



MT. LEBANON
PENNSYLVANIA

**Parks Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 5th, 2019 - 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. Elaine Kramer, Richard Heyse, Albert Presto, Jonathan Farrell, Ron Block, and Pam Burrett attended the meeting.

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

Greg Newman was absent.

II. Citizen Comments: No Citizen Comments to Report.

III. Approval of October 2019, 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. Presto to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed and the minutes were accepted.

IV. 2020 Arboretum Educational Program:

The group reviewed potential opportunities for the 2020 Educational Program that is a requirement to maintain the Level 1 Accreditation for the Arboretum.

The group decided that a program geared towards children, involving a scavenger hunt and or other fun program would be best. They noted that a potential program could fall on Earth Day Weekend, which is April 25th & 26th.

Mr. Farrell noted that he would be glad to run the program. He also noted that he would be happy to have the event on Earth Day, April 22nd, from 5-7pm, or the 25th / 26th of April to coincide with the weekend festivities.

A motion was made by Ms. Kramer and a second by Mr. Presto to adopt the Children's Activity run by Mr. Farrell for the 2020 Educational Program.

V. Williamsburg Park Review:

The group reviewed their visits through the park- everyone noted the great condition of the courts and fencing. Members noted appreciation for removing all of the recent fallen trees.

Ms. Burrett noted that she would like to see a specimen tree installed at some point.

Mr. Heyse noted that the gate hardware has become stripped and is not functioning properly.

Ms. Kramer thanked Public Works for installing a second grill by the pavilion. She also noted that a patch of knotweed is starting to grow and increase along the property line in a few spots

Mr. Avolio noted that he would have Eichenlaub take a look at the spots next season as part of the budget line for invasive control.

VI. Sunset Hills Park Review:

Mr. Farrell noted that the storm system inlets had been dredged out, and it appears to be draining properly.

The group inquired about the actual usage of the field since the synthetic field was completed.

Mr. Heyse heard comments from some park users with an overall theme of “why is our park a practice field for lacrosse, and Williamsburg received all new treatments”. He also noted that all 4 groups he spoke with noted that they would like to see a community driven process on the future of the park.

Commissioner Fraasch noted that the group should always tell residents to attend public meetings to make their voice heard on these issues.

Mr. Heyse also noted that residents informed him that the sports teams drive down the access road and use the basketball court for organized parking.

Mr. Sukal noted that Public Works would add appropriate signage to reinforce the fact that there are no motor vehicles beyond the cul-de-sac. He also noted that he would reach out to Recreation to find out what the field is primarily used for.

Ms. Kramer asked if fence heights at basketball courts are being raised as they are replaced.

Mr. Avolio noted that a budget line for basketball court replacements include higher replacements across all needed sides.

Mr. Heyse also noted that the storage shed placed in the middle of the outfield is on creosote rail road ties, and he believes that that material is banned in Mt. Lebanon.

Mr. Sukal noted that recreation placed that shed on the field, and he is unsure of its construction. He noted that he would also will check with Building Inspections.

VII. McNeilly Park Review:

Commissioner Fraasch noted that a Joe Kramer attended a recent Commission Meeting and spoke during Public Comment about the need for public input for the future of McNeilly Park.

Mr. Farrell also noted that Mr. Kramer spoke at the Economic Development Council meeting as a resident, and not representing the group on the same issue. Mr. Kramer expressed that he believed a grant application was more or less the cart before the horse in this situation. Mr. Farrell noted that he attended the meeting on behalf of the Parks Advisory Board to reinforce their ideas on the park, and describe how the improvements requested in the grant would serve any future use of the space, and was not a premature action. He also noted that Mr. Kramer wanted to be part of a joint committee to work on the future use of the park.

Ms. Kramer asked Commissioner Fraasch what role the Economic Development Council plays in determining the use of park property?

Commissioner Fraasch responded that she was unclear on their role in this.

VIII. Country Club Park Review:

Ms. Kramer noted that the adaptive swing buckle was missing off of the swing when she visited the park.

Mr. Heyse noted that the basketball nets were ready to be changed. He also noted that the wood chips looked to be pretty decayed, and he wondered how often they must be changed or dug out

Mr. Avolio noted that he would review these items tomorrow morning. He also explained that the fall zone material has been reported to gain positive fall attenuation as it decays. But, he noted that when the material becomes mostly fines and soil, it must be dug out.

IX. New Business

Mr. Heyse asked is anyone is familiar with bee keeping in Mt. Lebanon.

Mr. Avolio noted that residents are able to register online to identify the location of their hives to inform landscapers and pesticide applicators of where they are.

X. Old Business

Mr. Block inquired about the status of the Robb Hollow Parklet

Mr. Sukal noted that they are still waiting to hear back from a grant application for funding of hauling out extra soil from the end of the site. He did note that they had met with contractors to review the upcoming project in the valley behind Moreland to address a storm sewer system repair and recent land slide. He noted that the contractor will also be restoring the area on their way out.

Ms. Kramer inquired about the parks for review in December. The remaining parks were noted:

Iroquois
Highland Terrace
Rockwood
Hoodridge (before conservation area)

Mr. Avolio updated the group on the status of high priority items throughout Main Park that were noted in recent visits.

XI. Announcements:

No Announcements were made.

XII. Commission Update:

Commissioner Fraasch noted that the 2020 Managers Recommended Budget was given to the Commission on November 1st for review. She noted that Public Works will be presenting on the 12th around 5:30pm. She noted that it is always in the group's best interest to come for public comment to push the items that are important to them.

Ms. Fraasch also noted that the Parks Master Plan / Basketball Fencing Replacement / Ball Field Bleacher replacement were all below the line, and not suggested for funding.

Commissioner Fraasch also noted that this meeting will be her last meeting with the Parks Advisory Board, as she has commitments for December 3rd, and will not be able to attend.

The group thanked her for her service over the years to the community and more specifically the Parks Advisory Board.

XIII. Adjournment

A motion was made by Ms. Kramer and seconded by Ms. Burrett to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 7:43 PM.