

Allegheny County Council

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



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

6:00 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 6:02.

Invited Guests:

William D. McKain, CPA, Allegheny County Manager
Andy Baechle, Director, Allegheny County Parks Department
Caren Glotfelty, Executive Director, Allegheny County Parks Foundation

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

Mr. Baechle was present from the Parks Department.

Ms. Glotfelty was present from the Parks Foundation.

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 - Sam DeMarco

Non-Members:

III. Approval of Minutes

[9650-16](#)

Motion to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2016 meeting of the Committee on Parks.

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

IV. Agenda Items

Ordinances

[9628-16](#)

An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the South Park Roller Hockey League ("SPRHL") to use real property in the County's South Park.

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 property to be used would be the dek hockey rink recently donated by the Pittsburgh Penguins. Mr. Baechle indicated that the term would be for three years, with up to two one year extensions and that the usage would be limited to 4 hours per day three days a week, and would not interfere with normal use of the facility. Mr. Baechle indicated that there are already over 90 children enrolled for the next season.

In response to a question from Mr. Finnerty, Mr. Baechle noted that insurance was being provided by the South Park Roller Hockey League.

Ms. Means expressed enthusiasm for the number of children enrolled, and asked about the fee structure for participants. Mr. McKain noted that it was not yet finalized, because the contract would not be executed until after the conditional use is authorized.

In response to a question from Ms. Means, Mr. McKain discussed how termination clauses can be used to afford flexibility in the event that enrollment drops off precipitously.

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

9630-16

An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the naming of the access road adjacent to the Nurses Memorial Monument in the County's South Park as "Nurses Lane."

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 municipality has already approved of the change in name and that an official dedication would take place in the future.

In response to a question from Ms. Means, Mr. McKain noted that the cost of the street sign is nominal.

Ms. Means thanked Mr. McKain for honoring the nursing profession.

Ms. Kirk asked that the Council be notified when a date is set for the dedication ceremony.

Mr. Kress expressed support for the idea.

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

Discussion Topic: Allegheny County Parks Foundation Update

At the request of the Chair, Ms. Glotfelty gave a brief overview of the recent activities of the Parks Foundation, describing the park user survey being implemented with the aid of foundation funding in order to derive some information relating to park visitor demographics, usage patterns, and the like.

In response to questions from Ms. Means and Ms. Kirk, Ms. Glotfelty provided additional detail regarding what types of questions would be asked during the survey, and indicated that this sort of endeavor is undertaken with some degree of regularity in other park systems.

In response to questions from Mr. Kress, Ms. Glotfelty noted that the individuals gathering data will be paid, but that no County funding would be used for that function, and Mr. Baechle noted that the concept is to gather data from individuals using various facilities within the parks in order to talk with varied demographics.

In response to a question from Ms. Means, Ms. Glotfelty noted that the survey would cost approximately \$105,000 total for in person and telephone interviews.

Ms. Glotfelty discussed recent developments with the Boyce Park ecological

assessment, indicating that foundation funding had been secured in order to implement the recommendations that came from the assessment. Ms. Glotfelty also noted that funding had been secured for a similar assessment in South Park. Mr. Baechle indicated that the nature center study would proceed at the same time as the ecological assessment in order to optimize the impact of both.

Ms. Glotfelty discussed the status of the North Park Lake Trail project, noting that the Ingomar Road section is essentially complete, with work on the next segment about to begin. Ms. Glotfelty indicated that the Foundation was undertaking a number of private fundraising efforts, with a goal of raising at least \$50,000 from the general public for the project. Mr. Baechle noted that about \$1.5 million had been appropriated to replace a water line that lies along Pearce Mill Road prior to the next trail segment work.

In response to a question from Mr. Kress, Ms. Glotfelty provided additional details regarding the Foundation's private fundraising activities.

Ms. Glotfelty noted that grant funding has been obtained from the Department of Environmental Protection in order to upgrade the parking lot above the South Park oval.

In response to a question from Ms. Means, Ms. Glotfelty noted that the Foundation had requested just over \$77,000 in grant funding, and that DEP had approved the full amount. Ms. Glotfelty indicated that the County would match part of the DEP grant amount, excluding those grant funds that will go to paying staff.

Ms. Glotfelty discussed current efforts to mitigate mine drainage in Pinkerton's Run in Settlers' Cabin Park, noting that there are some low impact measures to increase water pH that have shown promise in other locations, and that the Foundation had secured a technical assistance grant to come up with a viable plan to implement something similar at Pinkerton's Run.

The Chair expressed a desire to have an update from the Foundation every few months.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:42.