



MT. LEBANON  
PENNSYLVANIA

**Parks Advisory Board Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, December 1, 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, Greg Newman, and Pam Burrett attended the meeting.

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

**II. Citizen Comments:**

No citizen comments to report.

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

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

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

**IV. 2021 Meeting Schedule / Chair & Co-Chair:**

Mr. Sukal noted that the first Tuesday of each Month has historically been available for the Parks Advisory Board.

Ms. Kramer noted that consideration to moving the September and November meeting dates should be discussed.

The group discussed moving the September meeting to the 8<sup>th</sup>, and the November meeting to the 3<sup>rd</sup>, utilizing an online platform to eliminate the conflict with the recording equipment.

Mr. Block noted that Ms. Kramer, Ms. Burrett and himself will all be gone at some point during the year, so the new chair and co-chair would be selected from the remaining 4 members.

Mr. Heyse volunteered to act as the chair of the board, and Mr. Newman volunteered to move into the co-chair role for 2021. A motion was made by Mr. Block and a second by Ms. Kramer for the 2021 chair and co-chair selection. The motion passed, and Mr. Heyse and Mr. Newman were made Chair and Co-Chair for the upcoming year.

## **V. Park Assessments:**

- Rockwood Park:

Mr. Block inquired about the tree removal and planting estimate. Mr. Sukal noted that both Rockwood and Williamsburg Park tree project was \$71,000, and was placed below the line during the budget process. Mr. Sukal added that while this was not funded, the Public Works crews will continue to pick away at it when possible.

Mr. Presto inquired about the current status of the budget and the projected 2021 budget. Commissioner Ranney noted that there were COVID-related impacts felt to the current budget as well as the 2021 projected budget. She noted that shortfalls in revenue from parking and recreation were noticed. Adjustments were made across those departments, and the Parks decision units were only slightly adjusted. Mr. Sukal added that the goal of the 2021 budget was to maintain current levels of service.

Mr. Block noted that the new routed park sign is still in-progress as noted by Mr. Avolio. He also mentioned that the catch basin on the asphalt path by the basketball court is packed solid with debris and wondered if the group might have any suggestions to correct this issue.

Mr. Block inquired about the addition of recycling containers across all parks. Mr. Sukal noted that they will look across all parks and add cans where needed.

Ms. Kramer inquired if the tree replacement budget item included replacement of the upper hedge row, as many of these are at the end of their life. She also noted that the lower set of swings and parking area seem out of sorts as well. Mr. Sukal replied that the tree project only included the removal and replacement of existing trees and not surrounding landscape.

- Iroquois Park:

Mr. Block noted that the knotweed control efforts along the creek has been working, and looks great. Mr. Avolio noted that some effort is still needed

to seed the bank and other areas to keep outcompeting the invasive plants.

Mr. Block inquired about the land on the other side of the circle. He noted that the land is maintained all the way down to the creek, but he believes that some of it is part of the park. He noted that while it is nice that the homeowner keeps the area clear and maintained, it actually deters anyone from accessing the woods on that side, as it appears that you would have to cross private property to do so, when in fact, it is public land.

Mr. Block also noted the concern for some new trees, solar lighting, and a fresh coat of paint on the dome climber. Mr. Heyse suggested that painting of the dome climber might be a cool community activity if coordinated. He also noted that the No Dogs sign coming from the mall walkway has been painted over as well. Mr. Sukal replied that he will have the crews replace the sign.

- Hoodridge:

Ms. Kramer noted that the amount of dumping along the park edges is concerning.

Commissioner Silverman inquired about the backstory of the property, as there has been confusion on its status as a park or conservation district or mix of the two. Mr. Sukal replied that he did not know the entire story but will look into it and report back.

Mr. Heyse noted that this area seems to be perfect to cut kids loose on bikes. Mr Newman added that this has already started in the conservation area as he viewed some handmade jumps throughout. Ms. Kramer noted that incorrectly constructed bike trails can really destroy the ecology of a park, and cautions how to approach planning, as these systems should be constructed to certain standards.

Mr. Newman noted that the asphalt walkway between the houses that leads into the park area is in bad shape. Mr. Sukal replied that this has been on the radar for some time now. He added that opening the waterway back up to a natural state would eliminate the debris that clogs the mouth of the storm pipe, which creates problems for that walkway. Mr. Sukal explained the difficulties in accessing that pipe, and how Gateway has prepared a plan to change over the entire water course, incorporating a walkway overtop of the water way. He also noted that this project would incorporate credits towards the MS4 program as well.

- Highland Terrace Park:

Mr. Block inquired about the dying row of evergreen trees that are located in-between the edge of the basketball court and the first neighboring property. Mr. Sukal noted that the trees appear to be right on the parcel line as indicated by the GIS.

Mr. Block also noted that the basketball court pavement and line striping looked great, but the backboards should be considered for replacement or painting. He also noted that continuing the walkway from the street all the way through the park would be a nice addition along with a way to utilize the 3-4 acres on the other side of the street.

- Robb Hollow Park:

Mr. Block inquired about the status of the spoils pile. Mr. Sukal replied that they are looking into placing this back out to bid after the first of the year. This would include the removal of the spoils pile as well as the rough grading of the park. The park amenities and trails would be an additional project. Commissioner Ranney inquired about the timeline of these projects. Mr. Sukal replied that both projects can be bid at the same time, but the earthwork and rough grading would happen initially.

Commissioner Ranney elaborated on the project. She reported that they are currently estimating a total project cost of \$360,000. \$200,000 for spoils and grading and \$160,000 for trails and access points. She added that this does not cover amenities as proposed in the PAB concept.

- Bird Park:

Mr. Block inquired about the stream remediation project. My Sukal noted that the project was completed recently. He also noted that the contractor is funding and installing a sign for the site to explain the steps taken, why they were done, and the benefits of each component. Ms. Kramer asked if the next phase of the project would reach downstream or upstream from the current project site. Mr. Sukal asked the group their thoughts. The consensus was to keep working upstream from the current site, even investigating a large source contributor from the Church Parking Lot.

## **VI. New Business**

Mr. Heyse noted that he would like to discuss the 10acre parcel adjacent to the golf course at some point, but obviously not this evening as he noted the meeting was approaching 2 hours. Ms. Kramer noted that she would also like to discuss general park land acquisition at some point, as there are numerous spots around the community that could expand park land. Commissioner Ranney asked if Ms. Kramer could put a listing together for the next meeting for the group to discuss under an agenda item. Ms.

Kramer noted that this would be a team effort with Mr. Block and Mr. Heyse to gather and share this information for the January meeting. Mr. Block agreed that this would be a good time to discuss this item.

## **VII. Old Business**

Mr. Block asked if the North Meadowcroft project was completed. Mr. Sukal replied that they are still addressing some punch-list items to close out the project.

## **VIII. Announcements:**

Mr. Sukal announced that David Donnellan from the Recreation Department would like the group to know that there will be pickleball lines painted on the courts at Williamsburg and North Meadowcroft park. He noted that while the tennis nets are a little high for official pickle ball, they still serve the purpose of playing the game.

## **IX. Commission Update:**

Commissioner Ranney noted that she has sent out links to the old Master Plan and hopes that the group can review that on their own before the next meeting. She also sent out the plans and concepts for the pocket park at the end of the Public Works yard for everyone to review. Commissioner Ranney asked that the group consider reviewing general parks wayfinding sooner than later, especially for the hard-to-find parks.

## **X. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Mr. Presto and seconded by Ms. Burrett to adjourn the meeting. The motion was passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:21 PM.