

# Harcrest Park Committee Meeting Minutes

**Purpose:** The Penn Township Park Committee met at 6:30 pm on March 9, 2023, at the Penn Township Municipal Building, 157 East Airport Road, Butler, PA 16002 for the Harcrest Park Phase II design and engineering.

## Attending

- Bert Mowry – Penn Township, Supervisor
- Bill Geibel – Park neighbor
- Cathy Woller – Park neighbor
- Doug Roth – Penn Township, Supervisor & Park Committee
- James Feath – HRG - Registered Landscape Architect
- Jim Woller – Park neighbor
- Karen Trempus – Park Committee
- Lance Welliver – Butler County Director of Parks and Recreation
- Melissa Heagy – Park Committee
- Sam Ward – Penn Township, Supervisor
- Theodosia Regal – Park neighbor

## Distribution of minutes:

- Attending
- Bill & Kelly Greb – Park neighbors
- Brian Fox – Park neighbor – need email
- Christina Sarson – HRG Engineer
- Clinton Bonetti – Penn Township Land Use Administrator
- Craig Thomasmeyer - Park neighbor
- Diane Curry – Park neighbor
- Grayson Hixon – Park neighbor
- Janet Sperling – Park neighbor
- John Weston – BSA Troop 53 Scoutmaster
- Kimberly Geyer – Butler County Commissioner
- Linda Zerfoss – Penn Township Manager
- Mark Gordon – Butler County Chief of Economic Planning
- Noah Hetrick – Park neighbor need email
- Scott Gumto – Park Committee
- Warren Carr – Park neighbor

## Discussion:

- Melissa Heagy made the motion and Karen Trempus seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on February 8, 2023. The motion was approved.
- HRG representative, Jim Feath, reviewed the revised Phase II development concept considering the February 8, 2023 meeting comments in a new PowerPoint, dated March 9, 2023. Two plans were discussed.



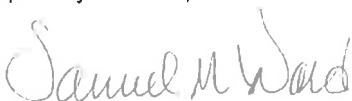
- Jim Feath pointed out the Draft Plan features:
  - The Flag Lawn and Loop Walk are relatively in the same elevation.
  - Stormwater provision will be accommodated in several retention basins and will rely on bio-infiltration.
  - A plaza and restrooms are included in the basketball, pickleball, and tennis court area.
  - A Pump Track is shown.
  - The Outdoor Educational Space utilizes some of the existing trails for access.
  - View from the proposed shelter location.



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- Jim Feath pointed out the Alternate Plan features:
  - This plan shows the pavilion and parking location closer to Three Degree Road.
  - The Flag Lawn and Loop Walk will have a 14' elevation change.
- Doug Roth stated that he likes the Flag Lawn and Loop Walk, the Pavilion view, and the Plaza at the Courts.
- Theodosia Regal stated that she prefers the Draft Plan.
- Doug likes the Outdoor Educational Space locations as shown on both plans. However, the trail will cross the stream for access to the Alternate Plan Outdoor Educational Space.
- Doug pointed out that there is an existing dedication tree and bench in the location of the proposed Pickleball Courts. The Pickleball courts must be moved to respect this dedication area.
- Bert Mowry stated that the Pavilion view shown on the Draft Plan is better than the view from Alternate Plan.
- Melissa Heagy suggested including trees and shrubs as a buffer around the Pavilion.
- Lance Welliver suggested including lawn areas near the Pavilion for events.
- Jim Feath stated that if a water well and grinder pumps for a forced-main sewerage system are included in the project, then the restrooms can be incorporated in the Pavilion. The existing Phase I restrooms may be converted to accommodate a grinder pump and forced main. This feasibility of this conversion will be investigated. Doug Roth will investigate the forced-main with the Saxonburg Area Authority. A well water source would require some periodic testing to insure safe drinking water.
- Jim Woller asked about the paths crossing the driveways. Jim Feath advised that the roadway would have painted crosswalks and signage. Jim Feath suggested that "traffic calming" features, such as raised cross walks, can be incorporated to slow down the traffic. Appropriate sight distances at the cross walks are also important.
- Jim Feath indicated that the parking capacity is relatively the same on both plans.
- Jim Feath suggested that the Loop Walk trees be Sugar Maple which are colorful in the Fall. Other native trees, such as Tulip and Birch could be considered. Scott Gump to and the Audubon Society could provide tree species recommendations.
- Bert Mowry stated that all electrical services should be placed under ground.
- Doug Roth stated that all existing trails are paved with asphalt millings base and an asphalt topping. Doug Roth stated that there is a stockpile of approximately 2,000 tons of asphalt millings stored at the Public Works Department yard which can be used for the base paving in future paths.
- Jim Feath stated that concrete sidewalks are shown to transition to asphalt paving at all facilities. Permeable paving could be used in parking areas, but not in the cartways. Permeable brick pavers can also be considered. Stormwater permeates through the paver joints into a subsurface collection system.
- Theodosia Regal stated that concrete paving should be used for handicapped access areas.
- Melissa Heagy suggested that the Pump Track facility is a low priority.
- Doug Roth stated that he prefers the Loop Walk and Pavilion as shown on the Draft Plan.
- Doug asked what features can we do with the present grant and infrastructure funding available. Jim Feath indicated that approximately one-half of the features could be accommodated at this time.
- Jim Feath will refine the plan based on this discussion and prepare a cost estimate for review at the next meeting.
- Post-meeting note: Lance Welliver advised that we can apply for another DCNR grant for an additional development phase. The next grant application will be due in April 2024 and we would be informed by the end of 2024 if a grant will be awarded. Penn Township must consider if it is financially prepared to move forward with another phase before submitting the grant application.
- The next meeting will be held on April 19, 2023, at 6:30 pm in the Penn Township Municipal Building meeting room.
- Karen Trempus made the motion and Melissa Heagy seconded the motion to adjourn. The meeting concluded at 7:30 pm.
- Minutes of the meeting will be posted on the Penn Township website, [www.penn township.org](http://www.penn township.org) under Documents, Park Committee.

Respectfully submitted,



Samuel M. Ward, Supervisor