



MT. LEBANON
PENNSYLVANIA

**Parks Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 3rd, 2020 - 6:30 p.m.
Municipal Building Room C**

I. Roll Call & Declaration of Quorum:

Ms. Kramer called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM, and proceeded with the roll call. Richard Heyse, Greg Newman, Elaine Kramer, Jonathan Farrell, Albert Presto, and Pam Burrett attended the meeting.

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

Ron Block and Commissioner Ranney were absent.

II. Citizen Comments:

Charlee Song 913 Valleyview Road

Sam Smith 300 Twin Hills Dr

Ms. Song and Ms. Smith approached the group to discuss a newly formed volunteer group that would like to plant as many trees as possible. They reviewed their initiatives for planting based on conditions in the climate and man-made disturbances. They would like to work with the board on locations, and specie selections. The group is comprised of multiple High School teachers and staff, as well as Mike Mooney from Habitat Solutions and Robert Mackey. Ms. Smith also noted that she works with Plant 5 For Life, which is an Allegheny County program initiative for planting 5 new trees for every child who is born in the county.

Ms. Kramer also informed the pair that the PAB also has acquired a level 1 Arboretum Accreditation Level. She also explained recent efforts in Twin Hills Parks.

Mr. Farrell noted that in addition to putting trees in the ground, the maintenance of new plantings is important as well. He also pointed out that additional planting in Twin Hills Park would be helpful.

Mr. Heyse also noted that the restoration area off of Moreland Drive may be an opportunity for planting to keep knotweed down and help hold the hillside.

Ms. Kramer noted that she would pass along their contact information to Ron Block for future contact.

III. Approval of February 2020, Meeting Minutes:

Ms. Kramer asked the group to review the February draft minutes and provide comment.

Ms. Kramer submitted a copy with several minor corrections in grammar and spelling.

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

IV. Project Prioritization Review:

The group reviewed the current project prioritization table in an effort to update the status and priority of park related projects.

Ms. Kramer read a few brainstorming thoughts from Mr. Block –

- Crossing along Robb Hollow
- Deferred Maintenance of Parks (Shelters, Repairs)
- Site Amenities for Pocket Park

Mr. Sukal noted that a consideration for additional contracted tree maintenance in the parks may be of interest to the group. He noted that he will have a few members of the tree crew out with injuries, and it may be helpful to contract some removals and plantings in areas like Williamsburg and Rockwood. He noted that this would take care of their requests much faster than he can get the in-house.

Mr. Heyse noted that an increase in the Invasive Removal needs to be considered as he believes that the \$5000 service level is not sufficient.

Ms. Kramer noted that while she believes it will be covered in the master plan, she would still like to add that connectivity and signage.

Ms. Kramer inquired about the scope of N. Meadowcroft Phase II. Mr. Sukal noted all of the slated improvements that are currently out for bid.

Mr. Avolio noted that he will update the group on the list discussions and re-send.

V. New Business:

Mr. Sukak reviewed the memo on the time-frame of the Parks Master Plan.

Mr. Farrell noted that he would like to participate as the second member representing the Parks Advisory Board.

VI. Old Business

Mr. Avolio noted that the Bird Park staircase has been completed. He noted that crews re-graded the millings path to allow for the removal of several stairs, avoiding future maintenance while maintaining a safe traveled path.

Mr. Farrell asked Mr. Sukal if there are any factors that would delay the hauling of the spoils pile and the park grading. Mr. Sukal replied that the project will be moved along as soon as it is bid, reviewed, and approved by the Commission.

Ms. Kramer noted the Earth Day Event and Library presentation will be officially co-sponsored by the Mt. Lebanon Arboretum & PAB as well as the Mt. Lebanon Conservancy.

VII. Announcements:

Ms. Kramer asked that minutes reflect the groups appreciation for Mr. Farrell's contributions to the board, municipality, and all citizens in Mt. Lebanon. The group will miss his expertise and constructive approach in improving the parks for all to use.

Mr. Sukal also added that Public Works has been lucky to have a volunteer and active board member such as himself to aid in all the different projects and maintenance throughout the parks.

VIII. Commission Update:

Mr. Avolio relayed from Commissioner Ranney wanted the group to know that the Commission will be reviewing and sorting through applications for vacancies in all of the advisory boards over the next few weeks. She would like to group to continue to email her references or certain qualities that they would like to see in a new member.

IX. Adjournment

A motion was made by Ms. Burrett and seconded by Mr. Farrell to adjourn the meeting. The motion was passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 PM.