



MT. LEBANON
PENNSYLVANIA

**Parks Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 4, 2018 - 6:30 p.m.
Municipal Building Room C**

I. Roll Call & Declaration of Quorum

Mr. Farrell called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM, and proceeded with the roll call. The meeting was attended by Jonathan Farrell, Elaine Kramer, Ron Block, Richard Heyse, Greg Newman, and Pam Burrett

The meeting was also attended by the Director of Public Works, Rudy Sukal, and Facilities & Parks Coordinator, Phillip Avolio.

Megan Zadecky was absent.

II. Citizen Comments

No citizens' comments to report.

III. Approval of August 2018, Meeting Minutes

Mr. Farrell asked the group to please review the August 2018 meeting minutes.

Ms. Kramer asked for a spelling correction: "Tercentennial" changed to "Tricentennial".

Mr. Block asked to add "this year" to the phrase "bringing the count up to 3 completed projects in the park" to reflect the number of projects completed in 2018.

A motion was made by Mr. Block and seconded by Ms. Kramer to approve the minutes as amended. The motion passed and the minutes were accepted.

IV. Twin Hills Invasive Update

Mr. Avolio updated the group on the Twin Hills Invasive Removal. He noted that the contractor actually completed 8 acres, which is 2 more than the original scope requested. They missed an area within the provided map, but expanded in other areas that were over-grown. He noted that the contractor worked through multiple machine malfunctions as well as stopping the machine to educate park users on the process. Mr. Avolio also noted that he would be working with the Superintendent on clearing the paths as the volume of grinding debris is making the paths difficult under-foot.

Mr. Farrell noted that he was still shooting for an October delivery from Habitat Solutions.

V. Iroquois Park

Mr. Farrell noted that the knotweed patch along the stream has now reached both sides of the stream.

Mr. Block noted that he periodically knocks that patch down, but a fall treatment would be helpful

Mr. Farrell suggested clearing out the upper part of the park towards the Galleria. He explained that it would help the useful area in the park, as well as possibly addressing the safety and visibility of the connecting area between the mall and the park.

Mr. Sukal noted that he would review the knotweed area and see if it can be returned to a regular mowing height. He suggested that the group create a comprehensive list of areas in invasive plants that they would like to see treated by a contractor through maintenance dollars.

VI. Main Park

Mr. Heyse reviewed his list that he had sent the group earlier that month.

He noted that his overall impression of the park is that its landscaping has grown together in some areas, and in others, has dwindled down to having 1 or 2 plants in it. He also noted that there are numerous trees that appear to need removed.

Mr. Sukal shared a potential plan with the group to address Pavillion #2 and the surrounding canopy. He suggested removing various trees as well as re-routing a walkway and staircase that currently is creating erosion issues. He discussed adding fill and soil to help spread the sheet flow and keep the water from directly running into the shelter

The group agreed that the Norway maple needed to be removed to improve this area.

Mr. Sukal informed the group that the tree crew will be removing the Sycamore tree that is closest to the upper playground, as well as another maple closer to the stadium that is not doing well

The group discussed reducing the amount of mulched planting beds in the park. They reviewed the possibility of planting grass in these areas to reduce maintenance and clutter around the park

Mr. Newman noted the need for consistent signage in the park.

The group also agreed that a sitting wall would make for a nice feature around Shelter #3, as well as retain the hillside. They noted that they would like to see that idea considered when the work is being planned in that area.

VII. Bird Park

Mr. Farrell noted that the new headwall and pipes that Public Works installed at the Youngwood crossing looks very well done. He mentioned that he was there during a rain event, and it seemed to be handling the flow.

Ms. Kramer noted that she felt that a majority of the trails seem to follow the grade straight down into the valley and may be constant maintenance issues, as they will tend to channel the sheet flow.

Mr. Heyse noted that the water fountain at the soccer field had very low pressure.

