

Allegheny County Council

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Meeting Minutes - Approved

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

5:00 PM

Conference Room I

Committee on Parks

Nicholas Futules-Chair

Members: James Ellenbogen, Michael J. Finnerty, Heather S. Heidelbaugh, Robert J. Macey, Sue Means, and John Palmiere

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:09.

Invited Guests: William D. McKain, CPA-County Manager or Designee

Andrew Baechle-Director, Parks Department or Designee

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

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: 4 - Futules, Michael Finnerty, Sue Means and John Palmiere

Members Absent: 3 - Jim Ellenbogen, Heather Heidelbaugh and Bob Macey

Members 2 - Barbara Danko and Jan Rea

Non-Members:

III. Approval of Minutes

[8192-14](#)

Motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Allegheny County Committee on Parks held on February 26, 2014

Passed

IV. Agenda Items

Discussion Topic: Proposed Handbook for Council of Friends of the Parks and Meeting Schedule for Ordinance No. 8182-14

The Chair began with a discussion of the Friends of the Park handbook, which was distributed to the members.

Ms. Means noted that she had requested four changes: first, the creation of a single document establishing the current state of the Friends ordinance, second, there would be an addition of language clarifying the need for licensing for the operation of small games of chance, third there would be new language describing the role of the Parks Director in project approval, and lastly there would be a requirement that multiple people must sign checks drawn on accounts owned by the Friends of the Park.

Ms. Danko expressed some reservations, noting that the Friends were originally intended as advisory bodies, rather than fundraising entities. She suggested that the ordinance relating to the Friends should perhaps be changed.

Ms. Means provided a brief history of fundraising activities undertaken by some Councils of Friends.

Mr. Finnerty and the clerk discussed the process for project approval in the parks.

Mr. Palmiere and Mr. Baechle described the history of coordinating fundraising efforts with the Parks Foundation.

Mr. Finnerty and Mr. Palmiere suggested that the existing handbook might provide a good starting point, with the possibility of future amendments if necessary.

Mr. Finnerty moved to approve the handbook and Mr. Palmiere seconded.

Ms. Danko suggested that the handbook might be better held until Mr. Baechle had a chance to review the changes in detail. The Chair agreed, and Mr. Finnerty withdrew his motion.

The Chair then announced the tentative committee meeting schedule for the discussion of Bill No. 8182-14, relating to authorizing the leasing of County-owned mineral rights underlying Deer Lakes Park.

Ms. Danko, Mr. Finnerty, Mr. Barker, Mr. Szymanski and Mr. McKain discussed the merits of posting the committee meeting schedule on the County's general calendar, rather than just on the Council's Legistar site.

Ms. Means asked about the procedure for adding invited guests to the committee agendas, asking about the possibility of adding Attorney John Smith to the agenda to discuss the impact of the Robinson Township case. The Chair noted her request.

The Chair, Ms. Danko and Ms. Means discussed the propriety of obtaining additional information from multiple sources.

Ms. Rea noted that the best outcome is to gather as much information as possible to inform the Members' decisions, and expressed a desire to make that occur to the extent practicable through the committee process.

The Chair asked that the Clerk forward a request to all Council Members, asking for any suggested or requested questions or guests for the upcoming committee meetings, and noted that the Chair would evaluate those requests as they are submitted.

Mr. Palmiere highlighted the need for due diligence on the part of all Council Members.

V. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:27.