

Allegheny County Council

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Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 5, 2017

4:30 PM

Conference Room I

Committee on Parks

John Palmiere, Chair;

Patrick Catena, James Ellenbogen, Nick Futules, Cindy Kirk, Paul Klein, Ed Kress, Bob Macey and Sue Means, Members.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:35.

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. Barker was present from the Office of County Council.

II. Roll Call

Members Present: 4 - Patrick Catena, Ed Kress, Bob Macey and John Palmiere

Members Absent: 4 - Jim Ellenbogen, Nick Futules, Cindy Kirk and Sue Means

Members 1 - Paul Klein

Non-Members:

III. Approval of Minutes

IV. Agenda Items

Ordinances

[10038-17](#)

An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the Oliver Miller Homestead Associates to continue to use a certain portion of the County's South Park for the operation of the historical property known as the Oliver Miller Homestead.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

At the request of the Chair, the clerk read the title of the bill and Mr. McKain provided a brief overview of the bill's provisions, noting that the administration would be negotiating the contract for the property use after the authorization is granted. Mr. Baechle noted that the initial contract term would be for three years with a possible two year extension, and discussed the educational demonstrations and exhibits that Oliver Miller Homestead Associates maintain and operate on the premises. Mr. Baechle indicated that they have been fulfilling this function and improving the property since 1973.

Mr. McKain discussed the timing of the bill's introduction.

In response to a question from Mr. Klein, Mr. Baechle briefly discussed Oliver Miller's role in the Whiskey Rebellion, and noted that Mingo Park has an exhibit related to the Whiskey Rebellion, as well, because it was a regional event.

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

[10071-17](#)

An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing Townsquare Live Events, LLC to use the outdoor space adjacent to and behind the structure known as the Amphitheatre in the County's Hartwood Acres Park to conduct an event entitled *The Glow Jack-O-Lantern Experience*.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

At the request of the Chair, the clerk read the title of the bill and Mr. Baechle summarized its provisions and gave a brief overview of the program to be offered. Mr. Baechle noted that the program would be in operation during evening hours, Thursday through Sunday, and that the rental fee would be \$20,000, with additional payment as necessary for County laborers, police, site remediation (if necessary) when the event is over, and other services. Mr. Baechle noted that the ticket prices would likely run \$18 to \$22, and Mr. McKain indicated that he is comfortable with this one year arrangement is a first trial with this entity and program, and that he would seek additional authorizations if the program works well enough to repeat in future years.

In response to a question from the Chair, Mr. Baechle noted that the event is Halloween themed, and that the natural and synthetic pumpkins are lit by LED lights, so the use of energy is limited. Mr. Baechle and Mr. McKain noted that the Law Department has determined that the insurance amount carried by Townsquare is appropriate in its opinion.

Mr. Catena noted that he had seen some video footage of this program from another location, and that it appears to be both family-oriented and very popular.

In response to a question from Mr. Klein, Mr. Baechle discussed the negotiation process, noting that representatives from the company had looked at several of the parks and chose Hartwood. Mr. McKain and Mr. Baechle indicated that the group appears to be experienced and appropriately diligent.

Mr. Kress indicated support for the concept.

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

Discussion Topics:

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Friends of the Park Handbook

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful

At the request of the Chair, Mr. Pittman discussed the entity's activities and its annual spring community cleanup initiatives, scheduled activities, and noted that there are roughly 60 cleanup events currently scheduled in the County for the duration of the event.

The Chair indicated that he would like to have information regarding these activities sent to the various municipalities.

At the request of the Chair, the clerk discussed the possibility of amending the County's Cleanup Day resolution to have the County's activities coincide with the timeframe during which Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful's activities are taking place.

The Chair and Mr. Baechle discussed the merits of having cleanup initiatives specific to the County Parks, with Mr. Baechle suggesting that the Park Rangers may be the best

people to coordinate the activities in the parks and the Chair expressing a desire to have these activities take place on the same day each year as an annual event.

Mr. McKain expressed support for the concept and a desire to make sure that the County's labor force is adequately informed about what will be taking place and to resolve any potential issues.

Friends of the Park

The Chair briefly summarized the history of the Friends of the Park guidance document, noting that this version is significantly shortened from the original incarnation, but that the intent remains to give the Friends Councils some guidance with regard to their activities and limitations.

The Chair and Mr. Klein discussed the Friends Councils generally.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:04.