



MT. LEBANON
PENNSYLVANIA

**Parks Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 4, 2018 - 6:30 p.m.
Municipal Building Room C**

I. Roll Call & Declaration of Quorum:

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

The meeting was also attended by Commissioner Fraasch, the Director of Public Works, Rudy Sukal, Facilities & Parks Coordinator, Phillip Avolio, Assistant Manager, Ian McMeans, and Alberto Jarquin, of Gateway Engineers.

Greg Newman was absent.

II. Citizen Comments:

No Citizen Comments.

III. Approval of September 2018, Meeting Minutes:

Mr. Farrell asked the group to please review the October 2018 meeting minutes.

Mr. Block asked for the completion of item VIII to read: "He also asked for the engineer estimate to re-grade the entrance and provide parking to the site".

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

IV. Public Works Site Excess Soil: (Ian McMeans & Alberto Jarquin)

Mr. McMeans presented the current condition of the soil pile located at the end of the Public Works Site, as well as a cost breakdown associated with lowering the elevation of the current excess soil pile. He noted that the current flat area is around 0.28 acres, and the proposed earthwork would remove around 5' of soil from the mound, increasing the flat area to 0.48 acres for a cost close to \$50,000. To bring the flat area down to the original intended elevation would cost close to \$200,000 in earthwork and removal.

Mr. Jarquin explained that rain events from the heavy June storm led to reactive repairs to 120' of the 96" pipe that runs under the site. He noted that these sections of pipe had to be excavated and backfilled with gravel, creating excess soil that was added to the

end of the site. He also noted that larger sections of the hillside behind the building were removed to provide adequate access behind the buildings once they are completed that were also added to the pile. He noted that the goal was to keep the southern end flat, but it currently has an elevation of 993. Mr. Jarquin also noted that the unusually wet summer created issues with the general site work. He explained that in some cases the contractor had to scrape and remove saturated muddy soil from storms to reach workable soil, just to keep the project moving. This soil also was discarded to the end of the site.

Mr. Heyse inquired about the existing trail that runs behind the public works site.

Mr. Sukal noted that the parking access for the trail would be by the newly constructed firing range to keep users away from the public works operations, essentially abandoning the old trailhead by Lindendale Drive and the associated length of trail up to the new parking area and trail head by the newly constructed firing range.

Mr. Block noted that he would like to see that section of trail remain; as the worst part of it will actually be addressed since, it was located where the fill location currently sits.

Mr. McMeans commented, explaining the proposed connectivity routes that would connect Bird Park to Robb Hollow, allowing users to utilize paths and crosswalks along Cedar Blvd to access the new trailhead by the firing range. He noted that the trail would utilize the existing crosswalk at the intersection of Beadling and Cedar Blvd to access a mulched path along Cedar Blvd to the new trailhead.

Mr. Block noted that in his opinion, the current strip of green space between the guardrail and the road is pleasant and should remain. He noted that he would also not suggest a mulched path, as it will eventually be over-run with weeds and will be another asset to maintain.

Ms. Kramer noted her appreciation for thinking in terms of connectivity between parks, but is disappointed about the outcome of the soil stockpile. She noted that it is unattractive and should not be there.

Commissioner Fraasch noted that this issue is a Public Works Project issue and not a problem for the Parks Advisory Board. She also mentioned that the Parks Board should be expecting this to be corrected back to the way it was, and not at the expense of money that was promised for Robb Hollow Greening. Ms. Fraasch noted that she would like to hold a meeting between the Park Advisory Board and the Commission as soon as possible to review this topic.

Ms. Kramer inquired about the obligations for the Act 70 Area in relation to the site. She noted that it incorporates part of the drainage swale and was wondering if that complied with the standards associated with developing the land.

Mr. McMeans noted that he would be working the engineers to incorporate some different options based on the feedback he heard during the meeting.

Mr. Block and Mr. Farrell shared the view that a completely flat area verses a gentle slope is not a factor for them, but would like to see the area re-graded to a more natural appearance

Ms. Kramer noted that she had not come to a consensus, and is not pleased in general. She noted that she does not agree with Mr. Block & Mr. Farrell's opinions on the final look of the space. She would like more time to review the plans.

Ms. Burrett agreed with Ms. Kramer's stance.

V. 2019 PAB Agenda Schedule & Meeting Dates:

Mr. Avolio asked the group to review the provided Agenda Schedule for 2019.

The group agreed to keep the same meeting schedule and agenda process for 2019.

Mr. Avolio noted that he would update the documents and advertise the upcoming meetings for 2019 as the first Tuesday of every month, with the exception of canceling the July meeting.

Commissioner Fraasch asked staff to notify Manager McGill to a lot time on the first discussion session in January for the Parks Advisory Board to attend to discuss the Robb Hollow earthwork. She noted that the group could hold their meeting prior to the discussion session to prepare to speak before the Commission.

Mr. Sukal noted that the group would not be able to tape their meeting, as they would have to use an alternate meeting room, which would not have recording capabilities

VI. Rockwood Park:

Mr. Block noted that the wooden park sign is in need of some TLC, as well additional plantings.

Ms. Kramer noted that the fence at the basketball court is ready for replacement.

The group also commented on the need to address the exposed tree roots and erosion on the curve of the path

VII. Highland Terrace:

Ms. Burrett noted that this park also had a need for fence replacement or reconditioning

Ms. Kramer noted a broken split rail fence post, and learned that there is 7" difference in the height of the basketball hoops.

VIII. Hoodridge (Conservation District):

Mr. Presto inquired about the best way to access the park.

Mr. Farrell noted that the culvert has become jammed with debris.

IX. Church Place Park:

Ms. Kramer noted that the Sweet Gum Tree looks to be in good condition

X. Upper Robb Hollow:

No Discussion.

XI. New Business

Mr. Avolio noted that he had Scout Thank You Letters ready for Commissioner Fraasch to sign. He thanked Ms. Kramer for her work in preparing them.

XII. Old Business

Mr. Farrell inquired about the remaining balance of the Twin Hills CIP project

Mr. Avolio replied that \$14,750 had been spent on the grinding and tree order.

Mr. Sukal noted that there was \$20,000 allotted in the CIP and \$5,000 in operating.

Mr. Farrell asked about the possibility of ordering more trees with the balance before the end of the year.

Mr. Sukal replied that if the trees could be delivered before the end of 2018, it could be reviewed and ordered.

XIII. Announcements:

No Announcements were made.

XIV. Adjournment

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

