

# **Allegheny County Council**

*County of Allegheny  
436 Grant Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
Phone (412) 350-6495  
Fax (412) 350-6499*



## **Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, February 1, 2006**

**5:00 PM**

**Conference Room 1**

### **Committee on Public Safety**

*Jim Burn, Chair; John DeFazio, Matt Drozd, Vince Gastgeb, Chuck Martoni, Rich Nerone, and William Robinson - Members*

**I. Call to Order**

**Summary:** *The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM*

**Invited Guests:**

**Jim Flynn, County Manager or Designee**  
**Superintendent Charles Moffatt, County Police**  
**Andy Baechle, Director, Parks**

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

*Recognized attendees: Clarence Hopson, Parks*

*Council Staff in attendance: Joe Catanese, John Mascio, Jared Barker, and Stephanie Buka*

**II. Roll Call**

**Summary:** *Non Committee Council Members in attendance: Ms. Cleary*

*Ex-Officio Member in attendance: President Fitzgerald*

**Roll Call:** Present: Matt Drozd, Vince Gastgeb, Rich Nerone, and Jim Burn  
Absent: John DeFazio, Chuck Martoni, and William Robinson

**III. Approval of Minutes**

**2337-06** Motion to approve the Minutes of the November 29 and December 20, 2005 Public Safety Committee Meeting.

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

**IV. Agenda Items****Ordinance**

**2324-06** An Ordinance repealing the Rules and Regulations of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation as established by Ordinance on January 1, 1977 and amended by Ordinance on June 14, 1982 to aid in the preservation of County property and promoting and preserving the public health, safety and welfare in the parks owned and maintained by the County of Allegheny, and replacing such Rules and Regulations with Parks Department Regulations.

**Sponsors:** Vince Gastgeb

**Summary:** *Mr. Gastgeb provided the committee with a summary of the bill. He explained that the bill would repeal the Rules and Regulations that were set forth under the Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation, an entity which has been succeeded by the Department of Parks. He said that these Rules and Regulations were last revised in the 1980's, and this Ordinance would replace them with a new, updated set of Parks Department Regulations.*

*As currently written, Bill No. 2324-06 establishes virtually the same prohibited activities as the old regulations did; the ordinance does, however, incorporate the smoking ban in "destination playground areas" that was enacted by Council in 2000 (this provision is contained within the proposed new regulations at Article II, Section 2(c)). It was anticipated that revisions to these existing provisions would be undertaken in the course of the committee process with input from the Parks Department, the County Police, and any other appropriate entities.*

*As currently written, this bill does contain a penalty provision; any person violating its terms would be guilty of a summary offense, and upon conviction would pay a fine of a minimum of \$300.00.*

*This ordinance would become effective 30 days after approval.*

*The Chair asked Mr. Gastgeb to review specific revisions to the exiting ordinance. Mr. Gastgeb did this. The Chair asked if the bill contained any provisions for advertising and political signs. Mr. Gastgeb said that the provision prohibiting the posting of signs would cover that.*

*Mr. Baechle distributed a draft amendment with the rules and regulations regarding prohibited activities. He discussed some these changes and added that they would like to prohibit firearms in the parks.*

*The Chair asked Mr. Baechle if posting political signs at a fund raiser held in the park would be a violation. Mr. Baechle said he discussed this with Allegheny County Superintendent of Police Moffat and he said that it would not be a violation if they rented the facility. Mr. Gastgeb said that some fund raisers post signs along the road leading to the facility. Mr. Hopson said that he did not believe that signs were permitted outside of the facility area. He said he would have a problem with signs being posted on the road because often times they are not removed. The Chair asked if they could add the words, "in areas other than where the permit has been issued" in order to cover signs being posted on the road. Mr. Baechle said he was ok with that language. Mr. Hopson said that it was very important for the renter to remove all signs after the event is over.*

*A discussion took place on where signs should be prohibited and where they should not be prohibited. The Chair asked if directional signs were permitted. Mr. Baechle said they were not.*

*Ms. Cleary said that she thought there should be more police at the parks. Mr. Gastgeb reminded the committee that police still have the Pennsylvania Crime Code to use as enforcement for activities not covered in the ordinance.*

*The committee reviewed all the Sections of the ordinance. Mr. Hopson said that electrical and amplifying devices are prohibited unless they are notified that a DJ or a band would be performing. Ms. Cleary said that they should add the words, "except by permit" to that section. Mr. Baechle said that would be ok.*

*Mr. Gastgeb said that he wanted to include some of the X Sports such as skate boarding, bikes and roller blades into Recreational Activities. Mr. Baechle said he would do that.*

*Mr. Baechle said that he requested the Law Department to advise him whether they could legally ban firearms in the park for people that have permits to carry them. He said there was some concern that that would conflict with state law since the state regulates firearms. He said he believes the county can regulate that since it is a county park which has terms and conditions put in place for the user. He said that if someone has a permit for a gun they should put it in the trunk of their car while in the park.*

*Mr. Uber said that there were various interpretations of that issue and they are awaiting clarification. Mr. Gastgeb said that he thinks it would violate state law if we tell people they can't carry their gun. Mr. Baechle disagreed with that.*

*The Chair said that the revisions discussed today should be incorporated into the bill, and he would hold the bill and make these amendments at the next committee meeting.*

**Action:**

**Held in Committee**

**V. Adjournment**

**Summary:**

*The meeting adjourned at 5:50 PM*