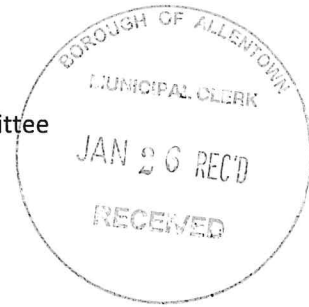


Allentown Parks and Public Space Advisory Committee
Remote and via Facebook Live
October 19, 2020
Meeting Minutes



Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Allison Arnone at 7:01 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: Allison Arnone, Jan Meerwarth, Jan Buchalski, Suzanne Smith, Rob Strovinsky, Lisa Strovinsky, and Terry Brown. A quorum was present. New member Claudia Lilley was welcomed to the committee. She grew up in Allentown and has recently returned. Claudia also volunteers on the Senior Committee.

Minutes Review

A motion was made to approve the September 21, 2020 Allentown Parks and Public Space Advisory Committee meeting minutes by Terry Brown and seconded by Allison Arnone; the motion was approved unanimously.

Public Present

Public viewed the meeting on the Borough's Facebook page. The comments were as follows:

Greg Westfall: regarding the DOT grant, replace/restore such that there would need to be less maintenance in the future. Rob Strovinsky stated that more durable materials will be used.

John Fabiano: Borough engineer is always looking for grant opportunities; however, the professional consultants consistently presents these things at the last minute

Old Business

Ashby Park update: Construction start date for the Park has been delayed one month due to concern about pervious asphalt walkway raised by Roberts Engineering. Discussions have occurred between ELP, Borough Council and members of the Parks Committee. As such, contracts have not been signed.

Rob Strovinsky advised that Ed Confair (ELP) spoke with George Wilhelm from DCRS about the contract and the Notice to Proceed. The DCRS attorney and Allentown Borough attorney Greg Cannon have discussed and resolved contract language.

Rob Strovinsky stated that Roberts Engineering questioned the pervious asphalt because of maintenance costs and advised that it requires vacuuming 4 times per year. Roberts Engineering also says that the pathway is considered a stormwater management facility, must be maintained according to the NJDEP regulations and needs to be included in stormwater calculations. Allison Arnone noted that it is her understanding and that of ELP that the scope of Phase I and Phase II combined is less than the required 1 acre of disturbance or ¼ acre of new impervious coverage and therefore not required to comply with storm water maintenance rules. However, the Phase III scope located in the southern edge of the park includes a rain garden which is

meant as storm water retention solution. At this point, the overall area of disturbance would require storm water calculations. Rob noted he will get a statement from Carmella Roberts regarding why she wants to include the porous asphalt maintenance in the DEP stormwater guidelines/permits.

Allison emphasized that the schedule was tight before this delay and she is worried about completing the project prior to cold weather. Rob Strovinsky indicated that the project may need to start in the Spring 2021. Allison questioned whether costs would increase because of this delay.

Rob Strovinsky indicated that construction activities may need to be reprioritized now. Asphalt plants shut down in a week. He suggested that perhaps tree work can start in the fall of 2020. DCRS is looking into options but most likely the project will be delayed until the spring.

New Business

DOT grant: Rob reported that this grant helps with maintenance and pathways. Terry Brown noted that the committee should have been consulted on this and that this is what happens when someone gets money to do something, there is no coordination and then there is no maintenance funding in the future. Terry questioned why Roberts Engineering established a project scope without coordinating with any Borough committees? Terry also noted that Ashby should not be included in the DOT grant. Jan B agreed. Allison pointed out that every phase of work needs to be discussed and designed. She also emphasized that Farmer park has tremendous potential as a beautiful passive, sustainable park, and it is in a great location. However, there are a variety of random incohesive settings in the park with no concept, no design. The basketball court at the entry of Farmer Park is misplaced and an eyesore that has become run down. Suggestions were made to remove it and combine it with the pickleball court. Several members are against repaving the basketball court at the entry of Farmer Park because it would prohibit future design improvements and makes impervious pavement more permanent. Jan M noted it would also not be wise to pave and stripe the Lakeview parking lot.

Free Little Library: Rob presented a request from a resident to put a Free Little Library in one of the parks. After discussion, the committee recommended this not be put in a park because of maintenance issues, possible vandalism, and ultimately this is not a Borough responsibility. Rob will let the resident know the decision of the Committee.

Next Meeting

November 16, 2020 at 7:00 pm

Adjournment

There being no further business, Terry Brown motioned to adjourn, Jan Meerwarth seconded at 8:02 pm.