



FOX CHAPEL BOROUGH

MINUTES OF THE PARK COMMISSION MEETING HELD MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2023, AT 9 AM

PRESENT: Wesley Posvar, Chairperson; Jay Troutman, Nicholas Muller, Jeffrey Cohen, Liz Nelson, Members; Gary Koehler, Manager; Larry Kurpakus, PWD Director; Craig Sorg, Police Sergeant; Shawn M. Peterson, Borough Secretary

ALSO PRESENT: Frederick Leech, Betsy Monroe, Councilmembers; Melinda Guinn, Resident

VIA ZOOM: Carrie Casey, Susan Crookston, Steve Whittingham, Members; Sanford Leuba, Tree Planting Coordinator of the Allegheny County Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America

Wes Posvar called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM.

The minutes of the June 12, 2023, meeting were unanimously approved.

Mr. Posvar asked for a moment of silence to remember those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001.

RESIDENT COMMENTS

None

Sergeant Sorg was in attendance to ask about the status of McCahill Park for next year's Fox Chapel Day event. It is still unclear when construction will begin and be completed. Mr. Posvar stated the Park Commission will work with Sergeant Sorg to ensure the event occurs, even if it is not at McCahill Park.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Sergeant Sorg stated that the Police Department continues to issue warnings and citations to violators without parking permits at designated Borough parking lots.

Mr. Troutman said when he was at Riding Meadow Park, an officer from the Police Department mentioned having a larger 'Warning' sign with information about obtaining a permit inside the parking area so that when park users arrive, they will see the sign.

Mr. Koehler stated that a more enforceable action for any violators who do not have a permit and still park in lots that require a permit is that signs should be posted stating the lot is for permit parking only and that the violator's vehicle will be towed at the owner's expense.

Mr. Posvar asked Sergeant Sorg if the placement of the permit sticker could be on the lower left-hand corner of the vehicle's back window instead of just the left-back bumper. Sergeant Sorg did not think this would be an issue but would look into it and get back to the Commission with an answer on sticker placement and the sign inside the parking area.

JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Mr. Posvar provided an update to the Commission regarding the Joint Comprehensive Plan.

McCAHILL PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Mr. Koehler stated the original permit to DEP was reviewed, and DEP asked for geotechnical soil samples from McCahill Park. The Borough resubmitted the permit with the requested samples and awaits DEP's approval. Once the approval is granted, final construction drawings will be completed, then the bidding for the work will begin.

PARK COMMISSION MINUTES

September 11, 2023

The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy would like to assist the Borough with the McCahill Park improvements, specifically with the rain gardens. The cost of the main project will be lowered because of the wetland planting partnership with the Conservancy.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Mr. Posvar stated the Public Works report from Mr. Kurpakus is very useful for communicating priorities and activities in the Parks. He also said the streambank restoration that the Public Works Department completed is beautiful.

Mr. Kurpakus reported that 3,200 seedlings and plants were ordered through Tree Pittsburgh, Wetland Supply Company, and the 10 Million Tree Program. Grass plugs will be planted this week by the PWD. Delivery of the tree seedlings from Wetland Supply is scheduled for mid-October and will be planted immediately following delivery.

FALL PLANTING EVENT

A delivery from the 10 Million Tree Program will arrive in early to mid-October. Once the delivery date is set, the fall planting event details will follow.

Mr. Cohen asked Mr. Leuba when an order had to be placed in order to have a spring planting event. Mr. Leuba stated orders must be submitted to the 10 Million Tree Program by late December.

Mr. Koehler asked the Commission for planned ideas for planting at the island at Foxhurst Drive and also the entrance to Foxhurst Drive at Fox Chapel Road.

PARK COMMISSION VACANCY UPDATE

It was decided that the Commission would advertise two vacancies in October, interview candidates in November, make recommendations to Council in December, and have the new members begin their terms in 2024.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

- State Representative Steele's Outdoor Recreation and Conservation Expo – Friday, September 15, 2023
- The next Park Commission Meeting – Monday, December 11, 2023, at 9 AM

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 AM.

Shawn M. Peterson
Borough Secretary