

Allegheny County Council

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



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 29, 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 4:03.

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 and Ms. Gittlen were present from Special Events.

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

II. Roll Call

Members Present: 2 - Sue Means and John Palmiere

Members Absent: 3 - Nick Futules, Cindy Kirk and Bob Macey

Members Phone: 2 - Patrick Catena and Anita Prizio

III. Approval of Minutes

[10743-18](#)

Motion to approve the minutes of the July 3, 2018 meeting of the Committee on Parks.

**A motion was made by Catena, seconded by Prizio, that this matter be Passed.
The motion carried by a unanimous vote.**

IV. Agenda Items

Ordinances

[10719-18](#)

An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing use of property in the County's South Park for use by the Allegheny County Parks Foundation.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

At the request of the Chair, the clerk read the title of the bill and Mr. Baechle gave a brief overview of its provisions, noting that the project is a collaborative effort in which the County would be placing stone and planting appropriate trees and shrubs to stabilize a stream bank. Mr. Baechle noted that the County would be contributing \$53,000 in in-kind contributions toward the project, the Parks Foundation would be funding another \$53,000 in project materials, and that students from Gateway High School will be assisting with the planting efforts.

In response to questions from the Chair and Ms. Means, Mr. Baechle provided additional detail, noting that the goal is to mitigate the impact of flooding near the ice rinks in South Park. Mr. McKain noted that he regards it as a positive project, both due to its

collaborative nature and because it will engage local school students.

In response to a question from the Chair, Mr. Baechle noted that the park rangers would be present throughout the project, and that an arborist selected appropriate trees for the purpose.

In response to questions from Ms. Means, Mr. McKain noted that the Parks Foundation may assist in maintaining the project once it is completed, and Mr. Baechle indicated that the County's landscape architect and Mr. Schipani from the Parks Foundation worked together to design the project. Mr. Baechle delineated the number and sizes of the trees and plants which will be planted, and noted that the rock may be placed next season, after the trees and plants have had a chance to take root.

Mr. Catena and Ms. Prizio expressed support.

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

10720-18

An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing Late Seventies Productions LLC 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. Evanto summarized its provisions, noting that the series Mindhunter had been given permission to film in the Family Court building in 2016, and that the series was a significant success, so it is in the process of filming for about 140 days for its next season. Mr. Evanto noted that 400 County residents are employed full time by the series, with another 3600 residents serving as extras and other ancillary functions, and a total aggregate economic impact of approximately \$70 million. Mr. Evanto noted that the area in which the filming is contemplated on North Ridge Road is popular for this type of function because access is easily controlled, and that the production company would be paying the rental fees for all County facilities that they use, the fee for filming in the park, and reimburse the County for out of pocket expenses.

In response to a question from the Chair, Mr. Evanto noted that the production company is the same one that had filmed in the County before, and that they have been very easy to work with in the past. Mr. Evanto also indicated that the production company does use quite a bit of local talent, but will also be renting approximately 4500 room-nights in local hotels, with accompanying sales tax, hotel/motel tax, car rental tax, and other revenues. Mr. Evanto also noted that the filming will be taking place during off-season times, during which the park would not be used to a great extent under normal circumstances.

Mr. McKain expressed gratitude for the Council's willingness to address bills of this nature in a timely fashion, because entities like production companies don't always appreciate the procedural requirements that the County follows.

Ms. Means confirmed the information related by Mr. Evanto.

In response to a question from Ms. Means, Mr. Evanto noted that no prior facility rentals had to be moved to accommodate the filming schedule.

In response to a question from the Chair, Mr. Baechle described the locations to be used in relation to the lake and boat house.

In response to a question from Ms. Prizio, Mr. Baechle noted that the friends of the park councils are advisory in nature, rather than making operational decisions.

The Chair, Ms. Means, Ms. Prizio, Mr. McKain and Mr. Baechle discussed the friends of the park councils generally.

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

V. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:24.