

# Allegheny County Council

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## Meeting Minutes - Approved

Wednesday, August 12, 2015

5:00 PM

Conference Room I

### Committee on Parks

*Nicholas Futules-Chair*

*Members: James Ellenbogen, Michael J. Finnerty, Heather S. Heidelbaugh, Robert J. Macey, Sue Means, and John Palmiere*

## I. Call to Order

*The meeting was called to order at 5:19.*

### Invited Guests:

**William D. McKain, CPA-County Manager or Desginee**

**Andy Baechle-Director, Parks Department**

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

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

*Mr. Barker and Mr. Szymanski were present from the Office of County Council.*

## II. Roll Call

**Members Present:** 4 - Futules, Jim Ellenbogen, Michael Finnerty and Sue Means

**Members Absent:** 3 - Heather Heidelbaugh, Bob Macey and John Palmiere

**Members** 1 - Ed Kress

**Non-Members:**

## III. Approval of Minutes

[9079-15](#)

Motion to approve the minutes of the Parks Committee meeting of Allegheny County Council held on June 3, 2015

**Passed**

## IV. Agenda Items

### Ordinances

[8988-15](#)

An ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the acceptance of a donation of materials from the Pittsburgh Penguins Foundation and Highmark, Inc. for the construction of a deck hockey rink to be located in the County's South Park.

**Sponsors:** Chief Executive

*At the request of the Chair, the clerk read the title of the bill and Mr. Baechle provided an overview of the donation to be approved, noting that the County already has hockey decks of this type, and described the location for the new deck.*

*In response to a question from Ms. Means, Mr. Baechle noted that the old deck was kept after it was disassembled, and that he would hope to re-install it in Boyce Park at some point.*

*In response to a question from the Chair, Mr. Baechle noted that site prep and engineering would cost the County approximately \$80,000, but that the materials donated by the Penguins Foundation are valued at about \$250,000.*

*In response to questions from Mr. Kress, Mr. McKain and Mr. Baechle noted that the rink would be identical to those in North and Settlers' Cabin Park and that, while usage of the*

deck was below what they would hope it to be, efforts were being undertaken to increase usage.

Mr. Kress, Mr. McKain and Mr. Baechle discussed the mechanics of site prep and installation.

In response to a question from Ms. Means, Mr. Baechle discussed the potential for having an attendant present to monitor scoreboard usage and Mr. McKain discussed the mechanism through which maintenance would be undertaken.

Ms. Means expressed a desire to look at the new fee structure within the context of roller hockey leagues at some future point.

**Affirmatively Recommended**

[9043-15](#)

An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the continued use by the North Hills Council of Governments, hereinafter referred to as the "COG," of a portion of Allegheny County-owned land in North Park as a leaf composting area.

**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 contract is for two years with an annual rental rate of \$1, with all insurance documentation in place.

In response to a question from Mr. Kress, Mr. Baechle described the site.

In response to a question from Mr. Finnerty, Mr. Baechle noted that the communities participating in the North Hills COG and the County are entitled to use compost from the area.

Ms. Means and Mr. Baechle discussed the process of leaf composting as it is undertaken at the site.

Ms. Means expressed concerns relating to the inclusion of an option for a two year extension in the authorization and reiterated her position that the lease agreement should be provided to Council prior to authorization.

Mr. Finnerty noted that the Law Department approved of the lease, and that any concerns that he might have had about leasing and liability issues are minimized.

In response to a question from Mr. Ellenbogen, Mr. Baechle noted that the County's involvement in the composting process is minimal, and restricted to access road maintenance.

**Affirmatively Recommended**

**Members Yes:** 3 - Futules, Ellenbogen and Finnerty

**Members No:** 1 - Means

**Members Absent:** 3 - Heidelbaugh, Macey and Palmiere

**Members** 1 - Kress

**Non-Member:**

**Motions**[9015-15](#)

Motion expressing the Sense of the Council of Allegheny County strongly urging the Allegheny County Parks Department, the North Park Friends of the Park, and the Allegheny County Parks Foundation to work cooperatively with the Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium and the National Aviary in order to expand programming at the Latodami Nature Center in North Park, and to create a long range plan for the further development and expansion of the Latodami Nature Center.

**Sponsors:** Council Member Kress and Council Member Rea

*At the request of the Chair, the clerk read the title of the bill and Mr. Kress described the intent behind the motion and expressed a desire to improve the nature center to the extent possible.*

*Mr. Baechle expressed agreement with Mr. Kress' premise.*

*Mr. Finnerty expressed agreement with the intent, but also noted that he would like to be made aware of whatever programs are to be undertaken.*

*Mr. Ellenbogen suggested that some degree of caution is probably wise just to remain abreast of what the Zoo or Aviary would want to do.*

**Held in Committee**

**V. Adjournment**

*The meeting was adjourned at 5:59.*