



MT. LEBANON  
PENNSYLVANIA

**Parks Advisory Board Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, January 5, 2021 - 6:30 p.m.  
Virtual- Microsoft Teams**

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

Mr. Heyse 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, the Facilities & Parks Coordinator, Phillip Avolio, and the Director of Public Works, Rudy Sukal.

Dan Caste and Don Gavett from the Mt. Lebanon Platform Tennis Association attended as well.

**II. Citizen Comments:**

No citizen comments to report.

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

Mr. Heyse asked the group to review the December draft minutes and provide comment.

A motion was made by Mr. Newman and seconded by Mr. Presto to approve the minutes with various changes to grammar and spelling, but nothing of content. The motion passed and the minutes were accepted as amended.

**IV. Paddle Hut Improvements: (Don Gavett & Dan Caste)**

Don Gavett and Dan Caste, representing the Mt. Lebanon Platform Tennis Association (MLPTA), presented plans for a future addition to the paddle warming hut in Main Park. They noted that the original hut was built in 1995 by association funds. Other projects included additional courts and phased replacements through pledged funding. The project presented during the meeting was a plan to add a second level, running water, restrooms, and a small deck to the existing structure. They noted that the Commission elected to help fund the sanitary sewer requirements for the project in the 2021 budget at a cost of around \$30,000. Mr. Caste noted that one of the steps along this process is to review this plan with the Parks Advisory Board for feedback. He noted that the intent is to have the lower level of the facility accessible to all residents, but the second floor

will remain locked as it is a larger gathering space that would not be conducive to leave unattended. Mr. Gavett and Mr. Caste then opened the conversation for feedback from the Parks Advisory Board.

Ms. Kramer inquired about the change of the overall footprint for the facility.

Mr. Caste explained that the building itself would become 4' wider, and then will only change in the fact that a second floor will be added to it. He also noted that the design also shows portion of the second floor would extend over the existing walkway that leads back to the tennis center and courts.

Ms. Kramer asked if the lower-level restrooms will be accessible to the park users.

Mr. Gavett explained that access to those facilities would be included with rental of the courts through the recreation center. He went on to explain that if you rent the paddle courts, you are given a door code to the warming hut as well. Mr. Gavett noted that it is completely up to the Municipality if they would like to leave them open to the public throughout the day.

Mr. Block inquired about the clearances over the existing path, as well as any possible issues regarding overhead wires. He also asked if the association would consider adding windows facing Morgan Drive to increase the esthetics of the building.

Mr. Caste noted that he would contact the architect regarding the addition of windows, as that would increase the entire appearance of the facility. Mr. Gavett agreed that the additional windows would be well received.

## **V. Park Parcel Acquisitions:**

Ms. Kramer reviewed potential land acquisition parcels that may be of value to the Municipality and Parks Systems. She noted that the highlighted areas included current parks property, and properties listed as tax delinquent through County data.

The group reviewed possible opportunities around the Southwest corner of the Municipality that could tie together Robb Hollow and a park in the Upper St. Clair district.

Mr. Block also discussed delinquent parcels along PA Blvd, which have been discussed on and off over the years. He stressed that there is not a true neighborhood park for residents in this area, and the addition of this linear strip would be welcomed by the neighboring residents.

Ms. Kramer also pointed out that the same issue exists in the Northwest area of the Municipality as well. She noted that this is important to keep in mind when having these discussions.

The group also reviewed the parcels in and around Williamsburg Park that are landlocked and on a paper street.

Mr. Heyse also expressed interest in the 10-acre swath from the dead end of Country Club along the edge of the golf course.

Commissioner Ranney noted that she would touch base with the Municipal Planner, Ian McMeans to learn more about the properties and process in general. She thanked the group for a great starter conversation on this topic and for Ms. Kramer's efforts on creating the map.

## **VI. New Business**

Mr. Sukal noted that new recycling tops have been ordered for the current 55-gallon metal drums that Public Works currently uses. He explained that the new restrictive style tops are designed to reduce unwanted items that are meant for trash, while accepting the more desirable cans and bottles. He added that the crew will be working on assembling these and distributing them throughout the Parks system.

Mr. Heyse discussed the condition of the main trail head off the Bird Park Circle cul-de-sac. He noted that the erosion and compaction has become so bad, that users are venturing either up into the woods or out into the lawn area to travel that section, as the footing has become so muddy and hard to traverse. He asked that Public Works investigate a correction and rehab similar to the one completed at the entrance to the soccer field that has been holding up well for the last two years.

Ms. Kramer discussed the need to ensure the continued efforts of the Arboretum educational yearly program, updating of the Parks Prioritization Table, and the coordination of the drafting of Thank You Letters for all of the scout projects throughout the parks. She noted that she would like the group to think about these items for the next meeting to ensure their continued efforts after Ron and herself leave the Board in March.

.

## **VII. Old Business**

Ms. Kramer noted that design plans for the Robb Hollow Park Greening is available for anyone that wants to review it. She also noted that she would not feel any ill will towards wanting to review or tweak any of the concepts from them. Commissioner Ranney asked that this topic be added to the next agenda along with the other items that need passed down and assigned.

Mr. Heyse asked Mr. Sukal if he received enough feedback on the design of the educational sign for the Bird Park Stream Restoration to begin fabrication.

Mr. Sukal replied that he did receive everyone's comments and forwarded them along to the contractor to begin work on fabrication.

Mr. Heyse also asked that the group review the Master Plan at the next meeting to begin deciding the best use of their meeting schedule to support the process.

### **VIII. Announcements:**

No announcements were made.

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

Commissioner Ranney reported that during the last Commission organizational meeting, she became the Commission President, and Andrew Flynn became the Vice-President. She also reported that boards and authorities' liaisons were assigned, and she was tasked with working on the Parks and Sports Advisory Boards.

### **X. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Mr. Block and seconded by Ms. Burrett to adjourn the meeting. The motion was passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:48 PM.