Mr. Sukal noted that he would have the plumber check the regulator.

Mr. Sukal also noted that the Church property that runs into the top of the park has been sold for future development.

The group noted that this should help with the surface lot drainage that currently scours the park.

Mr. Block noted that Japanese Stilt Grass is present throughout the park and should be addressed before it takes over.

VIII. Twin Hills Park

Mr. Heyse noted that he viewed several trail markers that have been broken off, and suggested repairing them with a Plexiglas system.

Mr. Heyse also suggested adding signage onto existing street poles to help identify where the various entrances to the park are.

Ms. Kramer noted that this theme should be something that the group considers on a holistic level for all parks in the Township.

IX. New Business

Mr. Farrell noted that he was introduced to Robb Mackey from the Bower Hill Community Church, through Mike Mooney at Habitat Solutions. He noted that the group would be reaching out to Rudy, as they were hoping to make trail connections, and were looking for wood chip deliveries.

X. Old Business

No Old Business was reported.

XI. Announcements:

Mr. Sukal informed the group that Ms. Zadecky has formally stepped down from the Board. He noted that the Commission would choose a new member at the next scheduled meeting. He also reflected on her comments of appreciation towards the

board, and noted that how Ms. Zadecky was grateful to see the difference the Board makes with all of the progress in the past few years.

The group asked that the minutes show their appreciation for her service and ideas throughout the years.

XII. Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Farrell and seconded by Mr. Block to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 8:26 PM.

Park Inspection & Assessment Notes:

R Heyse Notes - Main Park Visit 8-12-18

General Observations

- 1) Landscaping plantings throughout the park are overgrown. Looks like they have been added over time. Perhaps we have been overambitious and they need to be reduced and/or simplified to make it easier for grounds keeping staff to keep up with maintenance. Particularly if grounds keeping not allowed to use herbicides routinely. Existing plantings would be very difficult to maintain by hand.
- 2) There were a number of dying trees with “widow maker” branches on them. Particularly the sycamore over the playground. A priority needs to be given to removing large dead branches throughout park area.
- 3) There is the opportunity to plant a number of new trees. We should pick ones that help Arboretum effort.

Playground Area (Area south of Stadium Drive between Rec Center and Upper parking lot)

- 1) Several (3-4) trees on hill south of playground dying, rotting of internal trunk. Need to be removed and replaced.
- 2) Cherry tree next to pine (Tamarac?) on hill south of playground is crowding pine. Remove so pine not crowded.
- 3) Swings at top of hill next to upper parking lot could use a coat of paint.
- 4) Replace one of existing swings with an infant/toddler safety swing.
- 5) Maple tree adjacent to upper lot dying – Remove.
- 6) 9 x 24 concrete slab by upper lot all broken up – remove. (There are three other slabs on hill to the south. Not sure what their purpose is, but they are not in as bad of shape.)
- 7) Pine (Tamarac?) up the hill from shelter 2 has a number of dead limbs that should be removed.
- 8) Asphalt path along Shelter #2 needs maintenance.
- 9) Maple north of Shelter #2 dying. Remove / replace with new tree.
- 10) Consider putting gutters, downspouts and splashblocks on all three shelters. This will get water away from pads to stop erosion around pads and splashblocks will make sure water is pouring onto, not impacting soil.
- 11) Sycamore in upper playground area. Upper half of tree is dead likely due to playground covering /limiting root zone. (Sycamores need lots of water.) Top half of tree dead. Large dead branches over children’s play area. Tree needs to be removed or at least dead top removed. (HIGH PRIORITY ITEM.)
- 12) Bed area around play area upper wall is empty. Plantings or grass needed.

