



**MINUTES OF THE PARK COMMISSION MEETING  
HELD MONDAY, APRIL 10, 2023, AT 9 AM**

**PRESENT:** Wesley Posvar, Chairperson; Carrie Casey, Susan Crookston, Steve Whittingham, Nicholas Muller, Jeffrey Cohen, Members; Gary Koehler, Manager; Larry Kurpakus, PWD Director; Kelsey Mersing, Administrative Assistant

**ALSO PRESENT:** Craig Sorg, Sergeant; Kevin Brett, LSSE; Jim Pashek, Pashek +MTR; Barton Kirk, Ethos Collaborative; Mandy Steele, State Representative; Frederick Leech, Council member; Melinda Guinn, resident

**VIA ZOOM:** Liz Nelson, Member; Alex Scott, Mayor; Betsy Monroe, Borough Council Liaison

**ABSENT:** Jay Troutman, Member

Wes Posvar called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM.

The minutes of the December 12, 2022, meeting were unanimously approved.

**RESIDENT COMMENTS**

Melinda Guinn, 107 Haverford Road, wanted to acknowledge and thank Mr. Schubert of Fox Chapel Area High School and students in his AP Environmental Science course for joining the community effort to hand-pull privet seedlings in Salamander Park clearing space for 200 native trees and shrubs. Additionally, 343 2<sup>nd</sup> graders from Fox Chapel Area School District will take a field trip to Salamander Park to participate in plantings starting on Wednesday.

With the success of the volunteer efforts, Ms. Guinn proposed the idea of the Borough formally organizing and training volunteer stewards to help care for the parks through an Adopt a Parklet Program, as well as hiring high school student interns part-time this summer to partner with Public Works to help clear invasive species from the parks.

Mr. Koehler stated there will be one college hire dedicated to the MS4 inventory of catch basins and stormwater detention facilities. Mr. Kurpakus added the individual will also be working in the parks on planned projects detailed in his report. Invasive removal was not in the scope of work but can be worked into a project with the help of Ms. Guinn and the Park Commission.

**PARK COMMISSION VACANCY**

Mr. Posvar noted the Park Commission vacancy due to Jessica Demoise moving out of the Borough. The committee will meet with and interview candidates in the next few weeks and will make a recommendation to Council.

**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

Mr. Kurpakus reported on upcoming stream bank restoration projects and sewer line upgrades with input from Kevin Brett, Borough Engineer. Further items, including muddy trail conditions, are addressed in the staff report provided to the Park Commission.

## PARK COMMISSION MINUTES

April 10, 2023

### **HARDIE VALLEY PARK AND MCCAHILL PARK IMPROVEMENTS**

Mr. Brett presented the proposed concept plans for Hardie Valley Park and McCahill Park improvements, summarized the stormwater components, and provided an approximate timeline for the projects moving forward based on required permitting by DEP.

Following review and discussion, Mr. Whittingham moved to recommend the approval by Council to authorize the preparation of construction plans for Hardie Valley Park and McCahill Park for bidding purposes.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Muller and passed by unanimous vote.

### **JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

Mr. Pashek provided an update on the Joint Comprehensive Plan. The first completed phase asked for community input to identify key issues in the two communities. The second phase will develop strategies to address the key issues using focus groups of 12-14 people with knowledge of the subject matter. There are also plans in the works for a public meeting this spring.

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS**

- Fox Chapel Clean-Up Day – Saturday, April 15, 2023, at 10 AM. Volunteers are asked to meet at the McCahill Park parking lot.
- Fox Chapel Planting Day – Saturday, April 29, 2023, from 10 AM – 1 PM. Volunteers are asked to meet at the Borough Building for registration and assignments.
- Garlic Mustard Pull – Saturday, May 6, 2023, at 10 AM. Volunteers are asked to meet at the McCahill Park parking lot.
- The next Park Commission Meeting – Monday, June 12, 2023, at 9 AM
- Fox Chapel Day – Saturday, June 17, 2023, from 12 - 4 PM

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:28 AM.

Kelsey M. Mersing  
Administrative Assistant