

Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting
Tuesday, March 19, 2024
6:00 pm

MINUTES

Committee: Chairperson, Mr. Moore, Ms. Burckley, Ms. Dugan, and Mr. Weiss

Public Members: Janet Hunter

Staff: Mr. Krack, Ms. Gibbons, Ms. Getzfreed, and Mr. Watson

- I. Call to Order at 6:00 pm
- II. Public Participation on Non-Agenda Items

No public participation.

- III. Presentations

- A. Phoenixville Area Soccer Club.

Mr. Ryan Gottier, Director of Coaching and Marty McNamee, President of the Board provided a presentation on their proposal to install turf fields and lighting at Pat Nattle Field in exchange for partnering with the Borough on the use of the fields during the year.

Mr. Moore made a Motion to not proceed with the proposal. Seconded by Ms. Dugan

On the question:

Ms. Gibbons provided background on the Recreation Department's use of the fields for their programs and that by adding the soccer program would limit the Department's opportunity to grow the Borough's own programs as they expand.

Ms. Dugan stated this came before the Recreation Board and did not receive a recommendation and questioned why this was even before this Committee?

Ms. Burckley expressed concerns that lighting and turf has been previously vetted with Council and nothing moved forward. She stated she does not want to give a false pretense of support but that perhaps supporting a feasibility study by the Club would provide more detail for Council.

Mr. Weiss agreed that more questions could be answered with information obtain through such a study.

Mr. Carminito stated that concerns about chemicals from the turf are no different than concerns about the use of pesticides and chemicals on grass playing fields.

Mr. Kirkner expressed concerns about turf and forever chemical residue being blown into adjacent homes 24/7. He also noted that he ran for reelection and won based on pushing back on lighting the field.

Ms. Kirkner also expressed her concerns about being the adjacent neighbor and that the fields are used all year round, not just during seasons as suggested by the club presentation

Motion fails 2-2 with Ms. Dugan and Mr. Moore voting no.

IV. Committee Member Updates/Discussions

No Committee Member updates or discussion.

V. New Business

- A. Motion to recommend Borough Council approve a Temporary Community Event Application for First Fridays on Friday, May 3, November 1, and December 6, 2024 from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm on the 100 and 200 Block of Bridge Street and the Bridge and Main Street Parking Lot. Bridge Street to be closed between Gay Street to Main Street and Main Street to Starr Street from 4:00 to 10:00 pm. The Parking Lot to be closed from 12:00 pm to 10:00 pm on each Friday.

Ms. Dugan made a Motion to recommend Borough Council approve the Temporary Community Event. Seconded by Ms. Burckley. Motion passed 4-0.

- B. Motion to recommend Borough Council approve a Temporary Community Event Application for the Rhythm and Brews in the Main and Bridge Street Parking Lot on Saturday, June 22, 2024, Saturday, July 27, 2024, Saturday, August 24, 2024 and Saturday, September 28, 2024 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Main and Bridge Street Lot to be used consistent with existing street closure. Conditioned upon receipt of all fees and valid Certificate of Insurance naming Borough as Additional Insured.

Ms. Burckley made a Motion to recommend Borough Council approve the Temporary Community Event. Seconded by Mr. Weiss. Motion passed 4-0.

- C. Motion to recommend Borough Council approve a Temporary Community Event Application for the Blobfest 5K, 10K, and Half Marathon on the Schuylkill River Trail on Sunday, July 14, 2024 from 7:00 am to 11:00 am. Conditioned upon receipt of all fees and valid Certificate of Insurance naming Borough as Additional Insured.

Mr. Weiss made a Motion to recommend Borough Council approve the Temporary Community Event. Seconded by Ms. Burckley. Motion passed 4-0.

- D. Motion to recommend Borough Council approve a Temporary Community Event Application for the Phoenixville VegFest in Reeves Park on Saturday, July 27,

2024 from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm. Third Avenue between Main Street and B Street to be closed from 8:00 am to 7:00 pm. Conditioned upon receipt of all fees and valid Certificate of Insurance naming Borough as Additional Insured.

Ms. Burckley made a Motion to recommend Borough Council approve the Temporary Community Event. Seconded by Ms. Dugan. Motion passed 4-0.

- E. Motion to recommend Borough Council approve a Temporary Community Event Application for the Phoenixville VegFest in Reeves Park on Sunday, July 28, 2024 from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm. Third Avenue between Main Street and B Street to be closed from 8:00 am to 7:00 pm. Conditioned upon receipt of all fees and valid Certificate of Insurance naming Borough as Additional Insured.

Mr. Weiss made a Motion to recommend Borough Council approve the Temporary Community Event. Seconded by Ms. Burckley. Motion passed 4-0.

- F. Motion to recommend Borough Council approve a Temporary Community Event Application for WuFF Jam 2024 on Saturday, September 14, 2024 from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm in Reeves Park. Third Avenue between Main Street and Starr Street to be closed from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm. Conditioned upon receipt of valid Certificate of Insurance naming Borough as Additional Insured.

Ms. Burckley made a Motion to recommend Borough Council approve the Temporary Community Event. Seconded by Mr. Weiss. Motion passed 4-0.

- G. Motion to recommend Borough Council award the design proposal from Ground Reconsidered for The Square at Bridge and Main.

Mr. Krack provided background on the process that has occurred over the past year at Committee and Council meetings. He then introduced Karen Skafte and Kristen Loughry of Ground Reconsidered. Ms. Skafte and Ms. Loughry presented information on their project proposal and provided examples of similar projects they have completed in other communities.

Ms. Burckley made a Motion to recommend the Finance Committee allocate the funds and forward to Borough Council for approval. Seconded by Mr. Weiss.

On the Question.

Ms. Dugan stated that there is not enough parking in the Downtown and the businesses are struggling as it is.

Ms. Burckley stated the Borough added the parking lot on Church Street which increased the available parking by 15 and that there is a significantly underutilized lot across the French Creek at the Foundry.

Mr. Weiss stated he sees the project as change which acknowledges a walking and vibrant downtown.

Ms. Dugan asked if this had been budgeted?

Mr. Krack stated there were various options for the funding of the project but that with the submission of the grant in March 2023, Council approved the restriction of \$250,000 as match from which the funding of this project would come from.

Mr. Moore stated that he supports the concept as presented but expressed his concern that there was not enough public participation.

Motion passed 3-1 with Ms. Dugan voting no.

VI. Public Participation.

There was no Public Participation

VII. Adjournment at 7:22 pm by Ms. Burckley.

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at 6:00 pm.