

Allegheny County Council

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Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 17, 2017

5:00 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 5:02.

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. Evanto was present from the Department of Administrative Services.

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

II. Roll Call

Members Present: 3 - Sue Means, John Palmiere and Paul Klein

Members Absent: 4 - Jim Ellenbogen, Nick Futules, Cindy Kirk and Ed Kress

Members Phone: 2 - Patrick Catena and Bob Macey

III. Approval of Minutes

[10174-17](#)

Motion to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2017 meeting of the Committee on Parks.

A motion was made by Macey, seconded by Klein, that this matter be Passed.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Members Yes: 2 - Palmiere and Klein

Members Abstain: 1 - Means

Members Absent: 4 - Ellenbogen, Futules, Kirk and Kress

Members Yes Phone: 2 - Catena and Macey

IV. Agenda Items**Ordinances**

[10164-17](#)

An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, granting Open 4 Business Productions, LLC a temporary license to use certain County owned real and personal property in connection with filming a television series.

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 its provisions, and noted that these types of occurrences bring business and tax revenues to the County, as well as providing national exposure for areas of the County in which filming takes place.

Mr. Evanto noted that the series is a crime-drama starring Chris Noth, and indicated that the series will actually be set in Pittsburgh with all filming to take place in Allegheny County employing roughly 200 actors and crew from the area and having a direct economic impact of about \$36 million for the first 12 episode season. Mr. Evanto also noted that the series had already been picked up by stations in France and Spain, and it is anticipated that the series will also be picked up by a domestic station. Mr. Evanto noted that future seasons would be 24 episodes.

Mr. McKain and Mr. Baechle noted that the filming should not impede park operations, and Mr. McKain indicated that all insurance and other liability issues had been addressed in satisfactory fashion.

In response to a question from the Chair, Mr. McKain noted that the ordinance authorizes the use of other County owned property in case the production company might decide to film in the courthouse, Medical Examiner's office, or elsewhere.

In response to a question from Ms. Means, Mr. Baechle and Mr. McKain noted that changes to the park property would have to be authorized by the County in advance.

In response to a question from Ms. Means, Mr. Evanto noted that it has been fairly easy to coordinate filming during the week in the past, as weekdays tend to see minimal park usage.

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

10168-17

An Ordinance authorizing the County of Allegheny to acquire two parcels of land totaling approximately 15.1346 acres located at 1404 Noblestown Road (SR 3048) in Collier Township and identified as tax parcel Nos. 331-F-9 and 9929-X-1134 from Mary Jane Jessep for \$123,500.00 for the purpose of enlarging Settler's Cabin Park.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

At the request of the Chair, the clerk read the title of the bill and Mr. Baechle described its provisions, noting that the County had been negotiating with Ms. Jessep for roughly seven years and that this acquisition would allow the County to connect the Settler's Cabin trail with the Panhandle Trail using existing roadway and bridge structures rather than having to construct new infrastructure in order to complete the connection. Mr. McKain noted that the Council had approved a capital project for this trail connection back in 2010 for approximately \$200,000, so adequate funding for the acquisition exists.

The Chair expressed support for the concept.

In response to a question from Mr. Klein, Mr. Baechle described the parcel, noting that no structures currently exist on the property.

In response to questions from Ms. Means, Mr. McKain reiterated the existence of the capital budget line item from 2010 and Mr. Baechle indicated that the County would be undertaking the construction of the new trail and that, because it uses an existing bridge structure, there will be no new construction and therefore no storm water management implications.

In response to a question from Ms. Means, Mr. Baechle indicated that the plan is for the new trail segment to be 10 feet wide suitable for bicycling, but that the grade may be prohibitive for wheelchair or similar traffic.

In response to a question from the Chair, Mr. Baechle noted that the Department had sought information from a variety of sources including in-person inspection and GIS to determine the best possible route.

Mr. Catena indicated that he is supportive of the project.

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

Discussion Topic

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:29.