

Allegheny County Council

*County of Allegheny
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Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 31, 2006

5:00 PM

Conference Room I

Committee on Parks

Joan Cleary, Chair; Jim Burn, Matt Drozd, Mike Finnerty, and Jan Rea - Members

I. Call to Order

Summary: *The meeting was called to order at 5:19 PM*

Invited Guests:

Jim Flynn, County Manager or Designee

Andy Baechle, Director, Parks

Summary: *Invited Guests in attendance: Mr. Baechle, Derek Uber for Mr. Flynn*

Recognized attendees: Clarence Hopson

Council staff in attendance: John Mascio, Joe Catanese, Jared Barker

II. Roll Call

Summary: *Non Committee Council Members in attendance: Mr. Gastgeb*

Ex-Officio Member in attendance - President Fitzgerald

Roll Call: Present: Jim Burn, Matt Drozd, Michael Finnerty, and Joan Cleary
Absent: Jan Rea

III. Approval of Minutes

2338-06 Motion to approve the Minutes of the September 29, 2005 Parks Committee Meeting.

Action: **A motion was made by Burn, seconded by Drozd, that this matter be Passed. The motion carried unanimously.**

IV. Agenda Items**Ordinance**

2300-06 An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the County Manager to enter into agreement with the South Park Boxing, Inc. for the continued use of Exhibit Building #11 in South Park.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary: *Mr. Baechle provided a summary of the bill. He explained that this Bill would grant authority to the County Manager to continue with the lease agreement with South Park Boxing, Inc. to use Exhibit Building #11, located on Brownsville Road in South Park.*

Upon passage of the bill the County Manager would have the authority to sign a lease agreement with South Park Boxing, Inc. Once the consenting parties agree to the terms and conditions of the contract, South Park Boxing, Inc. can continue to offer free boxing lessons at Exhibit Building #11.

He said that they have been there almost 20 years and that they would make all the improvements and they charge no fees.

Some discussion took place regarding the County's liability. Mr. Baechle said that all participants sign a liability waiver.

Action: **A motion was made by Burn, seconded by Finnerty, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried unanimously.**

2327-06

An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, providing a 50% fee reduction on park facility rentals and alcohol permit applications for veterans through March 31, 2006;

Sponsors: Joan Cleary and Jan Rea

Summary: *The Chair provided a summary of the bill. She explained that the bill would provide a 50% discount on rental of park facilities and a 50% discount on applications for alcohol permits.*

Upon passage, the Parks Department Facility and Recreational Fees Rate Schedule will include the 50% veterans discount on park facility rentals and alcohol permit applications, through March 31, 2006.

The legislation defines a veteran as any Honorably Discharged, Active-Duty, Reservist and National Guardsmen. The Parks Department will determine what identification is required as proof of veteran status.

She said that the county needs to recognize and reward veterans. She said that the county could implement this just through March and see how it worked.

Mr. Baechle said that this would result in a loss of revenue for the county. He also expressed concern over the ability to identify veterans. He said they would have to produce some form of identification.

Mr. Finnerty expressed concern that every group that applied for a permit would bring a veteran with them for the discount. Mr. Baechle said that the County would stand to lose approximately \$150,000.

Mr. Drozd said that maybe they could give the discount to veterans groups instead of individuals. He said that he knows some veterans that are millionaires.

Mr. Fitzgerald agreed with Mr. Finnerty and Mr. Drozd. He said that if they passed this then they may as well just cut the fee structure 50% across the board. He said that he agrees that maybe they should give the break to groups and not individuals. He said that any group could go out and find a veteran and have them apply for the permit.

Ms. Cleary asked for suggestions on re-wording the bill. She said that she would hold the bill and confer with co-sponsor Ms. Rea to see what her views were on this.

Action: **Held in Committee**

2329-06

An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, establishing long term rental rates for Exhibit Buildings located within South Park.

Sponsors: Vince Gastgeb

Summary:

Mr. Gastgeb gave a summary of the bill. He indicated that the Bill would establish rates and fees for the long-term use of Exhibit Buildings numbered #3 through #11 at South Park. The Exhibit Buildings were originally used to exhibit wares and animals at the County Fair, but now are largely unused. Upon passage, the Parks Department Director would be required to create a policy to govern long-term rentals of these buildings.

Mr. Uber said that the Law Department reviewed the bill and had a concern with liability. He said that if someone wanted to lease long term and was willing to waive liability, then they would be ok with that.

Mr. Gastgeb said he spoke with a person that was willing to lease the space to store antique cars. The Chair said that she did not think it was in the spirit of the parks to be renting buildings to house peoples belongings.

Mr. Fitzgerald said that he did not believe that the bill was revenue driven, and that maybe they could partner with some of the school districts for use as an indoor track, and this would bring people into the park. Mr. Burn agreed that this type of use could create an economic ripple and draw people.

Mr. Gastgeb said that these buildings have sat vacant for a long time and this could engage people to come into the park. He said that he believes they should utilize the buildings any way they can.

Mr. Fitzgerald said he did agree with the Chair that these buildings should not be used as a storing ground. He said he would not mind if they were showing the cars but to just house them would not be in the spirit of the parks.

Mr. Burn expressed concern that this would jeopardize there 501C3 status.

Mr. Gastgeb said that maybe if the county's property management company got involved they could solve some issues.

He said that he would explore this further and asked Mr. Baechle to meet with the applicants to discuss this.

Action: Held in Committee

V. Adjournment

Summary: The meeting adjourned at 6: 10 PM