

Allentown Parks and Public Space Advisory Committee  
Virtual Meeting via Zoom  
July 19, 2021  
Meeting Minutes

*Call to Order*

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Allison Arnone at 7:03 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, Rob Strovinsky, and Terry Brown. Lisa Strovinsky was excused absent. A quorum was present.

*Minutes Review*

Terry Brown motioned to approve the May 17, 2021 minutes, Jan Meerwarth seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

*Public Present*

Greg Westfall was present.

*Old Business*

Ashby Park update

DCRS should complete the soil testing in the raingarden area by this upcoming Wednesday. Allison Arnone remarked that Phase II cannot start until the asphalt drawings are done. Rob Strovinsky noted that Phase I target completion is in September and coincides with using the extra money from the grant for fencing and trees. Allison stated the E & LP can't bid Phase II until Phase I is complete so that will not be until at least October resulting in Phase II being pushed back to next year. Several members of the committee noted what an eyesore this park is currently. Allison also remarked that now DCRS has more work to do because the park has not been maintained or cleaned up. Weeds and overgrowth are significant. It was questioned as to why the fencing wasn't done when it was previously decided that DPW would do because they had time and it was inexpensive. Additionally, the committee decided that split rail fencing would not be used, nor vinyl. Rob explained that the grant wouldn't allow DPW to do the fence. Jan Meerwarth noted she knows a custom wood work company and she will see if he can do a quote. Rob wanted to purchase trees for between the crushed stone path and Broad St. residents. Terry Brown and Shade Tree suggested natives. Ed has a list of the trees. During the 2 public interactive meetings, several of the residents requested that their view not be blocked and Allison stated that E&LP has a design already and will make recommendations on the appropriate trees to use in that space. Terry noted that he would send the list of trees and images to the committee and at the next meeting will compare these trees to Ed Confair's recommendations. Allison recounted that Ed was supposed to be at the April meeting but that was after some borough officials decided that the committee was not to interact with Ed and there would only be one point of contact. The committee has not been informed of communication between the borough and E&LP. Rob noted he would loke more updates from Ed about the progress of DCRS. Allison suggested that for the future, communications should go to Laurie Roth, borough clerk and point of contact with Rob and the Parks committee being cc'd so things move along smoothly and we don't delay DCRS again so they can complete their entire "to-do" list. Rob updated the



committee that the raingarden was dropped from Phase II but not sure why. Jan M noted the raingarden was reduced to address stormwater management and Ed is to perform soil testing.

### Signage

Allison recommended seeing if funds were available in the open space fund to get a consultant for signage to at least move ahead on this. She noted that this doesn't need to go to bid if we use a smaller group. Public comment from Greg Westfall: Parks and Public Spaces committee can make this recommendation to council so a decision could be made relatively quickly. He also commended Rob on his work with the committee. Sensi Park signs: Terry recommended that the picture on the Mill Pond sign be centered to line up with the centered text. Rob recommended tightening up the image a bit. Is the 1714 date in? Terry also suggested to expand the image if there was more room. Jan M noted that graphic design will make those adjustments. A graphic artist is to do the picture and send it to the sign company. Jan M will send Rob the name of someone who can convert the original low-resolution picture to high-resolution designs. Rob has the monies allocated for this already. In so far as the sign for the Block House, the committee recommends taking out the last sentence and putting name and date back in.

### *New Business*

#### Sarah Barnes Park

Terry and Lisa Strovinsky did great jobs with the plantings and also with the plantings at the parking lot by Farmer Park.

#### Farmer Park

Allison suggested this should be the next park the committee focuses on. Terry remarked that before we start to plan anything, there needs to be a vision and a design and it would be wise to get a consultant. Jan M noted that the triangle area was still privately owned. Rob stated that there should be some information regarding the TAP grant and whether or not Allentown received it by the end of the year. There is money in the grant for design and signage so might want to hold off on starting anything.

#### Heritage Park

Greg Westfall from public asked about the memorial trees and who is maintaining them as they are starting to become slightly unsightly. Additionally, if memorial trees are planted in Ashby, how and who will be maintaining them?

### New Members

Allison noted that the committee is down two members and the committee is currently looking for these new members. Terry is to email the garden club members about this. Greg Westfall from public noted he would be happy to join the committee

### *Next Meeting*

August 16, 2021 at 7:00 pm

### *Adjournment*

There being no further business, at 8:52, Terry Brown motioned to adjourn, Jan Meerwarth seconded.