

Harcrest Park Committee Meeting Minutes

Purpose: The Penn Township Park Committee met at 6:30 pm on February 8, 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
- Brian Fox – Park neighbor
- Cathy Woller – Park neighbor
- Christina Sarson – HRG Engineer
- Craig Thomasmeyer - 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
- Noah Hetrick – Park neighbor
- Sam Ward – Penn Township, Supervisor
- Theodosia Regal – Park neighbor
- Warren Carr – Park neighbor

Distribution of minutes:

- Attending
- Bill & Kelly Greb – Park neighbors
- Clinton Bonetti – Penn Township Land Use Administrator
- 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
- Scott Gumto – Park Committee

Discussion:

- Melissa Heagy made the motion and Karen Trempus seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on January 5, 2023. The motion was approved.
- HRG representative, Jim Feath, reviewed a PowerPoint "Master Plan", dated February 8, 2023, with additional Phase II development concepts.
- Jim Feath provided a brief history of the Phase I development and the Park Committee discussion held on January 5, 2023, to include the newly purchased property to the North and West of the original property for Phase II development.
- Jim Feath stated the development concepts are to consider short- and long-term visions for Harcrest Park, generate ideas and discussions, and develop a consensus for the Master Plan update.
- **Option A**



OPTION A

- * SOFTBALL/BASEBALL FIELD
- * PICKLEBALL COURTS (3)
- * BASKETBALL COURT
- * LARGE SHELTER
- * RESTROOMS (2)
- * OUTDOOR CLASSROOM
- * FLAG LAWN AND LOOP WALK



- Cons: Long roads and delete the ball fields (there are three fields at Penn Christian Academy and one in Saxonburg.
- Pros: Flag lawn and Loop Walk, pavilion, and close proximity to the Phase I facilities.
- Melissa Heagy suggested adding the pump track. Lance Welliver does not recommend pump tracks because of the potential injury liability.
- Doug Roth suggested moving the pavilion closer to Three Degree Road with the Flag Lawn and Loop Walk in the middle of the development.
- Doug Roth suggested that the long road to the Outdoor Classroom be changed to a wide trail.
- Lance Welliver suggested that the roadway scope be reduced.
- Doug Roth suggested that four parking spaces be added to the lawn area adjacent to the Phase I restrooms.
- Theodosia Regal likes the Flag Lawn and Loop Walk.
- Jim Feath stated that the Flag Lawn and Loop Walk is a level walking track.
- Doug Roth stated that there have been complaints that there are no shade areas in the park and that the Flag Lawn and Loop Walk will provide shade.
- Noah Hetrick stated that he likes the Outdoor Classroom and that this is the only plan that shows stormwater retention. Jim Feath advised that all concepts will include stormwater retention.
- Jim Feath observed that the original Phase I wetlands have expanded over the years and there is a significant amount of stormwater runoff from the farmed field directly to the North. Sam Ward suggested building a swale along the northern border to channel the runoff to a retention basin.
- Warren Carr likes the Pickleball Courts for activities.
- Lance Welliver stated that the Harcrest Park Phase I development is viewed favorably by DCNR.

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- **Option B**



OPTION B

- MULTI-USE FIELD
- PICKLEBALL COURTS (3)
- ADULT FITNESS
- LARGE SHELTER
- RESTROOM
- OUTDOOR CLASSROOM



- Cathy Woller likes the Adult Fitness area.
- Doug Roth likes the Pavilion being close to the Phase I facilities, but does not like the second entrance.
- Jim Feath stated that the second entrance provides emergency access exit benefits.
- Theodosia Regal does not like the second entrance.
- Warren Carr suggested lighting for after dark activities. Currently the park is closed at dark.
- Jim Feath stated that minimal outdoor lighting can be completed in a future phase for security only.

- **Option C**



OPTION C

- PICKLEBALL COURTS (3)
- BASKETBALL COURT
- TENNIS COURT
- LARGE SHELTER
- RESTROOM



- The Pavilion will be a four-season facility with restrooms.
- Penn Township is considering using a forced main sanitary sewer line to the SAA gravity mains located near Penn Drive.
- Penn Township is considering adding a water well for the park.
- Lance Welliver suggested investigating changing the Phase I restroom vault to accommodate a forced main sanitary sewer. A forced main system includes a collection tank and a grinder pump.
- Doug Roth recommended avoiding having a walking trail cross the roadway near the Phase I playground.
- Doug Roth stated that the Pickleball Courts work well.

- **Option D**



OPTION D

- PICKLEBALL COURTS (3)
- BASKETBALL COURT
- TENNIS COURT
- PUMP TRACK
- LARGE SHELTER
- RESTROOM



- Jim Feath suggested that the Pavilion and parking area could move up the slope and the other facilities be flipped.
- Bert Mowry suggested that the Pavilion be kept close to the Phase I development to avoid it being in the "back yard" for future development on the area North of the park.

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- **Option E**



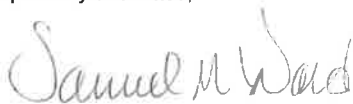
OPTION E

- PICKLEBALL COURTS (3)
- BASKETBALL COURT
- DOG PARK
- ADULT FITNESS
- LARGE SHELTER
- RESTROOM



- The Dog Park is maintenance intensive.
- Lance Welliver suggested omitting the Dog Park. Some Dog Parks have restrictions and membership fees.
- Theodosia Regal stated that the fenced-in area for dogs would unlikely be used by those individuals that currently walk their dogs along the trails.
- Jim Feath stated that it appears that the Dog Park is not a priority for Penn Township.
- Doug Roth suggested that there be more trails in the Dog Park designated area.
- **General Comments**
 - Sam Ward stated that the PA DCNR \$300,000 grant is a matching grant. Penn Township must contribute \$300,000. The Phase II scope of work must fit this budget. Penn Township will pay for its share of the project costs from the PA Act 13 oil and gas tax and other revenues which are designated for infrastructure use only. General tax revenues will not be used. Penn Township will continue to develop additional phases in the park as grant and revenue funding become available. The Penn Township Public Works Department will perform several Phase II items of work. In Phase I, they did the excavation, storm sewers, paving, plantings, and landscaping.
 - Theodosia Regal suggested that Phase II be designed to work well with the Penn Township Community Day events.
 - No ballfields. Pickleball courts are very popular.
 - Refer to Option A – cluster facilities, move the Pickleball courts closer.
 - Doug Roth suggested that the Outdoor Classroom can be considered in the next phase of construction.
 - Lance Welliver suggested that the DCNR must consider the new Phase II development option and its longer schedule.
 - Jim Feath thinks that DCNR will look favorably on a revised project which includes the newly acquired property.
 - Jim Feath summed up the discussion and stated that HRG will develop another option considering the meeting comments to review at the next Park Committee meeting.
- The next meeting will be held on March 9, 2023, at 6:30 pm in the Penn Township Municipal Building meeting room.
- Melissa Heagy made the motion and Karen Trempus seconded the motion to adjourn. The meeting concluded at 8:10 pm.
- Minutes of the meeting will be posted on the Penn Township website, www.penntownship.org under Documents, Park Committee.

Respectfully submitted,



Samuel M. Ward, Supervisor