- 13) Sunscreen dispenser at lower playground is dirty and not functional. Is an eyesore. Either get sponsor to maintain, or remove.
- 14) One rubber surface at lower playground below grade. Dirt and debris accumulating on top of it. Needs to be brought up to grade level.
- 15) Music note toy made from PVC pipes has a number of tubes that have been filled with mulch by kids. Not functional. Either repair or remove.
- 16) Music xylophone toy (Farmer in the Dell) has mallets missing. Is also not functional. Repair.
- 17) Plaques/signs on stone posts along stairs from lower playground to Rec Center are missing / stolen. Replace.
- 18) Severe erosion is occurring along east wall of stairs from lower playground to Rec Center. Fill and repair.
- 19) All beds around playgrounds overgrown. Weed or remove/plant with grass.
- 20) A new tree needs to be planted along east side of stairs from lower playground to Rec Center. Stump from previous tree still there. It should be removed and a new tree planted.
- 21) Rain Garden bed by toilets is completely overgrown and weed infested. Is an eyesore, should be removed and planted with grass since not being maintained in any fashion.
- 22) There is a plywood 4x4 sheet that is covering a depression behind the toilets. Looks like it has been there some time. Fill hole, seed, and get rid of plywood. Eyesore.

Basketball court / Upper Tennis Court Area

One Note: On a beautiful Sunday (80F) at 3pm only one tennis court in use. I talked to an individual there and they said that now the new high school courts are in people prefer to use the school courts over the city courts.

- 1) Volleyball court has lots of crabgrass. Spray with Roundup or equivalent.
- 2) There is graffiti in fountain bowl next to basketball court. Remove with acetone.
- 3) Area around basketball court needs to be reseeded.
- 4) There is a beat up old trailer and a pile of steel poles between basketball and tennis courts. Eyesore. Remove. If storage needed there for some reason put a small shed in. Unregistered trailer should not just randomly be sitting in the middle of the park.
- 5) Maple next to Tennis Court 15 completely dead. Remove.

Lower Tennis Courts and Cedar Blvd Area (Hollycrest to Morgan Drive)

- 1) Place a sign identifying park facing North at corner of Hollycrest and Cedar.

- 2) Multiple areas of sidewalk from tennis courts to Hollycrest and along Cedar Blvd to Morgan Drive are exposed. Need soil fill along sidewalks and seeding. Probably several large truck loads of soil needed.
- 3) Beds along Cedar by tennis courts weedy. Need to be sprayed.
- 4) Multiple pines along Cedar Blvd infested with wood borers. Need to be removed. (Difficult to treat. So many trees infected in local area that insects just keep coming back after treatment. Not worth the effort.)
- 5) Gazebo along Cedar Blvd very dirty from rain splashing dirt up on it. Not really useable at current location. Relocate to area directly across from Rec Center near courts, or to playground area.
- 6) Bocce court water hose messy looks clumsy. Buy hose reel and mount on shed.

Warren Drive / Stadium Drive Corridor

- 1) Entrance islands and plantings weed filled. Spray.
- 2) Pine behind US flag at Veterans' Memorial dying. Remove.
- 3) Veterans Memorial very weedy. Needs to be sprayed. Landscaping simplified.
- 4) There are three or more dead / dying decorative cherry trees along Stadium Drive. Remove. Possibly replace, but soil looks poor. Not conducive for trees.
- 5) The Martha Dixon memorial is completely overgrown / weed infested. Spray weeds / remove all plants but holly bushes to make future maintenance easier. (Kind of made me sad to see what condition it is in.) This planting, along with Veterans Memorial area, should get much higher levels of maintenance attention given their subject matter and fact that they are at park entrance and seen by large number of people daily.

Baseball Field Area. (Rec Center to Cedar to Southern point of park along Cedar.)

