

Allegheny County Council

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Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 16, 2019

4:15 PM

Conference Room I

Committee on Parks

*John Palmiere, Chair;
Patrick Catena, Nick Futules, Cindy Kirk, Bob Macey, Sue Means and Anita Prizio,
Members.*

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:16.

Invited Guests:

William D. McKain, CPA, Allegheny County Manager or designee(s)
Andy Baechle, Director, Allegheny County Parks Department

II. Roll Call

Members Present: 3 - Bob Macey, Anita Prizio and John Palmiere

Members Absent: 2 - Patrick Catena and Nick Futules

Members Phone: 2 - Cindy Kirk and Sue Means

Members 3 - Paul Zavarella, DeWitt Walton and Tom Baker

Non-Members:

III. Approval of Minutes

[11245-19](#)

Motion to approve the minutes of the October 2, 2019 meeting of the Committee on Parks.

A motion was made by Macey, seconded by Kirk, that this matter be Passed. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

IV. Agenda Items

Ordinances

[11229-19](#)

An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, re-naming the North Dakota Shelter and surrounding area in the County's North Park "Eagles' Nest Shelter and Grove."

Sponsors: Council Member Kirk

At the request of the Chair, the clerk read the title of the bill and Ms. Kirk provided a brief summary, noting that bald eagles have been nesting in the area for the past few years, that it is the first documented instance of bald eagles nesting in a County Park, and that the eagles had returned for 2019. Ms. Kirk indicated that the North Dakota shelter is not currently on the map, but the area is primarily used by individuals observing the eagles.

Mr. McKain noted that the North Dakota shelter is not rentable, and Mr. Baechle indicated that the shelter was created for educational purposes, rather than use as a picnic or other rental.

In response to a question from Mr. Macey, Mr. Baechle noted that the nest is approximately one city block from the shelter, and that the trail located nearest to the nest has been closed in order to ensure that an adequate distance is maintained and the eagles are not disrupted.

In response to a question from the Chair, Mr. Baechle described the geography of the area, and indicated that appropriate signage will be placed.

A motion was made by Macey, seconded by Means, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

11230-19

An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing use of property in the County's Boyce Park for implementation of a meadow in conjunction with the Allegheny County Parks Foundation.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

At the request of the Chair, the clerk read the title of the bill and Mr. Baechle summarized its provisions, noting that the County and Parks Foundation would be cooperating in creating a new meadow on a site formerly occupied by a strip mine, with new foliage to increase the ecological value of the area and provide habitat for wildlife, with \$10,500 coming from private contributions, just over \$13,402 in in-kind labor, and about \$1,000 in in-kind contributions from the Foundation.

In response to a question from the Chair, Mr. Baechle indicated that the project timeline is anticipated to extend no longer than August of 2020.

Mr. Baechle and Mr. Zavarella discussed the previous activities on the property, including mine remediation and unsuccessful previous forestry activities in the area. Mr. Macey and Mr. Baechle discussed the proposed foliage, and Mr. Baechle expressed confidence that it would do well in the area.

Mr. Zavarella suggested that it may be wise to specify where the new meadow will be located in the ordinance, and Mr. McKain agreed to do so in the form of an attachment.

The Chair suggested that there may be virtue in having the members look at parks projects when they are completed, and Mr. McKain agreed that the concept has merit.

A motion was made by Means, seconded by Macey, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:34.

Members Present: 5 - Cindy Kirk, Bob Macey, Sue Means, Anita Prizio and John Palmiere

Members Absent: 2 - Patrick Catena and Nick Futules