



**Parks Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 6, 2024 - 6:30 p.m.
Municipal Building: Meeting Room C
APPROVED**

Members

Richard Heyse
Peter Argentine
Tom Schevtchuk

Dhanya Elias
Kelly Ogrodnik

Rob Mackey
Bennett Aikin

Commission Liaison
Andrew Flynn

Staff Liaison
Rudy Sukal

Staff Liaison
Phillip Avolio

1. Roll Call & Declaration of Quorum
Mr. Mackey called the roll. Present in person were Richard Heyse, Peter Argentine, Rob Mackey, Tom Schevtchuk, staff liaisons Rudy Sukal, and Phil Avolio. Kelly Ogrodnik joined on-line.
2. Citizens Comments
There were no citizen comments.
3. Approval of November minutes
Mr. Schevtchuk moved, and Mr. Heyse seconded to approve the November minutes. The motion passed unanimously.
4. Public Works Update on grounds, facilities, trees etc.
Mr. Avolio said he has met with contractors regarding the Church Place fall zone project. Using a mix of contractors and in-house laborers they will replace the fall zone and add inclusive play elements to that park. Crews have been elevating trees in various parks that are interfering with play equipment and shelters. Work continues with the park signage. Mr. Sukal said the Mission Hills neighborhood sign was destroyed by a motorist. He is working on a replacement sign.
5. Commission Update
There were no Commission updates.
6. Park Visits
 - a. Hoodridge (Conservation Area)
There was discussion regarding rain conductors from nearby homes going directly to the stream, and encroachment of personal property onto park land. There is a stormwater inlet at Marshall Drive that continues to get blocked. Mr. Sukal explained a corrective concept submitted by Gateway.

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- b. Highland Terrace
Mr. Mackey said the split rail fence has been repaired, and there has been a request to put in a single-child toddler swing. Mr. Avolio explained a swinging bench is different from a child swing, which would require a fall zone.
 - c. Iroquois
There was discussion regarding disconnected storm sewer end walls and fallen or dead trees in the park. The stairs at the end of Inglewood Drive leading to Timber Creek Condominiums are scheduled to be rebuilt but are currently out of service. There was discussion regarding making connectivity between the Galleria and Main Park, and other neighborhoods.
 - d. Robb Hollow
Members talked about some eroding step blocks that need to be replaced or a new switchback trail to be developed. There is concern regarding steep areas being slippery when they are wet.
7. Old Business
1. Forestry & Invasives
Mr. Mackey said Tim Nuttle, of Oikos Ecology, LLC, will be giving a presentation to the Commission soon.
 2. Park Design Guidelines & Trail Restoration
The Mt. Lebanon Comprehensive Plan calls for park design beyond what the current board can undertake. Mr. Argentine suggested this be completed through that process. Mr. Schevtchuk said the focus for the Conservancy this year will be on the riparian project in Bird Park, and getting trails ready for the School in the Park that they do every year.
 3. Main Park Master Plan
Mr. Sukal said a presentation was made to the Commission, who gave comments and suggestions that will be included.
 4. Slope along Cedar across from tennis center
 - At the January Parks Board meeting it was requested of Commission Flynn to include this in the Main Park discussion.
 5. MTLSD invasives management
The board discussed the PA Controlled Plan and Noxious Weed Act passed in 2017.
8. New Business
There was discussion regarding the new construction near the Washington Road entrance of Bird Park and the impact it was having on the trail. Information will be provided to the inspections department.
9. Commission Meeting Message
No suggestions were made.
10. Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m.