

Allegheny County Council

436 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Phone (412) 350-6490
Fax (412) 350-6499



Meeting Minutes - Approved

Wednesday, June 4, 2014

4:45 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 4:50.

Invited Guests:

William D. McKain, CPA-County Manager or Designee

Andrew Baechle-Director, Parks Department or Designee

Charles Moffatt - Superintendent of Police

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

Mr. Baechle and Mr. Hopson were present from the Parks Department.

Superintendent Moffatt was present from the County Police.

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

II. Roll Call

Council Members Present: 6 - Futules, Finnerty, Heidelbaugh, Macey, Means and Palmiere

Council Members Absent: 1 - Ellenbogen

Council Members Non-Members: 2 - Rea and DeFazio

III. Approval of Minutes

IV. Agenda Items

Ordinances

[8225-14](#)

An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the acceptance of a donation from the Pittsburgh Penguins Foundation and Highmark for the construction of deck hockey facilities to be located in the County's North Park and Settlers Cabin Park.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

At the request of the Chair, Mr. Baechle discussed the provisions of the bill and the nature of the facilities to be constructed.

In response to a question from Mr. Finnerty, Mr. Baechle, Mr. McKain and Mr. Hopson discussed the facility and grade of materials to be donated, as well as siting, parking, and other mechanical concerns including management and maintenance of the facilities. Mr. Baechle discussed the possibility of charging fees for using the facilities.

Ms. Means asked about the cost of the project, and Mr. Baechle noted that the value of the donated materials will be in the neighborhood of \$200,000 per facility, with a itemized list with approximate values. Ms. Means and Mr. McKain discussed the appropriate resources to expect to commit to maintenance for the facilities.

Ms. Means and Mr. Baechle discussed parking at both North Park and Settlers Cabin

Park.

In response to a question from Ms. Means, Mr. Baechle discussed timeframes for project completion.

Ms. Heidelbaugh suggested that improvements to the parks may inevitably increase the number of people using the parks, and that there may be wisdom in undertaking comprehensive parking surveys prior to embarking upon various improvements. Mr. Baechle noted that he does not believe that parking for the deck hockey facility will be a problem in North Park, but that the Department is trying to find as many new parking spaces as possible in Settlers Cabin. Ms. Heidelbaugh, Mr. Baechle and Mr. McKain agreed that there likely is wisdom in giving careful consideration to parking concerns as the parks continue to be improved. Mr. Baechle noted that North and South Parks were both designed in the 1920s, and far fewer people drove at that time, so parking may be more of an issue in those parks than in the other, more recently designed parks.

Mr. Macey suggested that there may be some willingness to have something akin to the Councils of Friends to work in relation to the deck hockey facilities in the County parks.

Ms. Means asked why the new rinks would not be lit, and Mr. Baechle and Mr. Hopson noted that Settlers Cabin Park closes at dusk, and that the park is locked when it closes.

Ms. Heidelbaugh and Mr. Baechle and Mr. McKain discussed how the Department arrived at estimates for how many parking spaces would be needed for the facilities. Ms. Heidelbaugh suggested that there may be wisdom in allowing for parking issues in the ordinance relating to permissible parking within the County parks.

In response to a question from Ms. Means, Mr. Baechle noted that he does not anticipate any need for competitive bidding, insofar as the Department of Public Works will be doing most of the work, and the remainder is being donated by the Penguins Foundation.

Affirmatively Recommended

[8226-14](#)

An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the extension of a Lease with Oliver Miller Homestead Associates to continue the establishment and operation of historical property in the County's South Park known as the Oliver Miller Homestead.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

At the Chair's request, Mr. Baechle provided an overview of the bill's provisions and rationale.

Ms. Means asked if it would be possible to review the contract, and Mr. Baechle agreed to provide one. Ms. Means and Mr. Baechle discussed insurance.

Affirmatively Recommended

[8282-14](#)

An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing an easement and right-of-way to Peoples Natural Gas Company for the up-grading of an existing facility located in South Park on Corrigan Drive.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Mr. Baechle provided an overview of the ordinance and its provisions, noting that the intent of the bill is to alter the name of the party to reflect the current corporate entity requiring the easement.

Ms. Means moved to amend the bill to accurately reflect the property at issue, Mr. Finnerty seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Amended and Affirmatively Recommended as Amended

Discussion Topics:

Friends of the Park Handbook

Fines in County Parks

The Chair noted that the detail of a recently introduced bill would not be under discussion, as the bill was not on the agenda for the current meeting. The Chair did indicate an intent to have another meeting at Superintendent Moffatt's first availability in order to proceed in evaluating the bill.

Ms. Heidelbaugh requested that Superintendent Moffatt provided with subject areas in which the members have interest, and the Chair recommended that the members provide those questions to staff or Mr. McKain.

Ms. Heidelbaugh raised the issue of new parking spaces being constructed within North Park, asking whether the process employed to construct those spaces adequately involved the Council prior to construction starting. Ms. Heidelbaugh requested a written legal opinion on the issue, and expressed frustration at having found out about the project via media reports.

Ms. Danko expressed concerns relating to the County expending its revenue to essentially subsidize businesses in North Park through the creation of infrastructure in the form of parking spaces.

V. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:34.