obtain estimates for restoration of the area to improve recreational usage and appearance; (3) that this space - in the meantime - be returned to its natural topography to enable future park use, with the boundary line potentially becoming a trail. The PAB believes that Robb Hollow Park must first be cleaned up, then plans can be developed for future use. Any balance remaining from the funds previously allocated for Robb Hollow should be preserved for future use.



IX. New Business

Mr. Beal stated that Jonathan Farrell would review plans to control invasive species at Twin Hills and Bird Park at the next meeting.

There was no other new business.

X. Announcements

There were no announcements.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.