

Borough of Columbia
Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

March 14, 2019

Chair: Pamela Williams

Vice Chair: Fran FitzGerald

Member: Todd Burgard

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM. In attendance:

Committee Members: Williams, Burgard. FitzGerald absent.

Advisory Board Member: Barb Fisher.

Borough Manager: Rebecca Denlinger

Council Member: John Novak

Jr. Council Member: Robert Misciagna

YSM Landscape Architects: Ann Yost, Steve Landes

Edible Classroom: Grace Julian

Susquehanna Heritage: Allison Scholz

The December 13, 2018 committee minutes were reviewed.

1. Final Study Committee Report

Ann Yost took the committee through the final plans for Rotary, Janson and Makle Parks. She distributed a document that breaks each park project into two phases with cost estimates for each phase. There was lengthy discussion between all present about which phase of which park plan to address first. Ultimately, the committee's decision was to use any DCNR grant proceeds to implement the Rotary Park Phase II plan. This phase will include restrooms, splash pad, picnic pavilion, bocce court and a gathering plaza in the bottom section of Rotary Park. The committee discussed parts of the Phase II plan that could be added incrementally to keep initial costs down, such as delaying installation of various trees and shrubs. Consequently, Ms. Yost will adjust the cost estimate to reflect these changes.

ACTION: Ask Council to consider Resolution 19-11 for funding through the PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources (DCNR) Community Conservation Partnership Program (C2P2).

As part of the Final Study Report, Steve Landes provided the Committee with an Operation and Management Plan. This document provides a monthly schedule for park maintenance.

2. There was discussion about the formation of an intergovernmental recreation agency, ideally between Columbia Borough and Columbia Borough School District. This agency would exist to coordinate recreational efforts between the Borough and the School District. DCNR grants are available to assist with the logistics of creating such an agency.

ACTION: Ms. Williams will meet with Superintendent Tom Strickler to assess interest in forming an intergovernmental agency.

The Edible Classroom:

1. Grace Julian reported on a meeting with Superintendent Tom Strickler. Mr. Strickler is supportive of the gardening program taking place during Summer 2019 at Park School but will need an MOU between the Borough and the School District to document the collaboration. Ms. Denlinger will facilitate this.

Ms. Julian stated that about 60% of funding needed to finance the gardening program has been raised. She is contacting many area businesses to solicit support.

Other Business:

1. Borough Ordinance No. 895-2017 states that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board shall consist of five (5) members, each serving a three (3) year term. At the creation of this board, and in order to stagger terms of service, one of the Board member took a one year term and that term expired on March 1, 2019. The two members are currently serving three year terms and each have two years remaining. In order to bring the Board membership up to a full complement of five members the Committee is soliciting interested residents to serve. This is an exciting time for park revitalization in Columbia. Now is the time to get involved!

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM. The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Committee will take place on April 11, 2019 at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Williams
Chair, Parks and Recreation Committee