

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 28, 2020**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Yon at 7:00 p.m.

II. ATTENDANCE

Present: Mark Yon, S. Joseph Jablonski, Mary Lasher, Shamus Petrucelli, Matthew DiGirolamo, Michael Veltri

Absent: Mary Lee Mahon

Staff: Julie A. Jakubec, CPA, CGMA, Township Manager

Manager Jakubec noted procedures for participating in the virtual meeting.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A Presentation of Preliminary Drafts for Park Historical Program

Manager Jakubec acknowledged Tom Powers, Township Historian was in attendance to present preliminary drafts for the Park Historical Program Boards. She noted Miguel Sague is an artist and the designs are Miguel's original artwork.

Mr. Powers referenced four layouts, with consecutive timing. The first slide notes prehistoric times, including a speculative map of Pennsylvania, Ames limestone bed, river patterns through the Township and evidence of human habitation. He noted arrowheads were dug up by convicts at the Allegheny Workhouse and prehistoric drawings by Native Americans were found up river.

Mr. Powers noted the next slide refers to the peoples that dominated the area through various sub-tribes, the Iroquois People and Algonquin People, the territories they occupied, and Iroquoian clothing. A future drawing of a typical Iroquois Longhouse would also be included. Mr. Powers explained he tried to include as much information as possible, without an overwhelming amount of reading.

Mr. Powers stated the next slide is devoted to Guyasuta and his influence on the area. A map acknowledges Guyasuta's grave, which was an Indian burial mound excavated in 1819 by Carnegie Museum. The burial was located on the Darlington Estate just outside of Aspinwall. Six Mile Island was also called Guyasuta's Island.

Mr. Powers noted the last slide is about White Settlement, and the main landowner was Senator James Ross. He had a mansion built, named *The Meadows*, which was located where the current GetGo is. The mansion was a summer home. The Ross Mansion was turned into Saunders Inn

and made into an entertainment center, with Evelyn Nesbit and Fletcher Henderson Orchestra as attractions. An outdoor drama called “Hiawatha” took place with a natural amphitheater where Margery Drive is now, and drew large crowds for two seasons. The cast included 50 to 60 people of the Iroquois Nation. An amusement park with a Merry-Go-Round was located where the future Chick-fil-A restaurant will be. There were also picnic areas and sporting events, as the area was a popular vacation spot. The O’Hara Township Community Park and Township municipal building land was once a training ground for the 308 Calvary Unit. They mostly trained for playing polo.

Mr. Powers noted additional space is available for promoting the history book and other items. He suggested, if acceptable, having the Heinz History Center proof and verify the information on the slides for a donation of about \$200, and would include the History Center logo.

Chairman Yon commended the subcommittee for a fantastic job putting the history boards together.

Manager Jakubec asked if the Seneca Nation would need to vet the information as well, which Mr. Powers confirmed, adding that Mr. Sague has connections with the Seneca Nation. Once Mr. Sague’s other illustration is complete he would ask him to send to the Seneca Nation to review. Chairman Yon requested the committee review everything over the coming weeks.

Mr. DiGirolamo indicated the History Boards will be a great addition to the park. Mr. Powers was pleased to have the opportunity to take the controversy of the park name and turn it into something good.

Manager Jakubec did not see any issue with providing a donation to the Heinz History Center, noting money has been allocated in the 2021 budget for the story boards.

B. Review of Possible 2021 Capital Projects

Manager Jakubec noted a lot of things proposed for 2021 should have been done in 2020. A hold on spending in 2020 was implemented due to COVID-19. She stated the 2021 Proposed Parks Budget includes:

\$100,000	Trail stabilization by the bridge in O’Hara Township Community Park
\$20,000	Reseal courts at Meadow, Raymond A. Schafer, Jr. Memorial and O’Hara Township Community Parks
\$8,000	Ballfield Refurbishing
\$5,000	History Board Signs

Additional plantings were also included in the proposed 2021 parks budget at the Woodland Park Edible Trail and Rami Nature Reserve. If the 2020 budget closes with more revenue, additional small play items could be added to the parks.

Ms. Lasher inquired about the size and locations for the history board signs. Manager Jakubec stated the size is 4' x 4' and would be placed along the trail of the park. The signs could stand up straight, or on a slant.

Mr. Jablonski asked if the signs are vandal-proof, which the Manager confirmed.

VII. COMMISSION COMMENTS OR CONCERNS

Mr. DiGirolamo asked if Crofton Park was completed. Manager Jakubec stated she intends to consult with Mr. Rami and the Audubon Society about doing additional plantings. She noted more trees would be planted at the Edible Trail now that staff knows what will grow there. The edible plants will also be re-labeled.

Mr. Jablonski noted the extension of Alsop Park and park across from the High School are very nice. The Manager stated the extension is the Woodland Park Edible Trail. She also recalled additional plants for the Rami Nature Reserve were also planned.

Mr. Veltri referenced Bill No. B-37-2020, Park Rules, item No. 5, states 'grass, trees, shrubs, hedges, berries, and wild flowers or other flowers must not be damaged, cut, broken, picked, defaced or destroyed in any way'. He noted it conflicts with the purpose of the Edible Trail. The Manager indicated it would be addressed with the next Park Rules and Regulations revisions.

Mr. Petrucelli noted the pond at O'Hara Township Community Park is getting rough; lots of parrot feather and reeds are taking over. Manager Jakubec indicated she would ask Mr. Kephart to touch base with Joel, the pond maintenance person.

IV. MINUTES

A. August 26, 2020

Chairman Yon acknowledged the meeting minutes are lengthy. He suggested if the Commission is going to continue to meet via zoom, that members review the minutes prior to the meeting.

Motion by Ms. Lasher to approve the subject meeting minutes as presented was seconded by Chairman Yon and carried unanimously.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

VI. COMMENTS CONCERNING NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

VIII. STAFF CONCERNS

None.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Petrucelli to adjourn the meeting was seconded by Chairman Yon and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Cathy Bubas, Manager's Secretary