



MT. LEBANON
PENNSYLVANIA

**Parks Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 8, 2019 - 6:30 p.m.
Municipal Building Room C**

I. Roll Call & Declaration of Quorum:

Mr. Farrell called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM, and proceeded with the roll call. The meeting was attended by Jonathan Farrell, Elaine Kramer, Ron Block, Richard Heyse, Pam Burrett, and Greg Newman.

The meeting was also attended by the Director of Public Works, Rudy Sukal, Facilities & Parks Coordinator, Phillip Avolio, Assistant Manager, Ian McMeans, and Alberto Jarquin & Dan Deiseroth, of Gateway Engineers.

Albert Presto and Commissioner Fraasch were absent.

II. Citizen Comments:

Ms. Stephanie Fedro-Byrom and Ms. Mindy Ranney spoke about their concerns with Main Park.

Ms. Fedro-Byrom noted that they recently visited Main Park and were disappointed with the overall condition. She noted that the park seemed very dingy and in disrepair. Ms. Fedro-Byrom also spoke about the obvious drainage issues that are present, noting that there were many muddy areas throughout the park that should not be muddy, and that a piece of play equipment had caution tape around a section of it, not making it clear if that piece was ok to use or in need of repair. She expressed that Main Park should be the crown jewel of the park system since it is centrally located, and currently it is not with its current condition.

Ms. Fedro-Byrom explained that later that day, she inquired on-line for feedback from other park users, just to see if anyone else had the same feelings on its condition.

Ms. Ranney shared her view with the board as well. She noted that she attends Main Park with a large group of other children and parents, and feels that the equipment is unappealing to the age group that it is intended for.

Ms. Ranney then spoke to the group and read multiple comments from the Facebook page where park users were expressing their views:

“It is a disaster, we walk through the park from home to school and trucks have destroyed the grounds”

“There was a major over-haul in recent memory, it is not very old”

“This is the one place USC has us beat, their playgrounds are so much better than ours”

“We were very disappointed; my nieces were asking where the playground was while they were standing in it”

“We lived in the city, and their playgrounds were much better”

“There is not really and fun or challenging equipment in our parks if you are older than 2 or 3”

“USC Parks are better and close by; we also do not have to pay for them”

“It is the park that most people see when they come for the pool, hockey rink, or tennis tournaments, it should be a jewel”

“Main Park is terrible, we like the park at the dead end of Country Club Drive”

“The lay of the land makes it hard to watch both younger and older kids at the same time”

“My kids love to go to Dormont Park and Pool”

“The see-saw was broken, but I am guessing that it will be repaired after winter”

Ms. Fedro-Byrom noted that the main issue that needs to be addressed are the broken see-saw and swings that are missing the chain and swing belts. She also shared that the park is not very accessible.

Mr. Farrell thanked both Ms. Fedro-Byrom and Ms. Ranney for voicing their concerns for the Board. He noted that they will use this feedback during their project planning discussions.

Mr. Block noted that while it is difficult to watch older and younger kids using the two playgrounds, but they are usually separated to keep space in-between the two age groups during play.

Ms. Kramer also noted that there are specific design standards that do not allow the different age groups to be right next to each other to allow safe play, as coordination and walking or running speeds differ, and could result in injuries.

Mr. Heyse noted that they are able to view the Park’s Board listed findings from their assessment visits, which includes Main Park.

Mr. Avolio spoke about the current condition of the park, including the major items that Ms. Fedro-Byrom and Ms. Ranney inquired about. He noted that the See-Saw has been noted in the October Safety Inspection, but is much more involved than changing a cracked spring out and removing the caution tape. He noted that in order to access the area that needs repaired, the poured in place rubber would need cut out and excavated down 12-14 inches to change the broken part. Once the repair is made, the rubber safety surface would then need patched. The requirements for patching the rubber required a 24 hours rain free period without any rain at a minimum of 55 degrees to properly cure. He noted that by the time the parts arrived, that window of weather was not going to happen until spring.

