



**MINUTES OF THE PARK COMMISSION MEETING  
HELD MONDAY, JUNE 13, 2022, AT 9 AM**

**PRESENT:** Wesley Posvar, Chairperson; Steve Whittingham, Jay Troutman, Carrie Casey Leemhuis, Members; Alex Scott, Mayor; Gary Koehler, Manager; Larry Kurpakus, PWD Director; Craig Sorg, Sergeant; Kelsey Mersing, Administrative Assistant

**VIA ZOOM:** Jim Pashek, Susan Crookston, Jessica Demoise, Jessie Handron, Liz Nelson, Members; Mandy Steele, Borough Council Liaison

**ABSENT:** Michael Stevens, Chief of Police; Shawn Peterson, Borough Secretary

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

The minutes of the April 11, 2022, meeting were unanimously approved.

Ms. Steele shared residents are interested in a trail connection between Hill n' Dale and the Lockhart Loop. Mr. Koehler noted while some of the land is Borough owned, some land is also private. The area would need to be mapped out to determine if this is a possibility.

**STORMWATER**

Mr. Pashek updated the Commission on the stormwater retention project for McCahill. LSSE requested stormwater information from the Army Corps of Engineers which is pending. The plan may require eliminating the smaller ballfield located along Guyasuta Road.

As an alternative to eliminating the ballfield, Mr. Troutman suggested contacting the property owner across the road on Guyasuta, where the old pond was located, to see if an agreement could be reached for the Borough to create a maintenance easement where the water naturally collects to assist with retention.

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

Mr. Whittingham confirmed the Field of Dreams' entrance sign is now up on posts and a base color for the storyboard was selected. He also informed the Commission the white playhouse will receive a fresh coat of paint on the inside ahead of Fox Chapel Day.

There was a brief discussion for the potential need for more seating, specifically picnic benches, as part of the new park design. Ms. Casey recommended, when the time comes, offering families the opportunity for naming rights of the benches to add to the appeal.

**JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

Mr. Posvar addressed the inclusion of parks in the Joint Comprehensive Plan survey. He encouraged members and residents to complete the questionnaire which has been shared on social media, [planforourfuture.com](http://planforourfuture.com), and the Borough Website. Hard copies are also available in the Borough Office lobby. According to Mr. Pashek, the results will be tabulated and available for the September meeting.

## **PARK COMMISSION MINUTES**

June 13, 2022

### **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT – PARK REPORT**

The bronze plaques for the Smythe and Cramer families are secured to the benches in Riding Meadow Park.

The Public Works Department will attempt to install the stepping stones between Hardie Valley Park and Riding Meadow Park next month. PWD will also work this summer to remove trees from the floodway within the stream from the O'Hara Township line up to the Trillium Trail including two additional trees in the stream at Hardie Valley Park near the waterfall.

Mr. Kurpakus will be meeting with Ms. Casey and Ms. Steele at Hardie Valley Park to discuss mowing in the park and along the shoulders of the access road as well as weed-whacking around the tree cages.

### **FOX CHAPEL PARKS CONSERVANCY**

Ms. Steele stated she is working with Carolyn Sanford to plan a Bluegrass Music and Beer event at McCahill Park for September where guests can enjoy music and sample alcoholic beverages from vendors in attendance. More details to come.

It was discussed that the Borough ordinance pertaining to park rules and regulations prohibits any alcoholic beverages in the park areas and would require a revision to the ordinance voted on by Borough Council as well as proper licensing and permitting. Additionally, Ms. Crookston recommended obtaining a special event permit from the county as an extra layer of protection.

Mr. Troutman moved to recommend to Council a revision to the Parks and Recreation rules and regulations permitting the Borough of Fox Chapel and/or the Fox Chapel Parks Conservancy authorization to approve the serving of alcoholic beverages at a Borough or Fox Chapel Parks Conservancy sponsored event held in a Borough park. The motion was seconded and passed by a unanimous vote.

The Conservancy is looking into placing kiosks with the Trail System Map at each of the trailhead locations. Before doing so, Mr. Posvar would like to ensure the trail maps are up to date with current naming for parks, trails, roads and streams. Mr. Pashek indicated Pashek+MTR can modify the existing trail map for the interim. Ms. Crookston suggested a collaboration with Bill Kolano's team on the project if applicable.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Koehler informed the Commission the new name for the stream will be based on Federal renaming guidelines and suggestions. From the names provided by the Federal Government, Fox Chapel and O'Hara Township support Sycamore Run as the new stream name.

The silver paint washed off the cow in Hardie Valley Park. Mayor Scott is working with a Fox Chapel Area High School volunteer and the Hardie Family to determine a new color scheme for the figure. He also plans to consult with the Hardie Family on potentially moving it to another park location.

Sergeant Sorg was in attendance to give an update on Fox Chapel Day. The event will run from 1PM to 5PM with setup expected to be completed by noon and tear down immediately following the event. Overflow parking will be available at the Presbyterian Church and includes a shuttle to and from McCahill that will run from noon-6PM.

A commercial business sign was posted on the fence near the gate at Riding Meadow Park. Sign regulations prohibits advertising as such. Mr. Koehler will notify the business owner to remove the sign.

## PARK COMMISSION MINUTES

June 13, 2022

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS**

- Fox Chapel Day – Saturday, June 18, 2022, from 1 PM – 5 PM at McCahill Park.
- The next Park Commission Meeting – Monday, September 13, 2022, at 9 AM

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:57 AM.

Kelsey M. Mersing  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT