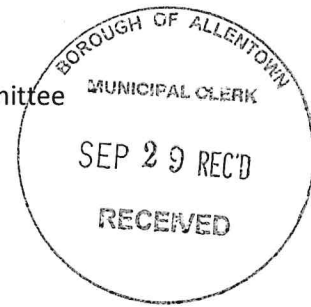


Allentown Parks and Public Space Advisory Committee
Remote and via Facebook Live
August 26, 2020
Meeting Minutes



Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Allison Arnone at 6:00 pm and the following statement was read:

“In compliance with the ‘Open Public Meetings Act’, Chapter 231, PL 1975, Section 5, adequate notice has been given of this meeting by posting a Notice in a public space and by transmitting a notice to two newspapers, THE TIMES and the ASBURY PARK PRESS, as required by law.”

Those present were: Allison Arnone, Jan Meerwarth, Jan Buchalski, Suzanne Smith, and Rob Strovinsky. Connor Roberts, Lisa Strovinsky and Terry Brown were absent. A quorum was present.

Minutes Review

A motion was made to approve the June 16, 2020 Allentown Parks and Public Space Advisory Committee meeting minutes by Jan M and seconded by Suzane Smith; the motion was approved unanimously.

Public Present

Ed Confair from E&LP was present.

Public viewed the meeting on the borough’s Facebook page. There were no public comments

Old Business

Ed noted that the borough received 6 bids for the construction contract for Phase I of Ashby Park. Council meets on September 8, 2020 and needs to award the bid. Hopefully, the contractor will be hired by the end of September with a start date anywhere between September 8th and October 1st. Ed stated that the ideal scenario would begin construction at the end of September as his concern is the asphalt work if it gets too cold.

Allison reported that an informal meeting with Paul Gleats would be scheduled to review the MCOS grant for Phase II of Ashby and the council needs to sign a resolution at their September 8th meeting that E&LP will be applying for this grant.

Ed presented 3 options for the focus of Phase II: history, programs, and sustainability. First, the monument area develops the North end of the park \$\$ (history). Second, a small portion of the pavilion area would be developed in the southerly central portion of the park \$\$\$ (programs). And finally, full development of the South end of the park complete with raingardens and the boardwalk \$ (sustainability). The committee discussed each option at length and decided option 1 without the monument but with cemetery fencing is the best option at this time. The monument, which is a significant cost, can be added at a later time (as the monument foundation is contained in this option) and could also be funded by applying to a different grant. Jan B motioned, Allison seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Rob Strovinsky noted that the fencing from the Yellow Meeting House cannot be repurposed and moved to the Union AME Cemetery. He stated the Bob Pepler looked into this.

New Business

Allison reported that the parks sustained quite a bit of damage from Hurricane Isaias

Rob also reported that he and Carmella Roberts will be applying for a federal grant for fencing at Sara Barnes park, the entryway from Main St to Lakeview at Farmer park, the boat ramp in Farmer and the basketball court in Farmer. It is a grant to make "collective improvements" throughout our park system. Rob suggested reaching out to Councilman Mike Drennan and Carmella for further information regarding the recreation committee's input and the grant, respectively.

Eagle Scout Chris Fleres spoke via Zoom about his proposed Eagle Scout project. In June, Rob, Jan M, Allison, Rev. Smart, Chris and his parents all met at the Union AME Cemetery to go over the scope of Chris' project. It is to include clearing out the overgrowth, planting trees at the entrance on Hamilton St., adding a sign on the property, cleaning up the fence line on the side of the property and cleaning the headstones. Time frame to completion, now till before December.

Next Meeting

September 21, 2020 at 7:00 pm

Adjournment

There being no further business, Allison Arnone adjourned the public portion of the meeting at 8:50 pm.

The Executive Session of this meeting commenced at 8:52 pm as per Resolution 01-2020 offered by Allison Arnone, seconded by Jan Meerwarth, approved unanimously. Session adjourned at 9:30 pm.