



MT. LEBANON  
PENNSYLVANIA

**Parks Advisory Board Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, February 4th, 2020 - 6:30 p.m.  
Municipal Building Room C**

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

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

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

Albert Presto & Greg Newman were absent.

**II. Citizen Comments:**

No citizens comments to report.

**III. Approval of January 2020, Meeting Minutes:**

Mr. Block asked the group to review the January draft minutes and provide comment.

Several additions to the provided draft minutes were incorporated to correct incomplete thoughts and missing content.

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

**IV. Bird Park Stream Restoration:**

Mike Albright, with Gateway Engineers reviewed the upcoming Bird Park Stream Restoration with the group. He covered the importance of this project not only in regard to the restoration of the stream, but also the impact this project will have on the MS4 Program.

He explained that completing 600-700 feet of stream restoration will in turn reduce the amount of sediment being pulled into the waterways.

Mr. Albright reviewed the different design concepts with the group, which will include log vanes, step pools, and steep slope plantings.

Mr. Heyse noted that it may be helpful to consider concrete forms or natural rocks instead of logs, which will need replaced at some point.

Mr. Farrell inquired if the proposed budget will include these designs.

Mr. Sukal noted that the base bid will incorporate all of these, but will also have alternates and unit costs to extent the restoration if funding allows.

Mr. Farrell also asked if the DEP has any type of processes in place to measure and verify that the stream repair in fact improved the condition of the water way along with the reduction in sediment and phosphorus that their model implies.

Mr. Albright noted that they have not moved that far along in the process in dealing with discussions with the DEP, but will take note of the question for review.

Mr. Heyse voiced his concerns for limiting damage from equipment access. He also noted the importance of selecting the correct plantings for the sunlight conditions in various areas of the stream. He noted that without vegetation, it is likely that knotweed will find its way in.

Mr. Albright noted that he will try to limit any disturbance that he can, and will definitely enforce this concern with the selected contractor.

Mr. Block informed Mr. Albright about the School in The Parks program, and the locations of the 3-day program for all 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students.

Commissioner Ranney asked if the final design would come from Gateway Engineers.

Mr. Sukal replied that the final design that will go out to bid will come from Gateway. He noted that before the process got too far along, he wanted to incorporate a review from the Parks Board to ensure they had a chance to share their knowledge on the subject as well.

Mr. Block noted that he would like to see limited use of limestone in the project, as portrays an image of a construction project, rather than a natural restoration project. He also noted that he realizes that cost and availability will play a role in the material selection.

Mr. Farrell noted that the bid documents should stress the importance of equipment and material decontamination. He noted that bringing in seedlings and remains from an invasive species will really send this project in the wrong direction.

## **V. New Business:**

Mr. Sukal informed the group that Public Works Crews working in Bird Park will be addressing the rotting section of timber steps that are on the path from the parking lot off of Beadling Road to the soccer field. He noted that the type of fencing that is along that path is no longer available, so they will be looking into new fencing systems as well.

## **VI. Old Business**

Commissioner Ranney inquired about the Parks Master Plan, and if any progress or updates had come up since the group's last meeting.

Mr. Sukal replied that he checked with Mr. McMeans, and there is nothing in terms a hard update on the matter, but they are hoping to bring something to them at the next meeting in March.

Mr. Farrell & Mr. Block both noted that the group had started internal suggestions on qualifications and important skillsets that they would like to see in a selected firm.

Mr. Sukal also let the group know that the Sports Advisory Board is planning on utilizing two members for a focus group, and in turn would like to get another member of the Parks Advisory Board to participate as well.

Ms. Kramer updated developments on the Earth Day program, and has also touched upon the possibility of co-sponsorship with the Conservancy.

Ms. Burrett noted that the group would like to speak with the membership prior to joining in on the event.

## **VII. Announcements:**

Mr. Block reminded the group that Mr. Farrell will be leaving the group after the March meeting.

Ms. Kramer noted that Mr. Farrell is the only current board member with young children that still utilize the parks. She noted that having someone that is currently hands on in their park use is vital to staying in touch with the parks system.

Mr. Farrell noted that the two gentlemen that attended the previous meeting both have small children and would be valuable to the board.

## **VIII. Commission Update:**

Commissioner Ranney spoke to the group, encouraging them to start thinking about any characteristics in a board member that they would like to see, or think would be an asset to the team. She also noted that she will be looking over existing resumes over the next two weeks.

Commissioner Ranney also asked the group if they would be interested in inviting the Allegheny Country Parks Director, Andrew Baechle to a future meeting.

The group agreed that building a relationship with Mr. Baechle would be a great idea, and very beneficial considering his expertise. Specifically, the group would interested in hearing him speak on planning, multi-use and over-use areas, or invasives management.

Commissioner Ranney also informed the group that the Commission will be reviewing sports field utilization across the community, and while it may not be this board's interest, it does share a parallel with open green space and park utilization, so she wanted to make them aware.

## **IX. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Mr. Block seconded by Ms. Burrett to adjourn the meeting. The motion was passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:02 pm.