

# **Allegheny County Council**

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## **Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, July 3, 2018**

**4:00 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 4:07.*

### Invited Guests:

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

*Mr. McKain was present from the Office of the County Manager.*

*Mr. Baechle was present from the Parks Department.*

*Mr. Reardon was present from Facilities Management.*

*Ms. Glotfelty was present from the Parks Foundation.*

*Mr. Barker was present from the Office of County Council.*

## II. Roll Call

**Members Present:** 5 - Nick Futules, Bob Macey, Sue Means, Anita Prizio and John Palmiere

**Members Absent:** 2 - Patrick Catena and Cindy Kirk

**Members** 1 - Tom Baker

**Non-Members:**

## III. Approval of Minutes

## IV. Agenda Items

### Ordinances

#### [10672-18](#)

An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the continued use of the house on Chipmunk Drive in the County's Harrison Hills Park as an Environmental Learning Center, by the Friends of Harrison Hills Park.

**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 term runs through May 15, 2021 with a mutual two year agreement and without any rental amount. Mr. Baechle noted that the house has been County owned property for 10 years and was initially in dilapidated condition, but that it has been improved and is now used by the Park Rangers and others for nature-oriented programs, principally for school age children.*

*Mr. Futules noted that he has visited the site and that it is very nice and provides strong nature programming. Mr. Baechle noted that the scouts tend to camp near the site, and that it also has a new playground.*

*In response to a question from Ms. Means, Mr. Baechle indicated that the County rehabilitated the outside of the building, but the Friends refurbished the inside and that it*

*is principally used by school groups and scout groups. Mr. Baechle noted that the programs are usually given by either rangers or volunteers from the Friends.*

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

[10673-18](#)

An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing use of grounds near the historic Mansion in the County's Hartwood Acres Park for refurbishment and construction of sculpture garden, in collaboration with the Allegheny County Parks Foundation.

**Sponsors:** Chief Executive

*At the request of the Chair, the clerk read the title of the bill and Ms. Glotfelty discussed the genesis of the idea of restoring the 12 sculptures that have been on the grounds since the 1980s, and noted that American art from the 1970s and 80s has actually been recognized worldwide for its artistic merit. Ms. Glotfelty indicated that some of the sculptures will have to be removed to a restoration facility in Ohio and that the work for the restoration will ultimately cost approximately \$500,000, but that the 12 sculptures have been estimated to be worth roughly \$2.5 million. Ms. Glotfelty noted that, once the Foundation became aware of the significance of the sculptures, the concept changed to using the sculptures as a means of generating interest in and attendance at the park by creating a consolidated sculpture garden. Ms. Glotfelty noted that the cost of altering the park in order to create the garden space is currently estimated at just over \$3 million, although some of the work may be appropriate for County tradesmen to perform.*

*Mr. Baechle noted that the County owns the sculptures, but that they are not easily accessible, as they are scattered throughout the park. Mr. Baechle suggested that consolidating most of the sculptures in one area will add value and will make them something that visitors could see relatively easily.*

*In response to a question from the Chair, Ms. Glotfelty discussed the Foundation's efforts to secure grant funding for the Foundation's roughly \$1.8 million share of the project. Ms. Glotfelty indicated that the project could be undertaken in phases, but that her preference would be to finish it all at one time.*

*Mr. McKain noted that the County's share would also be approximately \$1.8 million, and that adequate funding is in place to accommodate that.*

*In response to questions from Ms. Means, Ms. Glotfelty and Mr. McKain reviewed the approximate cost for the project.*

*In response to questions from Mr. Futules, Ms. Glotfelty noted that a conservation laboratory had done a survey of the sculptures and determined the approximate cost of stripping paint, re-welding metal, and the like, and that approximately 6 of the sculptures will have to be taken indoors for restoration due to condition, size, and other considerations. Ms. Glotfelty noted that there are local contractors who can re-paint the sculptures for which that can be done on-site, but that the closest entity with the necessary conservation expertise is in Ohio. Mr. Baechle noted that the largest portion of the cost will be to move the sculptures, which are large.*

*Ms. Prizio expressed support for the concept.*

*Mr. Macey expressed a desire to keep the project in Allegheny County to the extent possible, and also requested a breakdown of project expenditures for all of the County's*

*parks in order to make it possible to ensure that funding is expended equitably between the nine parks. Mr. McKain, Mr. Baechle and Ms. Glofelty expressed a willingness to reach out to additional local entities to gauge their interest/capability. Ms. Means expressed understanding for the concept of potentially having to look further afield for restoration entities with the appropriate experience and knowledge.*

*Mr. Futules, Mr. Macey, Mr. McKain, Mr. Baechle, and Ms. Glofelty discussed the nature of the conservation work that will be necessary for the 6 most labor-intensive restoration efforts.*

*In response to a question from Mr. Baker, Mr. McKain and Ms. Glofelty discussed how the sculpture garden may be marketed, once completed.*

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

## **V. Adjournment**

*The meeting was adjourned at 4:45.*