



MT. LEBANON
PENNSYLVANIA

**Parks Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 3th, 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, Greg Newman, Jonathan Farrell, Ron Block, and Pam Burrett attended the meeting.

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

Albert Presto and Commissioner Fraasch were absent.

II. Citizen Comments:

Mindy Ranney: Ms. Ranney introduced herself to the group as the future Commissioner representing Ward 1. She noted that she was sitting in to get up to speed and gain more knowledge of how the board operates, as well as its priorities.

Rob Mackey: Mr. Mackey shared his interest in ecological health of the parks, Invasive Species, deer pressure, and enhanced sustainability throughout opportunities in streams and habitat.

Joe Kramer: Mr. Kramer asked if the Golf Course fell under the interest/review of the PAB, being that it is 23 acres of open Green Space. Mr. Kramer also thanked Mr. Farrell for attending the EDC meeting, and he hopes to have a committee formed under the new Commission to review McNeilly Park.

Mr. Block advised that a Parks Master Plan is being pushed for funding with the Commission and they hope to have it include looking at this site.

Mr. Sukal also noted that Mr. Kramer may want to approach the Sports Board, or start with Recreation Director regarding the Golf Course.

Mike Mooney: Informed the group that he was interested in the ecological restoration of park land, and was sitting in to observe.

III. Approval of November 2019, Meeting Minutes:

Mr. Block asked the group to review the November draft minutes and provide comment.

Mr. Farrell asked for a grammar correction on page 2

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

IV. Rockwood Park Review:

Mr. Farrell asked if the routed park sign could be replaced and move closer to the parking lot

Mr. Block commented that he would like to see more young trees in the park.

Mr. Farrell also noted that the solar light was not functioning when he visited the park.

Mr. Newman noted that the catch basin on the bend of the asphalt path across from the basketball court was full and needed cleaned.

Mr. Farrell noted that there may be an opportunity for stormwater capture with the installation of a rain garden around the inlet that is located in the lawn valley area on the right side of the park.

V. Highland Terrace Park Review:

Ms. Burrett noted that the basketball court fencing needs replaced.

Ms. Kramer commented that it was strange to have a sidewalk end abruptly and not extend into the park.

Mr. Sukal noted that he has never received a comment or request regarding the sidewalks around the park.

Mr. Newman pointed out the need to replace several retaining wall caps that were beginning to crumble.

VI. Iroquois Park Review:

Mr. Newman commented that there appears to be illegal dumping along the stream on the outfall by the steps to Gilkeson Road. He also pointed out an area along the path that may have been where an old stump had been. He explained that there is now a significant sink hole where the root system has rotted away, and should be addressed.

Mr. Sukal replied that he would pass along the dumping to the Inspections department.

Mr. Newman noted that he thought the layout of this park could be an opportunity to increase accessibility when thinking about improvements. He noted that the play areas are one of the friendlier grades among all of the parks.

Mr. Farrell commented on the need for more young trees in the park.

Ms. Kramer noted a leaning standing dead tree along Gilkeson Road that appears to be large enough to strike the basketball court if it were to fall. She also noted that the knotweed had crossed the creek, and urged the group to keep up on the treatments.

She also inquired about the possibility of trying the solar lights that have been successful in Main and Rockwood Parks along the path to the Galleria.

Mr. Block made mention of the erosion of the corner of the basketball court closest to the stream bank and inlet. He noted that this may be able to be best addressed in conjunction with the replacement of the fencing system.

Ms. Kramer inquired if the Municipality can request the Galleria to make improvements to their portion of the pathway. She also noted that she spoke to a family in the park, and they noted that a second picnic table would be most appreciated.

VII. Hoodridge Park Review:

Mr. Newman noted that the handrail up to Eisenhower is loose – more so than last year. Ms. Kramer commented that she would like to see this stream daylighted through the park.

VIII. 2020 Chair & Co-Chair:

A motion was made by Ms. Burrett and a second by Mr. Newman to elect Ron Block as Chair and Elaine Kramer as Co-Chair for the 2020 meeting year. The motion passed, and Mr. Block and Ms. Kramer were named Chair & Co-Chair for 2020.

IX. New Business

Mr. Newman noted the lights are constantly on at the Cederhurst Bus Shelter.

Mr. Avolio replied that he would inform the electrician to check the photocell and replace if needed

Mr. Sukal reviewed the story of the Bird Park Freedom Tree, which is a tribute to an Air Force Pilot that went missing in Laos. He noted that a resident, Mr. Oyler, would like to donate a new tree for replacement.

Mr. Block noted that he believes it was originally a Tulip Tree, and that it will do well in that area above the pavilion.

Mr. Block shared an email the Commissioner Fraasch received regarding the potential plan for Main Park. The resident noted that they would like to see consideration for community composting, solar energy utilization, and a splash pad incorporated into the Main Park plan.

X. Old Business

Ms. Kramer updated everyone on the Arboretum Education Program: The Conservancy loves the program idea, but with School in the Park, they do not want to sponsor it, but would to see the event alongside their booth on Sunday April 26th in Main Park talking with Mickey Stobbe. Library would like to see re-wilding of backyards as a program through the Audubon Society. She also noted that the Library is also looking for a learning series for home owners in planting and gardening.

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

Mr. Sukal replied that the grant for funding to remove the access fill from the site was recently denied.

Ms. Kramer asked when the 2020 operating budget will be voted on.

Mr. Sukal replied that the budget would be voted on during the December 10th meeting.

XI. Announcements:

No Announcements were made.

XII. Commission Update:

No Commission Update was Provided

XIII. Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Farrell and seconded by Ms. Burrett to adjourn the meeting. The motion was passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:37pm.