



MT. LEBANON  
PENNSYLVANIA

Parks Advisory Board Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, May 5, 2015 - 7:30 p.m.  
Municipal Building Room C

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Beal called the meeting to order and David Donnellan called the roll. The meeting was attended by board members Hugh Beal, Carrie Beck, Ron Block, Jonathan Farrell, Elaine Kramer and Megan Zadecky.

The meeting was also attended by Commissioner Steven Silverman and Director of Recreation David Donnellan.

Wayne Jones was absent.

II. Citizens Comments

Joe Becker of 734 Rockwood spoke about the poor condition of the parking lot in Rockwood Park. He would like to see the parking lot replaced with grass. He said there is on street parking available as well as spaces in the bottom portion of the park. He suggested eliminating the entrance ramp to the lot if that were a cheaper option, then the lot could be used for bike riding.

Ron Block asked if the lot was used for overnight parking. Mr. Becker said that it was not.

Mr. Silverman said the Parking Board would also review this issue.

Aman Bhullar of 736 Rockwood Avenue stated that the lower portion of Rockwood Park was well maintained, but the upper parking lot was a problem. She said the surface was in poor condition, littered and was attracting unwanted visitors. She said the area lacked lighting and was not visible from the street.

III. Rockwood Park Parking Lot (Silverman)

Hugh Beal suggested that removing the parking lot would facilitate improved storm water management, and that he would support removing all paved surfaces on the portion of Rockwood Park accessible from Rockwood Avenue.

Mr. Silverman suggested there be a lower cost option in the event that this was too costly.

The condition of the basketball courts was discussed. Mr. Becker said the surface was in fair condition, the hoops were in poor condition and that the fence was too low. He indicated that the court was used.

Nicole Oeler from Gateway Engineers stated that it would be more expensive to repave the parking lot than to remove it. She said that Gateway could prepare separate estimates for removal of the ramp and removal of the parking lot.

*The board recommended that the municipality request that Gateway provide estimates for options including first, removal of the ramp, second, removal of the entire parking lot, third, adding lighting and fourth, adding a second walkway from sidewalk on Rockwood Avenue to existing sidewalk in the park, and add a curb along Rockwood Avenue.*

#### IV. Approval of April 7, 2015 Meeting Minutes

The minutes were amended to state that Elaine Kramer should be referred to as a landscape designer. The minutes were approved as amended.

#### V. Welcome New Member - Ron Block

Hugh Beal welcomed new board member, Ron Block. Ron shared that he has a Master's Degree in Landscape Design from Chatham University, and served three years on the Historic Preservation Board and also served on the Mt. Lebanon Nature Conservancy as the former President and currently is the Vice President in charge of projects.

#### VI. Robb Hollow Update (Silverman/Beal)

Mr. Silverman reported that there was not a firm date for a response regarding the funding request from ALCOSAN. He was not optimistic that the municipality would receive funding.

Mr. Silverman reported that there were three lower cost options from Gateway for greening an area south of the public works site, and that the lowest option was for \$61,548.00, which was still over budget.

Mr. Farrell asked about cost reduction options. Ms. Oeler said she would not recommend any reduction in soil depth due to concerns with the existing gravel material causing the soil to become too hot.

The footprint of the proposal was reviewed, and it was noted that the area was smaller than the area that was originally recommended by the board. Mr. Donnellan said that it was less than an acre to keep the costs down, and avoid permitting requirements. He stated that permitting can also be time consuming.

Mr. Beal stressed that the board's recommendation was to green the space south of 1283 Cedar Boulevard.

Ms. Oeler clarified that the footprint for the space used in Gateway's plan ended at the site of a previously proposed parking lot for a future dog park.

Mr. Beal stated that the proposed area was not a viable space and an additional half to one acre was needed.

Elaine Kramer said the proposed footprint amounted to roughly one half of the Act 70 land.

Mr. Beal expressed concern regarding the appearance of the area and its effect on property values. He requested that Assistant Public Works Director, Rudy Sukal, attend the next meeting.

#### VII. Municipal Plantings Presentation (Beck)

Mr. Beal stated that approximately \$35,000 was budgeted for high visibility planting beds this year. Carrie Beck reported that there were 89 areas total and 15 were approved for beautification. She distributed a handout with locations. She said the plan called for some plants that may not be deer resistant, and that alternatives are recommended. She said the plantings are scheduled for shortly after Memorial Day.

Mr. Donnellan reported that a purchase order to Littles Landscaping, of McDonald, PA, was approved. He said alternative plants could be selected with cost adjustments.

Mr. Silverman said that any proposed changes should be submitted to the Municipality.

Mr. Beal suggested that each member of the board take 2-3 beds and monitor the status. It was agreed that Mr. Beal would review the list and assign them to specific board members.

#### VIII. Invasives Update (Farrell/Beal)

Mr. Farrell reported that two additional quotes would likely be required prior to awarding the invasives work. He stated that he had provided Rudy Sukal with two other qualified contractors and did not see a problem with the work beginning as scheduled in July.

#### IX. Public Works Director/Parks Coordinator Update (Silverman)

Mr. Beal reported that there still was not a public works director or parks coordinator hired. Mr. Silverman said that the municipality was still interviewing for the public works director position, and after he or she was hired, would move on to the parks coordinator position.

#### X. Capital Projects (Silverman)

Mr. Silverman said that a prioritized list of projects would be helpful. He shared that the municipality had once again applied for a grant for accessibility improvements at North Meadowcroft Park.

#### XI. New Business

There was no new business.

#### XII. Announcements

Mr. Beal announced that he submitted a letter of support with the Meadowcroft grant application.

Mr. Beal announced that there was a Memorial Day service planned for May 25 at 7:00 p.m. at the memorial at the entrance to Mt. Lebanon Park.

Mr. Farrell reported that the park trail maps were posted to the municipal website.

Pam Burrett announced that volunteers were needed for bark chipping the trails in Twin Hills Park on May 30.

#### XIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.