- 1) Cut vines on hill between baseball field and pool.
- 2) Remove vines and prune young walnuts along top of sidewalk/stairs from back of Rec Center down to baseball fields at to encourage proper growth.
- 3) Prune pine trees along dirt path that connects at mid-point of stairs.
- 4) Remove or paint over graffiti on lamp base at bottom of stairs.
- 5) Buy propane storage cage for snack shop propane cylinders. Four cylinders were just sitting outside being stored along side of snack shop. Believe regulations require that quantity to be in a locked cage if in park area.
- 6) Dead tree behind turf field score board needs to be removed. Could fall and damage score board.
- 7) Warm up mound next to turf field is getting worn out. Needs new Astro turf.
- 8) The spring behind home plate on the southern most baseball field should have some sort of catch basin and pipe to nearby storm sewer put in. (I have jogged through

that path for years. Area behind home plate always muddy due to run off from spring / hill.)

- 9) Landscaping around parking lot catch basin very overgrown. Half of bushes dead, rest looks marginal. Decorative grasses also look marginal. Remove / spray all vegetation, just leave decorative rocks. Much less maintenance. Rocks needed to prevent soil from going into basin.
- 10) Put park sign along Cedar at southernmost point of park.
- 11) There is erosion between Cedar sidewalk and batting cage area where kids cut through. Fill with mid-size rip rap to stop erosion. Or even better put a gap in guardrail and put a set of steps in. Reality is kids are going to cut through the gap and cause erosion unless fence gap is fenced closed.
- 12) Several of the locust trees along Cedar next to ball field appear to be unhealthy/dying. Remove and replace with new trees.

G. Newman Park Notes:

Summary of Bird Park Site Walk Observations

- Coordinate to site drawn map (N.T.S.) and uncollated photographs
- A. Split rail fence by parking lot (Top rail) missing and to be replaced.
- B. Evidence of erosion at side stream vertical path parallel to homes. Keep natural or small bridge?
- C. Nice gravel/ asphalt path at widened section. Why port-o-john.
- D. Why asphalt/ Visitor asked by Asphalt has been used. Uncomfortable on dogs feet? TBD.
- E. Time to provide new mulch bed at upper path above split / Above creek.
- F. Add a sign for Bird Park. Near "No Parking, Private Road". If private road....who pays to maintain it? If publically maintained.....visitors should be allowed to park there....despite resident objections?
F1. Residential Stormwater spill to daylight at edge of path. Implication to park for neighborhood? Future detention ponds or bioswale on park property a possibility? Evidence of long term erosion from this neighbor.
- G. Visitor observed "Tulip Trees" or poplars at upper trail above creek parallel to foot path. Are these slated to remain as underplanting or would the township remove them due to growth potential?
- H. Creek bank stabilization....up stream of bridge. Currently clogged with logs, debris.
- I. What happened to the protected planted saplings in the field north east corner.
- J. Creek Bank stabilization at top of hill past bridge. 10-15' drop. Edge erosion is nearing timber lined edge.
- K. Recent fallen log across path by firepit.
- L. Great Signage / kiosk at main entrance.

MAIN PARK Site WALK OBSERVATIONS.

- A. Parking lot main entrance – painted metal handrails to be touched up.
- B. Signage None to speak off. Worth identifying Main park name, age, history, Interesting facts, acreage,
- C. Serpentine wall – missing stones at lower course. Replace.
- D. Lower Pavillion near toilets, Pavillion #’ x’; has significant mud sheet flow across concrete slab and wash up wooden posts. Can a bioswale or small wall be built to prevent this debris / mud build up?
- E. Repair upper asphalt pathway from parking lot. Breaking up.
- F. Upper lot swing set – paint structure and replace swings due to exposed metal sharp edges.
- G. Pin oak at upper grove behind pool; significant branch and limb loss – 36’ l.f. +-
- H. General limb trimming at grove. Many large and small dead limbs. At what point is it a liability vs. Act of God?
- I. Clean out area drain of debris near lower playground (Near location of pony rides)

Twin Hills Site Walk observations.

Similar to 2017 site walk observations.

Use of drainage pond. Can it harnessed for an activity location? Access? Biology classes?

Good kiosks.

Entrance sign at upper residential district. Mulch. muddy