



MT. LEBANON  
PENNSYLVANIA

**Parks Advisory Board Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, October 6, 2020 - 6:30 p.m.  
Virtual- Microsoft Teams**

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

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

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

Matt Erb from Tree Pittsburgh attended the meeting, presenting on the Urban Tree Canopy and Urban Forest Management. This portion of the meeting was also attended by Mr. Tim Reidy and Ms. Abby Lawlor Morycz of the Environmental Sustainability Board.

Greg Newman was absent.

**II. Citizen Comments:**

No citizen comments to report.

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

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

Ms. Burrett submitted several grammatical corrections via email, but nothing of actual content was requested for revision.

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

**IV. Tree Pittsburgh – Urban Forest & Tree Canopy:**

Matt Erb, from Tree Pittsburgh presented a PowerPoint to the group on the Allegheny County tree canopy. The presentation touched on tree canopy loss as well as areas that experienced canopy gain over the past few years. He also spoke about the different aspects of tree canopy loss that impact the county, such as commercial and residential

removals, developments, disease, and other means. He noted that around 130 Municipalities are losing their tree canopy in the County. He also spoke about the different programs and tree give-away events that are helping to combat the canopy loss experienced throughout the county.

## **V. Park Assessments:**

### ○ Country Club Park:

Ms. Burrett noted that she thought the park looked great.

Mr. Aikin added that this was his first visit to the park and he also enjoyed its location and features.

Ms. Kramer noted that the picnic table was relocated from its original location under the shade of the trees to the edge of the park by the dead end of the street.

Mr. Heyse noted that the last footing for the basketball court fence is becoming so undermined, that the integrity of the court will be compromised soon in the far corner.

Ms. Kramer also pointed out that there was evidence of illegal dumping, directly underneath the sign that states "No Dumping".

### ○ Williamsburg Park:

Mr. Block asked Mr. Sukal if he was able to gather quotes on the plan for removal and replanting in the park.

Mr. Sukal replied that he was able to price out a remove and replace plan that incorporates Williamsburg and Rockwood Parks as an expanded service level in the operating budget for the Commission to review.

Mr. Aikin commented that Williamsburg is one of his favorite parks. He believes that a simple recycle can and a picnic table can make a world of difference in every park. He also added that a looped walking trail would make a nice edition.

Ms. Kramer noted that there is a small tree growing through the landscape bushes. She suggested it get removed before it becomes too hard to do so.

Mr. Block noted that to incorporate a large loop trail would require some landlocked properties provide written approval, or some sort of document be drafted.

Commissioner Ranney asked Mr. Sukal the best way to go about getting information on these parcels.

Mr. Sukal noted that the information could be tracked down through Arc GIS.

- Sunset Hills Park:

Mr. Block noted that a good deal of Master Plan work will most likely go into the use of this park.

Ms. Kramer inquired about the possibility of replacing the split rail fence with a timber system that is more common in park settings

Mr. Avolio noted that all throughout the parks system, the mortis and tenant style fencing systems need repair/ replacement. He noted that this style of fence is getting harder to locate, and that review of a new standard should be something to begin considering.

- Main Park:

Mr. Presto noted that the few times he has been to Main Park, it was packed each time.

Ms. Kramer noted that she ran into a resident that noted the difficulties tracking her two children, as they use different play equipment (2-5 & 5-12) These play areas are not within direct site lines of each other making supervision challenging. She also noted that she heard comments on the open green space and restroom facility as being great commodities. She also noted that users of the basketball court shared with her their frustration in finding somewhere to play basketball in the winter. They suggested a bubble to cover the courts allowing for winter play.

Mr. Aikin noted that there were several flat cement pad areas throughout the park. He inquired as to their purpose, or what used to be on them.

Ms. Burrett noted that she would like to see the 2 Pines removed along the path leading towards the lower shelter.

## **VI. New Business**

Mr. Block thanked everyone that came out the previous Saturday to help with the plantings in Bird Park. He also noted that this coming Saturday will another workday for planting in Bird. Mr. Block al so asked Commissioner Ranney about sending a thank you to Plant Five for Life for the donated trees, guards, and volunteer time.

Commissioner Ranney noted that she would love to endorse a letter if the group wanted to draft it together.

## **VII. Old Business**

Ms. Kramer asked if there were any updates to be had on the illegal dumping issue covered in previous meetings.

Commissioner Ranney noted that she felt it was unclear on the next steps, although an announcement during the Commission Meeting, and the PIO Office release through different avenues was released regarding the issue.

### **VIII. Announcements:**

Mr. Avolio noted that the Carpenter has begun to look through his pile of templates and routing equipment to begin work on the Bird Park and Rockwood routed wooden signs. Mr. Block also noted that the addition of a sign on the Carriage Park side of Twin Hills would be well received.

### **IX. Commission Update:**

The Commission update was provided during other agenda items.

### **X. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Mr. Aikin and seconded by Ms. Burrett to adjourn the meeting. The motion was passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.