



MT. LEBANON  
PENNSYLVANIA

**Parks Advisory Board Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, March 5, 2019 - 6:30 p.m.  
Municipal Building Room C**

**I. Roll Call & Declaration of Quorum:**

Mr. Block called the meeting to order at 6:34 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 Commissioner Kelly Fraasch, the Director of Public Works, Rudy Sukal, and Facilities & Parks Coordinator, Phillip Avolio.

Sports Advisory Board Member Chad Wertz, as well as staff liaison David Donnellan, the Director of Recreation were in attendance.

Albert Presto was absent.

**II. Citizen Comments:**

Greg Ament, a citizen of Bethel Park, informed the group that he was sitting in as an observer, as Bethel Park had just formed a Tree Commission, and was interested to see how their neighboring communities addressed similar issues as a group.

**III. Approval of February 2019, Meeting Minutes:**

Mr. Block asked the group to please review the February 2019 meeting minutes.

Ms. Kramer noted several grammar and spelling corrections, but no other changes to the context of the captured dialogue was altered.

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

**IV. SAB & PAB Project Collaboration :**

Chad Wertz and David Donnellan summarized the Sports Advisory Boards goals and work plan for 2019. He noted that a large portion of the group's time has been centered around efforts to secure funding for a feasibility study of a new recreation center and or renovation of the existing facilities.

Mr. Wertz also noted that one of the Sports Advisory Board's goals is to coordinate efforts with the Parks Advisory Board to help identify opportunities that may be created through the development of Robb Hollow and McNeilly Parks.

Mr. Donnellan noted that the feasibility study is currently budgeted at \$43,000.00, with a \$12,000 private contribution from the various sports associations, for a net of \$31,000.00 due by the Municipality. He noted that this estimate is based off good information, and consultant work, and is not in any way a wild guess at budgeting a feasibility study for a new recreation center.

Ms. Kramer inquired about what demands that are driving the need for a new recreation center.

Mr. Wertz explained the need for more gymnasium space, as well as an indoor walking track, and fitness equipment. He noted that current rec basketball programs are run out of various school district locations, and there truly is no area for basketball, volleyball, or general gym activities for the public.

Ms. Kramer noted that recent citizen's comments has sparked a conversation with the Parks Advisory Board on the need for a maintenance and master plan update of Main Park. She noted that it might not be a wise decision to place applications for similar project grants from the same community.

Ms. Burrett asked if there is a possibility that the Main Park refurbishment plan could be incorporated into the Sports Board's feasibility plan.

Ms. Kramer also noted that the Municipality is also applying for a grant for McNeilly access and parking. She noted that it seems that there are three separate grants, and none of them are working together.

Commissioner Fraasch noted that the Municipality has already upset DCNR with other issues, and she cannot imagine that DCNR would entertain three grants from Mt. Lebanon at this time.

Ms. Kramer asked if both the Sports Board and Parks Board would be able to combine grant applications into one, and have both plans created under the same company.

Mr. Donnellan noted that his personal opinion is that the grant should be left separated. He noted that it would be difficult with the \$12,000 of private funds from athletic associations, and staff time to prepare the grant. He also noted that adding another component would increase the total cost of the project, which has already been communicated to the Commission.

Mr. Block noted that the Parks Board would still be able to get feedback from residents during the Sports Board's Feasibility Study workshops even if the study was not intended to address the Parks Board's master plan of Main Park.

Mr. Donnellan noted that he would be reporting back to the Commission next week, and is looking to report back on the consensus and ideas gathered from this meeting.

The Parks Board agreed that while incorporating both plans into one grant may not be the best idea, they would still like to be involved in the Feasibility Study for a new recreation center as it applies to current park locations. Ms. Kramer noted that she still encourages combining the plans, and feels it could be completed, but at a higher cost.

Mr. Donnellan and Mr. Wertz noted that while they are only one voice from the Sports Board, they agreed that the Parks Advisory Board needs to be involved in the process. Mr. Donnellan noted that he believed that the Parks Board might even be an entire focus group during the study, and a valuable voice and resource to team with. He also noted that he realizes that green space is important, and will gladly keep communication open during the entire process.

