



MT. LEBANON
PENNSYLVANIA

**Parks Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 3, 2019 - 6:30 p.m.
Municipal Building Room C**

I. Roll Call & Declaration of Quorum:

Ms. Kramer called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM, and proceeded with the roll call. Elaine Kramer, Richard Heyse, Albert Presto, and Jonathan Farrell attended the meeting.

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

Ron Block, Pam Burrett, Gregory Newman, and Commissioner Fraasch were absent.

II. Citizen Comments:

Mr. Joe Kramer 138 Vernan Drive:

Mr. Kramer spoke to the group regarding the pending Grant Application for McNeilly Park. He noted that his main concern is that he believes that this grant has lacked a public engagement process. Mr. Kramer also noted that an undeveloped area in Mt. Lebanon of 23 acres should be reviewed by means of a professionally run Public Engagement Process and Master Plan. He voiced concerns that the grading and construction of an entrance into the park may be pre-mature, as the final use for the park could change, and may not incorporate the design that the Municipality is about to fund.

Ms. Kramer replied that the PAB has requested a Master Plan Process to the Commission. She noted that this would engage a hired professional service, which may take 12-18 months to complete, at a price tag of close to \$80,000.

Mr. James Scheuermann 121 Longuevue Drive:

Mr. Scheuermann voiced his concerns on carbon capture in regards to the parks system. He inquired if there was any thought concerning increasing carbon capture as it related to maintenance and operations of each park.

Mr. Farrell responded that the group mainly focuses priority efforts on safety and usage of the parks, but they are constantly looking into diversifying the canopy throughout the community through plantings and invasive removal projects.

III. Approval of August 2019, Meeting Minutes:

Ms. Kramer asked the group to review the August draft minutes and provide comment.

Ms. Kramer also submitted a copy of the draft minutes to Mr. Avolio with minor grammar and spelling corrections.

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

IV. Arboretum Community Engagement Programming Update:

Ms. Kramer noted that the two Public Programs that the Arboretum will be collaborating on:

October 10th from 5:15-6:30pm at the Library → Joe Stavish from Tree Pittsburgh, Walk and ID of Bird Park

November 2nd at the Library → Presentation to follow the Conservancy's Annual Meeting to cover Tree Diversity

Ms. Kramer also asked to include on the November 2019 agenda the selection of the 2020 Educational Program.

V. Parks Assessment: Establish Order

The group reviewed the parks system to create this years' inspection schedule. The current inspection schedule is as follows:

October Review:

- Twin Hills
- North Meadowcroft
- Church Place
- Main Park

November Review

- Williamsburg
- Sunset Hills
- McNeilly
- Country Club

December

- Rockwood
- Hoodridge
- Iroquois

-Highland Terrace

VI. New Business

Mr. Sukal noted that the Public Works Crews have removed the Norway Maple Tree above the Shelter #2 in Main Park, as well as the declining Sycamore Tree next to the upper playground. He noted that while crews were in the area, they elevated several trees off walk paths, as well as removing a large locust tree that was becoming a hazard over-top of the walking trail.

Mr. Sukal thanked the group for all the recent communications on suggested planting for Pine Cone Park. He noted that the remainder of the stumps were ground out today. He suggested not over planting that park and possibly starting with 3-4 plantings this fall. He reminded everyone that this is not a rush decision, and the group should take their time to develop a planting plan for the park over the next few months.

Mr. Avolio updated the group on the progress of Twin Hills Invasive CIP efforts. He noted that the technician from Eichenlaub Landscaping completed the treatment of all bush honeysuckle in Twin Hills, as well as an initial treatment of the Knotweed stand below the Bird Blind.

Mr. Sukal passed on a report from a resident that has spotted what he believes to be a copperhead snake along the outfall in Robb Hollow Park at the end of the site closest to Gilkeson Road.

VII. Old Business

Ms. Kramer noted that at the last meeting, Mr. Heyse had inquired about what rules govern the communication of the Parks Advisory Board

Mr. Sukal shared the answers he received when discussing this item with the Municipal Solicitor earlier this month. He reported that all decisions must be made at a public meeting. Emails about Municipal Business are considered public records. As a group, the PAB is always able to meet outside of public meetings to review any issue or for inspections/fact finding.

VIII. Announcements

No Announcements Made.

IX. Commission Update:

No Commission Update Provided.

X. Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Heyse and seconded by Mr. Farrell to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 7:28 PM.