

Allegheny County Council

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Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 4, 2019

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 4:04.

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. Barker was present from the Office of County Council.

II. Roll Call

Members Present: 2 - Anita Prizio and John Palmiere

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

Members Phone: 2 - Patrick Catena and Sue Means

Members 1 - Robert Palmosina

Non-Members:

III. Approval of Minutes

IV. Agenda Items

Ordinances

[11185-19](#) An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing use of property in the County's Settlers Cabin Park for implementation of a multi-use trail and waterfall viewing area in conjunction with 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 summarized its provisions, noting that the waterfall in Settlers Cabin has been a destination for decades, but that difficult access has been detrimental to the environment around the waterfall and resulted in hazardous walking conditions for visitors. Mr. Baechle indicated that the new walkway and observation area would greatly enhance the viewing experience, be safer to walk, and would have less impact on the environment. Mr. Baechle indicated that the Parks Foundation has secured grant funding for a large portion of the project.

In response to a question from Mr. Palmosina, Mr. Baechle described where the new features would be located within the park.

In response to questions from the Chair, Mr. Baechle described the nature of the observation area, noting that it would be fenced, and Mr. Baechle and Mr. McKain indicated that it would be significantly safer than the current setup. Mr. Baechle talked

about measures that could be taken in order to try to improve the longevity of the fencing, and noted that stairs would actually have to be constructed due to the steep grade that approaches the observation area.

In response to questions from Ms. Means, Mr. Baechle noted that \$19,000 in grant funding was pledged by REI, and \$9,000 by FedEx for construction of the trail and viewing area, and that the County would be constructing the stairs, placing plants, and the like in-house.

In response to questions from Mr. Catena, Mr. Baechle indicated that he would provide additional information regarding the exact specifications for the stairs.

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 was adjourned at 4:18.