



**MINUTES OF THE PARK COMMISSION MEETING  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2024, AT 9 AM**

**PRESENT:** Wesley Posvar, Chairperson; Steve Whittingham, Susan Crookston, Jeffrey Cohen, Melinda Guinn, Jay Troutman, Jeffrey Beyer, Members; Gary Koehler, Borough Manager; Larry Kurpakus, PWD Director; Michael Stevens, Chief of Police; Shawn M. Peterson, Borough Secretary

**ALSO PRESENT:** Victor White, Scout; Lisandra White, Resident

**VIA ZOOM:** Nicholas Muller, Member; Betsy Monroe, Park Commission Liaison to Borough Council

**ABSENT:** Carrie Casey, Member

Wes Posvar called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM.

**EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT – TARGETING HEMLOCK WOOLY ADELGID**

Eagle Scout Victor White provided the results of the survey done of the Borough Parks to determine the number of hemlocks in the parks, how many are infected with wooly adelgid, and physically and geologically tagging the hemlocks. Mr. White said that he has had the help of sixteen volunteers (11 students and 5 adults) who have logged almost 70 hours, and they identified 589 hemlocks, stating that almost all are infected.

Mr. White said that the next step in his project is to educate community members through presentations and a website.

The minutes of the September 9, 2024, meeting were unanimously approved.

**RESIDENT COMMENTS**

None

**PARK PUBLIC SAFETY**

Chief Stevens stated that the Police Department is receiving fewer violations with individuals parking in permitted areas without a parking permit.

He also wanted to remind residents to secure their vehicles and not to leave valuables inside.

**PUBLIC WORKS REPORT**

Mr. Kurpakus said that the BigToys play structure, the wooden playground structure nearest to Foxwall EMS, will need to be replaced in the future. The PWD will also replace the play mulch in the playground area.

**M<sup>c</sup>CAHILL PARK**

Mr. Posvar thanked the PWD for its support of the Borough Parks. He also stated that the contract for McCahill Park is still in process. Spring plantings will be completed in three or four phases.

Pickleball Rules

Mr. Posvar asked for volunteers from the Commission who will create court access rules for the pickleball courts at McCahill Park. Mr. Troutman and Mr. Posvar will be on this ad hoc committee.

Restrooms at McCahill Park

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Mr. Whittingham has secured a donor who would like to have permanent restrooms installed at McCahill Park. Mr. Koehler stated the Commission should move forward with a group that will analyze information such as the depth of sewer fall and location and meet with the donor to make a recommendation to the Commission at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Mr. Whittingham, Ms. Crookston, Mr. Posvar, Mr. Kurpakus, and Mr. Koehler have agreed to work on this project.

### **FOXTROT TRAIL RUN**

Mr. Posvar stated that the Foxtrot Trail Run made a \$7,500 profit after a UPMC donation which went to the Fox Chapel Parks Conservancy. He said that 100% of the profits will go towards the McCahill Park Rain Garden with the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy.

### **DELAFIELD CONNECTOR TRAIL**

Mr. Posvar stated that members of the Commission walked the proposed trail on November 16, 2024. Mr. Kurpakus asked if this should be a priority project for the PWD and stated that the PWD would begin preliminary work on the trail, clearing debris and making it more accessible.

Ms. Guinn stated it would be beneficial to contact Trail Pittsburgh to see if they could assist the Borough with the trail layout. Mr. Koehler suggested contacting Pashek +MTR as well.

### **SIGNAGE – PROPOSAL FOR WAYFINDING AND PARK SIGNS**

The Joint Comprehensive Plan with O'Hara Township states the two municipalities should have common trail markers and signs in the parks. Mr. Posvar stated that Kolano Design submitted a proposal to the Borough of Fox Chapel and O'Hara Township for park and wayfinding signs.

Mr. Whittingham moved to recommend to Borough Council that Kolano Design be hired for the Signage Plan for the Borough of Fox Chapel and O'Hara Township as described in the Joint Implementable Comprehensive Plan proposal at a cost to the Borough of \$9,275.00. The total cost of the proposal is \$18,550.00, which will be split equally with O'Hara Township. Mr. Troutman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

### Trial Classification Rating System

Mr. Posvar stated that a group should be formed to rank the Borough trails from easy to high classification. This information will be added to the signs placed on the trails. Ms. Guinn, Mr. Beyer, Ms. Crookston, Mr. Cohen, and Mr. Kurpakus will work together on the trail classification rating system, ranking trails 1 – 3 (easiest to hardest).

### **BIRD TOWN PENNSYLVANIA PROGRAM**

Mr. Beyer stated that Nick Stahlman from Western PA Audubon will attend the December 16, 2024, Council meeting to present the Borough with an official certification as a Bird Town. He also said the Borough received a grant for materials to make birdhouses. Mr. Muller will work with scouts to build and install the birdhouses throughout Borough Parks.

### **10 MILLION TREE PROJECT**

Ms. Guinn provided an update that the Borough has received 1,500 trees for the 10 Million Tree Project. She said that approximately 100 volunteers assisted with the plantings, and over 800 hours of volunteer work have gone into the Borough Parks this year.

Ms. Guinn suggested the Park Commission revive the Park Stewardship with the park trails to make the project more successful and engaging.

### **PLANNING AND PRIORITIES**

Park Plan Proposal

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Mr. Posvar stated the last Park Plan was updated in 2006. Mr. Posvar, Ms. Guinn, Mr. Troutman, and Mr. Beyer will begin working on ideas for an implementable park master plan to present to a consultant. The goal is to find a consultant to begin work in late 2025 – beginning of 2026.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS**

- The next Park Commission Meeting is on Monday, April 14, 2025, at 9 a.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:14 a.m.

Shawn M. Peterson  
Borough Secretary