

LITITZ BOROUGH PARKS COMMITTEE
Minutes of Meeting Held April 17, 2023
Council Chambers, 7 South Broad Street, Lititz, PA & Zoom

The regular April 17, 2023, Lititz Borough Parks Committee meeting was conducted as a hybrid meeting, in person in Council Chambers and virtually utilizing Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 4:02 P.M. by Committee member S. Hain with Committee members J. Lee, C. Hain, Pankratz, and S. Lee present. Others present were Elijah Yearick, Jordan Garner, David Brubaker, Ken Mobley, Chris Balson, Tim Strayer, David Carson, Ron Roda, Tom Eppinger, and Ron Stief. Others in attendance via ZOOM included Adriane Esposito, Bill & Sharon Cavanaugh, Linda Carson, and Andy Garner. On a motion by C. Hain with a second by J. Lee, the minutes of the February 27, 2023, Parks Committee meeting were unanimously approved.

Sixth Street Park Phase I

S. Hain began the discussion about the proposed Sixth Street Park. The discussion would include the amenities to be installed at the Sixth Street Park location. The park focus group gave feedback on amenities that they would like to see at the new park. A vote was held at the Lititz Public Library featuring the top features selected by the focus group, as well as an accessible playground feature to be donated by Lititz Ambucs Association. Yearick discussed that Playset C, the Standard Bench, and the Oodle swing received the most votes. The Committee had no questions about the top vote receiving features. S. Hain opened the discussion for public comment.

David Carson of 220 East Sixth Street discussed that the process is illegitimate because the focus group was created as a task force and was voted upon by Borough Council at the November 2021 Borough Council meeting. Carson asked how the Committee will address West Nile Virus (WNV), traffic, parking, and the swale. Carson also asked how voting can be legitimate. Carson informed the Committee that a vote was cast in his name, but he never voted. Carson discussed that it appears the Committee and focus group does not appear to care about the issues of WNV, traffic, parking, and the swale being an attractive nuisance. Carson discussed that the Committee did not follow Borough Councils directive for the purpose of the focus group and excluded members of the public from the focus group due to individuals being confrontational and having an opposing viewpoint. Carson discussed that he would fight the park moving forward. Carson then asked what the plan is moving forward. S. Hain responded that the Parks Committee would make a recommendation to the Borough Council. Members attending virtually had issues with the audio. An attendee via ZOOM asked for the next steps to be repeated. Yearick discussed that the next steps include the Parks Committee evaluating the recommendations provided by the focus group that includes play equipment intended for children ages 2-5, and a gathering space. Mr. Roda suggested that the kids vote on the equipment. Yearick then discussed the voting process. At this point the Parks Committee is considering to recommend the features that received the top votes to Borough Council. Yearick added that the space was voted upon by Borough Council at the October 2021 Council meeting to be developed as a park.

Linda Carson of 220 East Sixth Street asked for the total cost of the Sixth Street Park project. Yearick responded that the total cost has not been determined because each piece of equipment has a different cost. L. Carson objected to the Borough proceeding with the project without a cost determination. L. Carson also asked if the Committee is going to recommend to Borough Council that there are no issues with proceeding with a playground at the current site.

Bill and Sharon Cavanaugh attending virtually asked if there is a budget. Yearick responded that \$60,000.00 is budgeted in the municipal budget.

Ron Roda of 114 East Sixth Street commented that this is about the kids and what we leave behind.

Tom Eppinger of 200 West Kleine discussed that Lititz Borough taxes were recently raised 64% and believes the cost will be at least 3 times of the budgeted \$60,000.00. Eppinger believes the project should be placed on

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the back burner due to the increased tax rate and the uncertainty of the milling of the roads. Eppinger agrees it is about what we leave to our kids but is concerned about leaving them with a lot of debt.

Tim Strayer of 618 Kissel Hill Road thanked the Committee, and his family is looking forward to having a park. Strayer discussed WNV and believes it is a non-issue citing that there are waterways along other parks.

No other comments were received. Scott Hain thanked the focus group for their effort. J. Lee made the motion to recommend to move forward with the priorities based on the focus group and the voting with the funding available to Borough Council. C. Hain seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Robert Durand – Bench Dedication and Sponsorship Request

Yearick discussed with the Committee that he received a request about a bench dedication along the trail at Butterfly Acres. The request includes installing a plaque on an existing bench along the Butterfly Acres Trail in memory of Robert Durand's wife who passed away two years ago. It is understood that Mr. Durand will pay for the expenditure of the plaque and any required future maintenance. S. Hain noted that the benches along the trail were replaced within the past few years. The Committee was in favor of Mr. Durand installing the plaque.

Public Comments

Ron Stief from the Lititz Rec Center informed the Committee that the summer playground program setup is moving forward.

David Carson of 220 East Sixth Street asked the Committee why this is the first formal meeting. He has been reading notes from previous Parks Committee meetings. Yearick responded he thought it appropriate to have the meeting in a formal setting when the Committee is making a recommendation to Borough Council.

Ken Mobley of 305 Front Street asked for an update on the skate park. Yearick responded that the 2nd phase of the park is complete. The Committee has received positive feedback from the Skate Park Association, and Cocalico Alternative Sports Alliance. Two out of the three or four phases have been completed. There is a possibility that the park could be completed in the third phase.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:22 PM.