Mr. Avolio also noted that the swings by the Commissioners Lot have been removed as a safety precaution. He noted that the height of the top rail of the swings makes them non-compliant with today’s standards. He shared that he has been working with various playground companies to plan a replacement that would include ADA access to the Commissioners lot, as well as an adaptive swing. He also shared information on the footprint needed to correctly and safely install a swing set. He noted that the location of the swings is too small to add the appropriate fall zone distances, so they are working

towards repositioning it to comply with standards, which will require excavation due to the sloped area where it currently sit.

Ms. Fedro-Byrom and Ms. Ranney thanked the group for being so receptive and supportive. They appreciated the group engaging with them on the topics.

III. Approval of December 2018, Meeting Minutes:

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

Ms. Kramer noted three minor spelling corrections.

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

IV. Public Works Site Excess Soil: (Ian McMeans, Dan Deiseroth & Alberto

Jarquin)

Mr. McMeans started by thanking the group for their time and work that went into the new Tiered Version of site grading for the end of the Public Works Site.

Mr. McMeans reviewed the new Tiered proposal (Labeled EX-1) and Alternate Plan (Labeled EX-2). He reminded the group, that while the Commission ultimately decides where the funding comes from and if a project is funded, but he has included the estimated costs for full disclosure for the group to review. Mr. McMeans noted that the Tiered Exhibit would carry an estimated cost of \$113,630.00, while the Alternate Exhibit would cost an estimated \$68805.00.

Mr. McMeans noted that the Tiered Exhibit would remove 5400 cubic yd of fill, and smooth the rest back to the hillside behind Folkstone.

Ms. Kramer presented a rendering of the Tiered Exhibit that displayed possible nature interaction items, benches, fire pit, and treehouse or pavilion towards the top, which may be a consideration for the project.

Mr. Block noted that the site should be designed to the type of park users that would be utilizing the park. He shared that in his opinion, having different benches and layouts would be more attractive rather than a steep hill with a large flat spot on top. He noted that he believes the park will be used mostly by dog walkers and joggers, and little spots to stop and sit would be ideal.

Mr. McMeans noted that a formal recommendation by the Parks Advisory Board would be passed along to the Commission if decided on. He also asked the group their feelings on abandoning the existing tail segment that runs behind the current PW Facilities. He noted that the entrance to that trail is actually cutting through private property.

Mr. Sukal noted that with the possible addition of a trail along Cedar Blvd that will connect Bird Park to Robb Hollow, there might not really be a need to keep that trail.

Mr. Block noted that he is favor of keeping this section of trail, as it is a nice path that is in decent shape. He mentioned that he envisions people using the trail as a loop since they will have a place to park by the firing range.

Mr. Farrell asked for the groups opinions on the presented grading exhibits.

A motion was made by Ms. Kramer and a second by Mr. Farrell to support the Tiered Grading Plan Exhibit Labeled EX-1. The motion passed and the Tiered Grading EX-1 was supported.

Mr. McMeans thanked the group for their hard work and support.

V. Review of Current Budget:

Mr. Sukal reviewed the Managers Recommended Budget pertaining to the park's systems. He noted that this provides for all of the day to day maintenance supplies, repairs, utilities, as well as the next level of the Twin Hills Park Invasive Re-Treatment. He also noted that there is an allocation for ongoing invasive treatments for the various parks to combat the work that has been to date.

VI. Public Works Year End Review:

Mr. Avolio reviewed the highlighted repairs and maintenance from 2018 with the group. He provided a two page documents that captures the major repairs and maintenance tasks that were completed across the parks system.

The group asked that the document be included at a part of the meeting minutes.

Mr. Avolio noted that he would attach it to the minutes once approved at the next meeting.

VII. New Business

No New Business was reported.

VIII. Old Business

Ms. Kramer asked if the group would be interested in reviewing Park's Wayfinding at the next meeting. She noted that they would review the different types of wayfinding for the parks system, and hold an initial conversation about a possible plan to standardize all of the parks.

The group agreed to cover this item in the February Meeting.

