

Allentown Parks and Public Space Advisory Committee
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
September 20, 2021
Meeting Minutes



Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Allison Arnone at 7:00 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, Terry Brown, Lisa Strovinsky, Jan Buchalski, Rob Stovinsky. A quorum was present.

Minutes Review

August minutes tabled until Jan M can complete. Motion to approve July 19 minutes passed unanimously.

Public Present

Guest speaker: Leslie Ashby-Sorel

Old Business

Ashby Park update

Paths have been installed, both paved and gravel. Accent strips will be installed at a later date. Trees have been purchased. Installation is waiting for one species to be delivered; the others are in storage until the temperatures drop and they can be installed. Trees are 2" diameter caliper. DCRS is working to wrap up Phase I by mid-October after which E&LP can come in and document as-built conditions so they can do the Phase II construction drawings. Also after completion, DPW can install the fencing by the bank. Both the easement donation sign by the bank and MCOS sign need to be hung at the completion of Phase I. Rob noted of the \$5700 remaining, some was used for the Phase I change items. Allison posed whether or not to have temporary signs at Broad and Hamilton St entrances. Lisa suggested QR codes on the signs to expand the text and for pictures. Rob to get an estimate for the signs. Allison and Leslie Ashby-Sorel to work on the wording then pass along to the committee.

Conine's Park Signage

R. Strovinsky shared the draft images of the signage artwork. The following suggestions were brought forward:

- the font should be the same on both the signs at Mill Pond.
- Cite Alice Wycoff beneath the sketch drawings.

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New Business

Guest speaker Leslie Ashby-Sorel spoke about her experience writing grants related to history rooted in communities and that many grants are available and fundable. Allentown is sitting on a goldmine of history; Leslie spoke about the possibility of doing a Heritage Trail, similar to one in Martha's Vineyard that she worked on, from the beginning of the country through the years to the present.

There is a grant due November 11, 2021 and Leslie would need to be retained on a monthly basis and would simultaneously "pitch" Phase I and Phase II of the projected idea. There would be several simultaneous tasks occurring during a short period of time in order for this effort to be successful. Tasks include a search and filing fee, which is included in the retainer. If archiving is involved, Leslie suggested partnering with a local university and Historic Preservation Commissions and she would be able to take care of setting this up. The majority of the grants out there are matching grants. In order to retain Leslie, council would need a written proposal this week explaining what grants would be sought and the amount of grant money. Leslie requested a historic theme for Phase I of this grant; perhaps Sergeant Ashby, the Underground Railroad and Civil War. Phase II could be focused on the Revolutionary War, Native Americans. Leslie would highlight what she would feel is important and then a decision would be made on what specifically would go into the grant application. Rob noted that he is not sure where the funds would come from so it may need to go on to next year's budget. He recommended presenting this at the next Council meeting on 10/5/21.

TAVI Daffodil Days: Al DeFalco and Mike McCormick presented TAVIs plan to install up to 20,000 (in phases) daffodils throughout town to beautify and improve the economy. "Daffodil Days" would be a reason people would come into town, making it the "Daffodil Destination" similar to local the sunflower and tulip festivals." Al noted the initial plan was to install along Main Street but there was concern pedestrians would walk on the plots likely killing the daffodils out. Installing daffodil beds throughout Heritage Park seemed to be an more viable solution. Lisa noted that if they could naturalize in Heritage, it would be much easier to maintain than anything on Main Street.

Next Meeting

October 18, 2021 at 7:00 pm

Adjournment

There being no further business, at 9:00