

Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting
Tuesday, November 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. Getzfread, Ms. Strunk, and Mr. Watson

I. Call to Order at 6:00 pm. Mr. Carminito assigned by Council President in place of Ms. Burckley who was excused.

II. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

No public comment.

III. Presentations

A. The Square at Bridge and Main. Moved to 6:45 pm.

IV. Committee Member Updates/Discussions

Ms. Dugan asked why the Borough no longer had parades as they used to? She also asked if there was any update on the Firebird Festival? Mr. Krack stated the issue regarding parades is that it had become difficult to secure participants. He reported that the County Commissioners were scheduled to make an announcement potentially extending the countywide burn ban. Once any information is known, Staff will distribute that decision as well as the new date for the festival.

Ms. Hunter announced the Borough received a \$1,000 grant for a bee pollinator and that Colonial Gardens would be assisting with the installation. She announced that the MTB bicycle track would be closing at the end of November for the season.

V. New Business

A. Review Recreation Board reports.

Ms. Hunter stated the Fall Festival had less attendees than in previous years. She stated that Theresa Thornton had approached the Board with the potential to add a mural in Andre Thornton Park but that nothing firm had been established. There was also discussion about an Ursinus student wanting to install a free library stand in the Borough and the Board's recommendation was to locate one at the Recreation Center.

- B. Motion to recommend Borough Council approve a Temporary Community Event Application for the Borough of Phoenixville 2025 Fireworks display at Dayton Street Field on Saturday, July 5, 2025 from 6:00 pm to 10:30 pm. Fillmore Street to be closed from Franklin Avenue to South Street from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm.

Ms. Dugan made a motion to recommend Borough Council approve the TCE application as presented. Seconded by Mr. Weiss. Motion approved 4-0.

- C. Update on MDM Preserve/Taylor Street Park.

Mr. Krack provided an update on the ordinance process for vacating the two unopened streets and the process for combining the parcels into either Taylor Street Park or the MDM Preserve.

Mr. Moore asked what the difference was with regard to the Preserve and what it is being called. Mr. Krack explained that the Preserve would be more passive and less development than a regular park. He also noted that it has been called the MDM Preserve referring to Marian and David Moskowitz as they donated the land to the Borough. Although there were no restrictions on the donation, Borough Council may want to formally name the Preserve once the division of the land has been finalized.

- D. Update on Fisher Park parking lot concept.

Mr. Krack provided a concept plan to install split rail fence around the park to reduce the amount of parking that is occurring on the grass areas. He noted the Borough's ordinance prohibits parking on the grass. After further discussion, Mr. Krack stated Staff will look at another option of adding parking along the portion of Fisher Avenue.

- E. Motion to cancel the December 17, 2024 committee meeting.

Mr. Weiss made a motion to cancel the December meeting. Seconded by Ms. Dugan. Motion passed 4-0.

- F. The Square at Bridge and Main.

Kristen Loughry, Karen Skafte and Sana Mirza presented the Square at Bridge and Main concept plan for converting the existing parking lot into a downtown gathering place and plaza.

Mr. Moore asked what the next steps were and whether the plan could be placed on the Borough's website?

Mr. Krack stated that he would send a copy of the plan to all of Borough Council in the next couple of days and will then publish the plan on the website. He stated the next step is to have a formal presentation to Borough Council at the January

14, 2025 meeting. This would give Council the opportunity to accept the plan and then potentially determine what, if any, next steps they want to take.

VI. Public Comment

Mr. Lutzker noted that Fisher Park should be open to as many persons that can utilize the park and that efforts should be made to increase the needed parking.

VII. Adjournment at 7:15pm by Mr. Weiss

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 at 6:00 pm.