

Allegheny County Council

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Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 4, 2016

4:00 PM

Conference Room I

Committee on Parks

John Palmiere - Chair

Members: Jim Ellenbogen, Michael Finnerty, Nick Futules, Cindy Kirk, Ed Kress, Bob Macey and Sue Means

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:02.

Invited Guests:

William D. McKain, CPA, Allegheny County Manager
Andy Baechle, Director, Allegheny County Parks Department

Mr. McKain was present from the Office of the County Manager.

Mr. Szefi was present from the Law Department.

Mr. Baechle and Mr. Hopson were present from the Parks Department.

Mr. Barker and Mr. Szymanski were present from the Office of County Council.

II. Roll Call

Members Present: 5 - John Palmiere, Michael Finnerty, Cindy Kirk, Ed Kress and Sue Means

Members Absent: 3 - Jim Ellenbogen, Nick Futules and Bob Macey

Members 1 - Paul Klein

Non-Members:

III. Approval of Minutes

[9591-16](#)

Motion to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2016 meeting of the Committee on Parks.

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

IV. Agenda Items

Ordinances

[9580-16](#)

An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing use of the parking facilities at Hartwood by the United States Golf Association for parking for the U.S. Open Golf Tournament.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

At the request of the Chair, the clerk read the title of the bill and Mr. McKain summarized its provisions, noting the economic benefits of the US Open tournament to the region, with an impact estimated at about \$140 million by Visit Pittsburgh, plus extensive media coverage. Mr. McKain indicated that these extensive benefits would outweigh any rental fees that the County would charge.

Mr. Baechle noted that this was also done when the tournament was at Oakmont nine years ago, and that the park was left in a condition that was at least as good as it had been prior to the parking use.

Mr. Szefi indicated that the agreement would mirror the one that was executed and which worked very well for all concerned in 2007, and that all insurance and other peripheral considerations are in hand.

Mr. Finnerty noted that his sole concern would be the remediation of any grass areas on which cars parked, and Mr. Baechle indicated that the USGA had done a very good job with that back in 2007. Ms. Means echoed Mr. Finnerty's thoughts.

Ms. Kirk noted that she has a good degree of confidence in the USGA's ability to remedy any damage that might be caused.

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

9581-16

An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing CR JRS CHIP, Inc., trading and doing business as The First Tee of Pittsburgh ("First Tee") to conduct a series of golf clinics at the North Park and South Park Golf Courses.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

At the request of the Chair, the clerk read the title of the bill and Mr. Baechle summarized its provisions, noting that the proposed conditional use would not interfere with the regular operations of the golf courses, and that no fee would be charged as First Tee is a nonprofit entity. Mr. Baechle also noted that the lease term is for three years, with up to two one year extensions.

Ms. Kirk noted that golf is an activity that can be enjoyed throughout an individual's life, and expressed enthusiasm for the notion of teaching etiquette to the children who participate in the clinics.

In response to a question from Ms. Means, Mr. Szefi noted that the provisions of the ordinance in no way alter the applicability of the Commonwealth's requirements relating to background screening for volunteers who work with children, and that the inclusion of language relating to the requirements would have no legal effect. Mr. Szefi noted that the obligation to obtain the necessary screening is on the volunteer and the entity providing the program in question. Mr. Baechle also noted that all County contracts must include language indemnifying the County in the event of liability.

Mr. Klein and Mr. Szefi discussed the disadvantages of placing the County in the position of being a guarantor of the screening requirement.

In response to a question from Mr. Finnerty, Mr. Szefi and Mr. Baechle noted that the optional lease term extensions must be mutually agreed upon.

In response to a question from Mr. Finnerty, Mr. Baechle noted that First Tee does have a graduated fee schedule for clinic participants, depending upon family income.

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

9582-16

An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the use of real property along N. Ridge Drive in the County's North Park by the Town of McCandless.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

At the request of the Chair, the clerk read the title of the bill and Mr. Baechle summarized its provisions, noting that the field has been leased by the Town of McCandless since 1989, and that the town charges no fee for use of the fields. IN exchange for the property use, the town undertakes maintenance and has contributed to some facility improvements, and that the town's use of the field is during specified evening hours on weekdays and for limited hours on weekends.

In response to a question from Ms. Means, Mr. Baechle indicated that the primary lease term is for three years, with two optional one year extensions.

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

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25.