

CITY OF TRENTON

Parks and Recreation Board Meeting

MINUTES

MEETING PLACE: CIVIC HALL - 11 EAST STATE STREET

September 12, 2023 – 6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Hill called to order the regular meeting of the City of Trenton Parks & Recreation Board at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited

ROLL CALL

Mr. Leichman conducted the roll call. The following people were present: Mr. Hill, Mr. Perry, Ms. Smith, Mr. Melloh, Ms. Osuna, Mr. Croucher, and Ms. Paulson.

A motion to excuse Ms. Hale was made by Mr. Perry and seconded by Mr. Melloh. All were in favor. Motion passed.

All three alternates were the alternates in attendance this evening. Ms. Lucas, Mr. Nichols and Ms. Paulson. Ms. Paulson filled in for Ms. Hale who had an excused absence.

PRESENTATIONS

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes from the July 11 ,2023 Regular Parks Board meeting was made by Mr. Perry and seconded by Mr. Croucher. All were in favor. Motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Recommendation from Parks Board for 2 Projects from each Park to be selected from Parks Master Plan and Submitted to City Manager for 2024 Budget Consideration.

Mr. Hill led the discussion by stating he believed everyone received a copy of the email from City Manager Nichols requesting that the board make two recommendations for each park, from the Parks Master Plan list, and submit those to the city manager for consideration in the 2024 budget. Mr. Hill would like to get those recommendations completed tonight. He asked Mr. Leichman if the board were just to consider the three current parks at this time and not any future parks. Mr. Leichman stated he believed that was the request as he understood it. Mr. Hill listed the locations and mentioned the names of the three existing parks. Community Park, Founders Park, and Home Avenue Park.

Mr. Croucher wanted to know if there was a project going on at Home Avenue that was not completed.

Mr. Leichman stated that PW still had to place some of the new picnic tables and trash cans but other than that, nothing that he was aware of.

Mr. Perry asked Mr. Croucher if he was referring to the re-alignment on Home Avenue.

Mr. Croucher stated he wanted to make sure that any projects we had going on at Home Avenue were completed before we moved on to another project.

Mr. Perry stated that he thought maybe the coverings for the dugouts were the issue.

Mr. Leichman stated that the city was not constructing these. The city purchased the materials for the EBSA, and they were supposed to donate their members time to construct these. He stated that this had been an ongoing two-year project and finding volunteers was apparently an issue for them.

Mr. Crouched stated that that answered his question.

Mr. Hill then opened the floor for discussion.

All of the board members, including the alternate members, presented their specific ideas and requests over the next hour. Below is a list of their recommendations, per park:

Community Park:

- Pedestrian Bridge to cross Elk Creek to Access city property to the North
- Splash Pad including New Restrooms/Changing Rooms
- Pickleball Courts
- Art Park
- Install Permanent Lighting in Field for Events

Home Avenue Park:

- Redesign the Ballfields
- New Playground Equipment for Young & Older Children
- Acquire Adjacent Property for Parking
- Install New Ball Diamonds
- Cul-de-Sac West Home Avenue to Provide Parking
- Install Signalized Crosswalk
- Splash Pad
- Pickleball Courts

Founders Park:

- Repair/Replace Headstones & Create a Tour of the Grave Sites
- Construct a Gazebo
- Electrical Upgrades
- Install a Veterans Memorial

Mr. Hill thanked the board for their input and all their ideas. He explained that based on the tally of recommendations that he just heard, the top two for each park are as follows:

Community Park: Pedestrian Bridge & Splash Pad
Home Avenue: Redesign Ball Fields and Dead-End W. Home & Install New Playground Equipment
Founders Park: Construct a Gazebo & Repair/Replace Headstones & Create Tour of the Grave Sites

The Board agreed with this consensus.

Ms. Smith asked if any of these projects could be completed within the next year or just started next year.

Mr. Leichman explained that some of these items should be started, and some may be completed next year.

Mr. Hill wrapped up the discussion by asking for a Motion from the Parks Board to bring the six items selected to Council / City Manager for their consideration.

A Motion was made by Mr. Perry and seconded by Mr. Croucher. All were in favor. Motion Carries.

REPORTS BY THE BOARD OR CITY ADMINISTRATORS

- September 23rd – Fall Fest – Sharon Leichman

Mr. Hill read the updates from Ms. Leichman for the Fall Fest:

Volunteers are needed for the following: **Car Show** – 2 Volunteers needed (maybe 3) - Set up and sign in begins around 1:00 PM and the show itself runs from 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM. Responsible for registration process, including taking payment.

Ensuring that they receive their “free merch.” Selling raffle tickets and drawing winners for the cool raffle prizes! Giving the judges their judging forms and calculating winners at the end and making an announcement. (We have judges) (We do have someone who may assist with overseeing the event.) **Poker Tent Beverage Station** – 2 Volunteers needed to switch out throughout the day. (MUST TAKE TIPS TRAINING – THE CITY WILL PAY FOR IT.) Call me for details. **50/50 Raffle** – Need volunteers to take turns selling 50/50 raffle tickets throughout the day. The Kid’s Zone is a self-serve area this year with oversized games! They will be where the face painter and Edgewood Primary School will be located in Shelter 1.

- Piano’s – Emily Smith

Ms. Smith stated the pianos have been going well. She would like to see covers over the pianos next year. It helps protect them from the weather. She stated Caseys and the Library pianos are exposed more than she would like to see. She stated she would like to have them picked up by the end of October.

Mr. Hill stated if she needed any volunteers to help pick those up, please ask.

- Updates– Rob Leichman

Mr. Leichman advised the Board that the company that installed the Pour in Place surface for the new playground equipment in Community Park were scheduled to return next week on the 19th. We are hopeful that this will be completed before Fall Fest.

He also gave a quick update on the movies in the park this year. He thought that everything went well and wanted to thank Mr. Ray Nichols for providing popcorn for these events, free of charge. He mentioned that we were going to purchase a new DVD/DVR player as the one we have is starting to get some age on it. He would like to keep the old one as a backup.

He updated the board on the progress of the Pedestrian Bridge. He stated that he had met engineers and surveyors on site to look at the best alignment and location for the bridge. There are some site restrictions / challenges in this area, including a Duke overhead electrical easement, a conservation easement from the stream restoration project that was just completed, and the FEMA Floodway restriction which prohibits placing structures within the floodway. Even with all of these restrictions, he stated he is still fairly confident that we can get this done.

Mr. Leichman wanted to thank the board for their hard work and deliberations in putting together the list of recommendations for Council /City Manager for their consideration.

Mr. Hill wanted to inform everyone about Fall Fest on September 23, 2023. Please come out and enjoy the band and fireworks at the end.

Ms. Osuna mentioned that members of the public can volunteer to help with the event as well. Please contact Ms. Leichman via email or phone.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

October 10, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Perry and seconded by Mr. Croucher. All were in favor.

Mr. Hill adjourned the meeting at 7:19 p.m.