On behalf of the Parks Advisory Board, Ms. Kramer thanked not only Mr. Donnellan, Mr. Wentz and the rest of the Sports Advisory Board, but also all of the athletic associations that have stepped up in support of making positive changes in the community.

## **V. Prioritization Discussion #2:**

Mr. Avolio reminded the group that they are scheduled to review their project ranking tonight, and on their own over the next month. He noted that the April meeting is the tentative deadline for their complete ranking of projects.

Mr. Heyse asked the group for their thoughts on completing the Main Park Refurbishment Plan with the talent that already exists on the Parks Advisory Board. He suggested possibly reviewing the maintenance items as a group, and presenting their estimates and plan to the Commission.

Ms. Kramer and Mr. Newman stressed the importance of involving the community for feedback on the park's current use as well. Ms. Kramer noted that while the talent is on board to point out all of the needed items to bring it back to its original condition, she feels that it might be outside of their ability as a group to take on the big picture questions and overall use of the park.

Mr. Block asked which items were listed as main priorities from the last meeting.

Mr. Avolio responded that in no particular order, the group decided that Main Park Refurbishment Plan and Lower Robb Hollow Tiered Park Development were decided to be the top two items. (not ranked)

Ms. Kramer asked Commissioner Fraasch if this could be removed from their list, or if there was still anything hanging out there that needed to be decided for the lower Robb Hollow Project.

Commissioner Fraasch suggested that the group leave it on their list to show their commitment to that project.

Ms. Kramer asked Commissioner Fraasch to expand upon where the Robb Hollow grading and amenities project currently stands.

Commissioner Fraasch noted that there has been a majority support to see development in that area, but it is now coming down to the specifics of the project. She also explained that they are still finalizing the funding of these improvements.

Ms. Kramer noted that she believed that she heard that the project was to proceed with funding from the contingency fund of the Public Works Project.

Commissioner Fraasch noted that these funds are from a project that has not yet been completed.

Mr. Newman asked the group their thoughts on where they thought the Parks Signage fell into the prioritization table.

Mr. Avolio noted that he would add it to the table just so the concept was not lost for next month's meeting.

Mr. Sukal noted that he had an extensive conversation with Staff members from Upper St. Clair on their parks signage. He noted that they had offered to help share budget numbers that were used for the various size signs.

Ms. Kramer asked if the second phase of North Meadowcroft Improvements had been funded, or if the group needed to prioritize for the second phase.

Mr. Sukal replied that the second phase had not been funded yet. The second phase would address items such as fencing, lighting, and court resurfacing

Mr. Block asked that the updated prioritization table to be sent out to the group asap, to give everyone ample time to review the different projects before the April 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

Mr. Avolio replied that he would have it updated and emailed out asap.

## **VI. New Business**

Mr. Block reviewed a potential Eagle Scout project with the group. The project would involve installation of orienteering posts throughout the park. Mr. Block noted that all boy and girl scouts must pass an orienteering badge, and this project would supply a course in Bird Park. Mr. Block noted that the poles would be reflective in nature, and that he would speak with the Scout about any concerns.

Mr. Sukal replied that he would run this idea past the Municipal Manager for review.

## **VII. Old Business**

No Old Business was reported.

## **VIII. Announcements:**

Commissioner Fraasch asked for the agenda to have a section for "Commission Updates". She noted that it used to be on the agenda, and every board has a section to do so during their meetings.

She updated the group on the lateral sewer testing, after a recent article was published in the newspaper that has created some confusion in the community.

Commissioner Fraasch noted that communities are starting to adopt ordinances that require the seller to complete lateral sewer inspections prior to the transfer of an occupancy permit in a transaction.

She noted that Mt. Lebanon is behind the curve on this because they do not have anything in place to enforce sewer lateral inspections and repairs. She shared that it has already caused termination of transactions and is costing sellers an extreme amount of money, as there is no ordinance to stand on.

Ms. Burrett asked how close the Municipality is to enacting an ordinance.

Commissioner Fraasch replied that she hopes to have two more discussion sessions on the topic followed by a vote.

## **IX. 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 8:40 PM.