Mr. Farrell thanked the Municipality for rushing the second order through for the Twin Hills Restoration. He noted that he was able to secure a second order that was comparable to the first one.

Ms. Kramer asked the group to think about their annual education program that is needed to maintain their arboretum level. She asked that everyone start to think about different ideas and partnerships that they could take advantage of combining with.

IX. Announcements:

The group elected a new Chair and Vice-Chair for the 2019 Parks Advisory Board. A motion was made by Mr. Farrell and a second by Ms. Burrett to appoint Ron Block to the Chair Position. The motion passed, and Mr. Block accepted the Chair Position for the 2019 term. A motion was made by Mr. Farrell and a second by Mr. Newman to appoint Elaine Kramer to the Vice-Chair Position. The motion passed, and Ms. Kramer accepted the Vice-Chair Position for the 2019 term.

X. Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Block and seconded by Ms. Kramer to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 7:43 PM.

Public Works Parks Repairs and Maintenance 2018

- Safety Inspections Completed March-October- brief site inspections during winter months for immediate safety concerns
- Shaw Completed Grooming of the Synthetic Playing Surface per their maintenance agreement- minor seam separations were repaired-PW Crews monitored high traffic areas, adding infill where needed
- All Fall Zones in Active Parks Maintained- Added additional engineered wood fiber where needed: Church Place, Country Club, Rockwood, Williamsburg, Iroquois
- Installation of swing wear mats in Williamsburg and Country Club Parks (Completed Main Park in 2017)
- PW Crews constructed end walls at the Youngwood Crossing to help aid in stream bank erosion during heavy flows
- PW Crews installed additional French drains to aid in capturing runoff from the Commissioners lot and Hillside that frequently washes debris into the Pavilion- Gravel backfill was installed at the toe of the slope adjoining the pavilion concrete pad

- Replacement of worn belt swings and chains at Williamsburg and Rockwood Parks / Worn Adaptive Swing Restraint replaced at Williamsburg
- Concrete Patching completed at Church Place Park on Staircase from street to walking patch- 3 crumbling steps were re-built
- Removal of exposed metal landscape edging at Rockwood Park- some sections begin to heave with the freeze thaw and need trimmed flush with the ground every spring
- Removal of non-compliant swing set at Main Park by Commissioners Lot – working with playground rep’s to quote replacement of the unit to comply with ADA Access and regulatory fall zone perimeter
- Replacement of large section of rope climbing netting at upper main park play area
- Twin Hills Park- Grinding and Chemical Treatment of 8 acres of Bush Honeysuckle to open canopy floor for native grasses and trees planted by volunteers
- PW Crews stripped and regraded the skinned infield at Brafferton Park to allow surface run off to drain as evenly as possible with the given slopes
- Completed fall aeration and over-seeding of Bird Park Soccer Field
- Removal of all old Wooden Light Poles in Main Park- New LED Solar units were installed on steel posts, new units were also installed in Rockwood Park (Started in 2017)
- The Parks Advisory Board participated in the Library Garden Tour, showcasing the Arboretum website to attendees in Spalding Circle and Bird Park- received over 50 attendees
- Completed contracted leaf removal in park areas- contractors removed of ground in place leaf material to ensure a healthy stand of turf for the spring, Main Park was completed 3 times throughout the fall and early winter due to the large number of oaks
- (Scheduled/Started Repairs for 2018- Weather Related Push to Spring of 2019)
 - Main Park: See-Saw Spring Replacement: Broken Spring on unit to be replaced, to avoid tripping hazard, this repair will be completed in the spring when Poured-In-Place Safety Surface Patches will set up properly

- Child / Parent Combo Swings to be Installed at Williamsburg & Iroquois Parks by PW Crews: Swing allows care-giver to interact with their child
- Main Park: Poured-In-Place Patch Work: Small Sections of the Poured-In-Place Rubber Safety Surface are in need of patching- the material can only be applied when there is a dry window of weather of at least 8 hrs, that also maintains a minimum of 50 degrees