



MT. LEBANON
PENNSYLVANIA

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

I. Call to Order

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

Wayne Jones, Bruce Parry and Megan Zadecky were absent.

II. Citizens Comments

Mark O'Matz introduced himself as a 17 year resident of Mt. Lebanon. He thanked everyone for their work in the parks. He and his family are heavy users of the parks. He also expressed interest in the Parks Buildings and Grounds Coordinator position.

Tom Schevuk asked if the board if there was interest in a joint Parks Advisory and Conservancy work day in Twin Hills Park. The date was tentatively set for May 30, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.

Mr. Silverman announced that he would have a column about passive parks in the April edition of the magazine.

III. Approval of February 3, 2015 Minutes

The minutes were approved as submitted.

IV. Board Vacancies (Silverman/Beal)

Mr. Silverman stated the Commission had not yet received the resumes, and asked the board to urge interested citizens to apply. He also asked the board to state what skills they would like to see a member possess. He said the Commission would appoint new board members at its March 23 meeting.

Mr. Beal requested contact information for the new members.

V. Status of Public Works Director and Parks, Buildings and Grounds Coordinator Vacancies (Silverman)

Mr. Silverman reported that this was taking longer than expected. He said the director would be hired prior to hiring a coordinator.

VI. Robb Hollow

- a. Trail Location Suggestion
- b. Gateway Opinion of Cost for Open Space Development
- c. Request for Funding from ALCOSAN

Mr. Silverman said that the board's recommendation for the park was shared with the Commission. He reviewed Gateway's estimate for developing the open space near Cedar Boulevard at a cost of \$88,572.

Mr. Beal pointed out that the estimate was only for .85 acres, and the board recommended an area of about 1.5 acres.

Mr. Silverman shared a request to ALCOSAN for funding assistance for the installation of rain gardens and a trail along Cedar Boulevard which could tie into the board's recommendation for this area.

The board discussed requesting a minimal cost option for development without trees, less top soil and no fine grading. Mr. Silverman suggested waiting for a response from ALCOSAN prior to getting a revised estimate from Gateway.

Mr. Beal asked if the land south of 1283 Cedar would be preserved. Mr. Silverman stated that he believed that was the plan, but the Commission would need to vote on a final plan. Mr. Silverman will attempt to get an update on the proposal to ALCOSAN for the next meeting.

VII. Departing Member Recognition

Mr. Beal recognized Mr. Franklin's contributions to the board and thanked him for his service.

VIII. Invasive Species in Parks (Farrell)

Mr. Farrell stated that \$42,000 had been allocated for restoration in Bird and Twin Hills Parks. The Nature Conservancy is developing a proposed work plan in cooperation with Eichenlaub.

Mr. Farrell reported that in the eastern part of Bird Park, hand labor was not enough to combat invasive plants, resulting in a decline in the tree canopy and a loss of accessibility.

Mr. Farrell stated that Dan Eichenlaub could come in and present a work plan to the board at the next meeting. The Nature Conservancy will also try to attend.

Mr. Farrell said the plan focuses on Bird Park. He stated the plan included forestry mulching in dense areas. A mulcher would mulch invasives as well as dead

natives, while maintaining a relatively light footprint. He said stumps would be dabbed with an herbicide. He would recommend the area be off limits to the public and that local residents be informed in advance of the work. The area would then be seeded with a native seed mix. He said he would work with the public works director to develop the plan.

IX. New Business

a. Presentation on Municipal Planting Beds in April (Beck)

Mr. Beal confirmed that Ms. Beck will present on the locations and types of plants that are in the 2015 budget.

X. Announcements

There were no announcements.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.