



**MINUTES OF THE PARK COMMISSION MEETING  
HELD MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2022, AT 9 AM**

**PRESENT:** Wesley Posvar, Chairperson; Jim Pashek, Susan Crookston, Steve Whittingham, Members; Gary Koehler, Borough Manager; Larry Kurpakus, PWD Director; Michael Stevens, Chief of Police; Shawn Peterson, Borough Secretary

**VIA ZOOM:** Liz Nelson, Jay Troutman, Carrie Casey Leemhuis, Members; Mandy Steele, Borough Council; Alex Scott, Mayor

**ABSENT:** Jessica DeMoise, Jessie Handron

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

The minutes of the December 13, 2021, meeting were unanimously approved.

On behalf of the Park Commission, Mr. Posvar thanked Dempsey Bruce, the former Public Works Department Director, who retired on March 31, 2022, for his thirty-seven years of dedication to the Fox Chapel parks and trails.

**RESIDENT COMMENTS**

None

**McCAHILL PARK/ANNIE'S FIELD OF DREAMS UPDATE**

Mr. Whittingham had two small updates on Annie's Field of Dreams. The first update was that the Field of Dreams' entrance sign would be placed on posts sometime this spring. The second update was that a storyboard prototype was being produced that would be an expansion to the *Shady Ave* article written two years ago on Annie and the Whittingham Family.

Mr. Pashek updated the Commission on Phase II. He stated that Pashek +MTR is working with their engineer to figure out various strategies to deal with stormwater. As McCahill Park is considered a floodway, there is a struggle with permitting. Following Borough ordinances, everything done for Phase II needs to incorporate stormwater, i.e., sports court, parking lot, etc.

**STORMWATER**

McCahill Park

Mr. Posvar stated that the Fox Chapel Garden Club granted the Park Commission \$1,650 for a riparian buffer between the park and the road at McCahill Park. As the work is delayed at McCahill Park, Mr. Posvar will alert the Garden Club that the Park Commission will likely not use the funds this year but will apply the grant to beautify the park in the future.

Hidden Falls Park

Mr. Koehler stated he received a report from an attorney representing the owner of the retention pond near Hidden Falls Park stating the construction and maintenance of the retention pond was the developer's responsibility. Thus, the clearing and maintaining of the retention pond area were permitted.

## PARK COMMISSION MINUTES

April 11, 2022

### POLICE DEPARTMENT - PARK REPORT

Chief Stevens provided an enforcement update on parking permit citations. He stated that parking violations in permitted parking lots without a permit have significantly decreased as more permits are being issued at the Cooper-Siegel Community Library.

Chief Stevens also informed the Park Commission that the Police Department now has three radar signs for the Borough. One sign will be placed at the pedestrian crossing on Old Mill Road, and another will be placed at the pedestrian crossing on Riding Meadow Road near the dog park. These signs are used to collect data for the department.

Dog waste bags are left in the parks and not thrown away properly. Mr. Posvar stated that signage regarding pet waste to "careless" pet owners is an option for dealing with this issue. The sign can act as a reminder to pick up trash as the waste can degrade streamwater quality.

### PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT - PARK REPORT

#### Bench Plaques

If available, Mr. Kurpakus stated that the bronze plaques for the Smythe and Cramer families will be secured to the benches in Riding Meadow Park now that the benches are installed.

#### Stepping Stone Bridge between Hardie Valley Park and Riding Meadow Park

Mr. Kurpakus let the Park Commission know the DEP Permit for the stepping stone bridge has been approved. PWD will install the stepping stones in the dryer season between July and August.

#### Grass Mowing in the Parks

Mr. Kurpakus said the PWD would begin mowing McCahill Park soon to ensure the fields are ready for sporting events. Mr. Kurpakus and Mr. Koehler will meet with members of the Park Commission to discuss mowing at Hardie Valley Park.

#### Stream Tree Clean Up

Mr. Kurpakus stated that trees would be removed from the floodway within the stream from the O'Hara Township line up to the Trillium Trail. DEP has recommended that trees can be chipped on sight within the stream valley unless they are too large. This will be a visible activity and will be done sometime this year in late summer.

#### Hardie Valley Park Cow Painting

A Fox Chapel Area High School volunteer has offered to repaint the cow statue at Hardie Valley Park. Mayor Scott is working with the volunteer and the Hardie Family to determine a color scheme. There was discussion on moving the figure to Annie's Field of Dreams at a later time.

### PARK COMMISSION VACANCY

Mr. Troutman moved to recommend to Council the reappointment of Wesley Posvar to the Park Commission as his term is due to expire on June 17, 2022. The motion was seconded by Jim Pashek and passed by a unanimous vote.

### PARK STEWARD REPORTS

Ms. Casey stated that there was still \$2,000 remaining from the Garden Club of Allegheny County grant to be used for mature tree planting at Hardie Valley Park in the spring. She will coordinate the planting with Mr. Kurpakus and the Public Works Department.

### OTHER BUSINESS

## **PARK COMMISSION MINUTES**

April 11, 2022

Ms. Casey asked who residents should contact if they witness someone littering in the Borough. Chief Stevens stated that the non-emergency number for the Police Department (412/ 963-7220) should be used. He asked that those who call and leave a message include a contact number for the department to return the call, the make, model, color of the vehicle, and the license plate information. If someone witnesses large truckloads of brush, or garbage being dumped in the Borough, they should call 911 for immediate assistance.

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS**

- Fox Chapel Clean-Up Day – Saturday, April 23, 2022, from 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM. Volunteers are asked to meet at the McCahill Park parking lot.
- Garlic Mustard Pull – Saturday, May 7, 2022, from 10 AM – Noon. Volunteers are asked to meet at the McCahill Park parking lot.
- Park Walk and Talk Event with Fox Chapel Borough Council and Park Commission members – Saturday, May 21, 2022, from 10 AM – 2 PM at Hardie Valley Park.
- The next Park Commission Meeting – Monday, June 13, 2022, at 9 AM
- Fox Chapel Day – Saturday, June 18, 2022, from 1 PM – 5 PM at McCahill Park.
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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11 AM.

Shawn M. Peterson  
BOROUGH SECRETARY