

Allentown Parks and Public Space Advisory Committee
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
November 15, 2021
Meeting Minutes



Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Allison Arnone at 7:06 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 Strovinsky, Mike Drennen, Vince Tavernite. Christine Hyer was absent. A quorum was present.

Minutes Review

A motion to approve the September meeting minutes was made by Jan Meerwarth, seconded by Jan Buchalski; motion approved unanimously.

Public Present

There were no public present

Old Business

Ashby Park update

Laurie Roth is in regular contact with Ed Confair who has been inspecting the site and forwarding progress. Ed will continue with construction documents for Phase II. There will be a meeting with Roberts Engineering to review the construction documents, then the borough will review which is then when the committee will finally be able to see the construction documents. The job will then go out to bid approximately one month later. If all remains on track, construction should take place between April and May. Further, Rob Strovinsky reported that the easement with the Methodist Church is moving forward. The borough attorney is currently writing something up. It would go up along Hamilton St resident's property lines, not asphalt so it isn't confused with the church driveway. Plan is to use stone dust to connect Church St to the park. Jan B noted that some of the stone dust is washing away where it meets the asphalt along the completed path from Phase I and this should be kept in mind when choosing materials for the path. Jan M asked if fencing was completed at the bank, Rob noted that it is not but should be by the end of the month. Rob noted that some stonework is cracked and DCRS is supposed to fix that.

Leslie Sorel grant update

Leslie was asked to write a proposal and send it to Laurie and Borough Council; however, she did but did not get on the agenda for council. Rob and Buildings and Grounds reviewed it and sent back to Leslie with questions but did not receive a response. Allison Arnone noted that no one from B&G responded back to Leslie for over a month after she sent it in to even recognize that it was received. But bottom line is that there is no money left to even start this now. Rob noted perhaps over the summer. Leslie's retainer was approximately \$7500 so Allison is asking for a line item in the budget with June Maddon, CFO to have this for next year. Mike Drennen will try to get the money in the budget for grant writing.

Tree Planting Update

All trees are in for Phase I.

Temporary Sign

Council and B&G decided on the temporary sign and ordered it. Can put a QR code on it and that can be updated with the progress of the park. Monmouth County and Commerce Bank easement signs still need to go up. Jan M suggested to start working on permanent signs in January, needs to be in Phase II. Allison asked Mike to request monies for signage and wayfinding for a consultant/grant writing. Lisa Stovinsky noted her company is doing that now and she will forward the contact information to Mike.

New Business

None

Next Meeting

There will be no December meeting. Next meeting will be the reorganization meeting January 17, 2022 at 7:00 pm. Terry motioned to keep the Parks meetings on the third Monday of the month, Jan B seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Parks Meetings for 2022:

All meetings are held at 7:00 p.m.

January 17

February 21

March 21

April 18

May 16

June 20

July 18

August 15

September 19

October 17

November 21

December 19

Adjournment

There being no further business, Allison adjourned the meeting at 8:08 pm.