

Harcrest Park Committee Meeting Minutes

Purpose: The Penn Township Park Committee met at 6:30 p.m. on January 24, 2024, in 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
- Doug Roth – Penn Township Supervisor & Park Committee
- James Feath – HRG, Registered Landscape Architect
- Lance Welliver – Butler County Director of Parks & Recreation
- Sam Ward – Penn Township Supervisor
- Theodosia Regal – Park neighbor & Park Committee

Distribution of minutes:

- Attending
- Adriene Smoczek – PA Bureau of Recreation & Conservation
- Ashley Helmstaedter – Butler County Parks & Recreation
- Cathy Woller – Park neighbor
- Christina Sarson – HRG Land Planner
- Clinton Bonetti – Penn Township Land Use Administrator
- Craig Thomasmeyer - Park neighbor
- Dan Wible – Penn Township PWD Foreman
- Dave Andrews - Connoquenessing Water Shed Alliance
- David Bruni – Township resident
- Devin Dunwoody – HRG, Project Manager
- Diane Curry – Park neighbor
- James Bonner – Audubon Society
- Janet Sperling – Park neighbor
- Jim Woller – Park neighbor
- Karen Trempus – Park Committee
- Kimberly Geyer – Butler County Commissioner
- Linda Zerfoss – Penn Township Manager
- Mark Gordon – Butler County Chief of Economic Planning
- Mark Hansford – PA DCNR
- Melissa Heagy – Park Committee
- Michael Corle – Penn Township SEO
- Sarah Giamporcaro – Park neighbor
- Scott Gumto – Park Committee
- Tammy Able – Penn Township Consultant
- Will Pitts – Butler Eagle

Discussion:

- Doug Roth made the motion and Theodosia Regal seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on November 13, 2023. The motion was approved.
- Doug Roth discussed the recent visit from DCNR representative, Adriene Smoczek, who provided recommendations on park benches and trees. Doug Roth recommended charging the actual cost for the benches. The Township provides the excavation and concrete work. Doug Roth also recommended discontinuing the donor tree program. The Township has been replacing these trees when they die. Lance Welliver advised that Butler County does not replace donated trees when they die. Doug Roth made the motion and Theodosia Regal seconded the motion to charge the actual cost for donated benches and to discontinue the donor tree program. The motion was approved.
- Theodosia Regal suggested that all new plantings be restricted to "native plants" only. James Feath will provide a list of native trees that residents could choose to plant. The Park Committee will approve the location of all new trees. James Feath will designate areas for plantings to provide "successional growth" and use the vegetation to "craft" views in the park.
- Doug Roth suggested that a meadow area be set aside. The meadow would be mowed every one or two years. Lance Welliver suggested that the meadow be mowed after the first frost. HRG will provide suggested locations for the meadows.
- Theodosia Regal and Doug Roth planted 57 tree seedlings on October 22, 2023. They found several Alder trees growing along the stream bed.
- Theodosia Regal will continue planting in the pollinator garden. Theodosia Regal has a sketch identifying these plants. Doug Roth suggested providing a sign to identify these pollinator plants. This could be similar to the sign at North County Line Park in Cranberry Township.
- Lance Welliver suggested that Penn Township complete the Butler County Parks and Recreation grant application. This grant would reimburse 75% of the project costs, up to \$10,000. Doug Roth will submit this grant application for Phase II stormwater piping materials.
- Doug Roth stated that he was impressed by a bike pump track in a park near Phillipsburg, PA. Lance Welliver stated that there is a bike pump track at North Park in Allegheny County.
- Doug Roth suggested that permeable paving be used for extended overflow and lighter vehicle parking areas. There are some permeable parking areas at the Audubon Society facility. James Feath will consider permeable parking in some areas of Phase II, such as a portion of the parking near the Adult Fitness area and in parking area islands. James Feath estimated that approximately 30 parking spaces near the Adult Fitness area would be required for peak times and the remaining parking areas could have permeable paving. The permeable paving in parking areas would facilitate stormwater infiltration. Parking blocks can be used to define the parking spaces in these areas.
- Doug Roth suggested providing "rain gardens" in parking areas to help manage the stormwater. James Feath stated that this can be accomplished with "bio-infiltration" swales.
- Doug Roth stated that a local stone mason, Bob Winters, has agreed to donate the labor to install the sign on Brownsdale Road in front of the Township equipment storage building. This sign will use the former Hartzel barn stone and the stone signs purchased from the Raducz Stone Quarry.



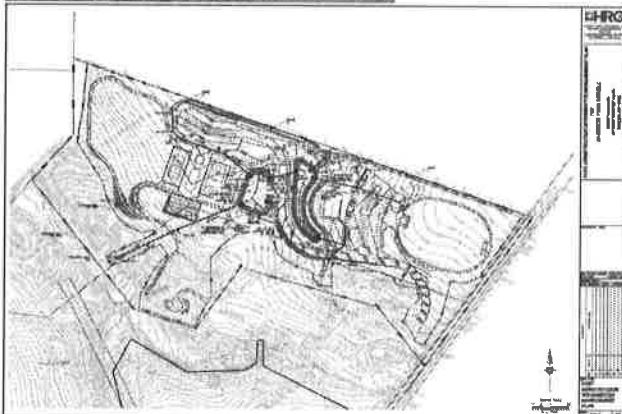
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- Doug Roth stated that the Phase I toilet rooms are collecting a lot of debris in the vaults and have odor and insect problems. Options for new Phase II restrooms include:
 - A grinder pump system conveying the wastewater to the Saxonburg Area Authority (SAA) lines at Penn Drive,
 - Composting wastewater treatment,
 - A vault structure, similar to Phase I, and
 - On-lot wastewater treatment.
- Doug Roth is concerned that the grinder pump system is expensive and with maintenance in cold weather. Doug Roth stated that the Phase I vault facilities have only been pumped out twice in the last six years.
- Lance Welliver stated that composting wastewater facilities are used at Butler County Alameda Park. A new composting wastewater facility will be installed this year in Alameda Park. Composting facilities are similar to the Phase I vaults but include ventilation and liquid separation facilities. Some maintenance is required by adding wood chips and pumping them out periodically. HRG will provide drawings of a composting facility for Penn Townships' consideration. Penn Township will evaluate anticipated costs for each of these restroom options.
- Penn Glade Lions will provide a bicycle repair station with compressed air at Harcrest Park near the bike rack. Many bicycle riders frequently stop at the park to use the restrooms. The Penn Glade Lions will donate the repair station, at a cost of approximately \$2,000, and the Penn Township PWD will provide the concrete pad.
- James Feath reviewed the HRG PowerPoint presentation, dated January 24, 2024 as follows:

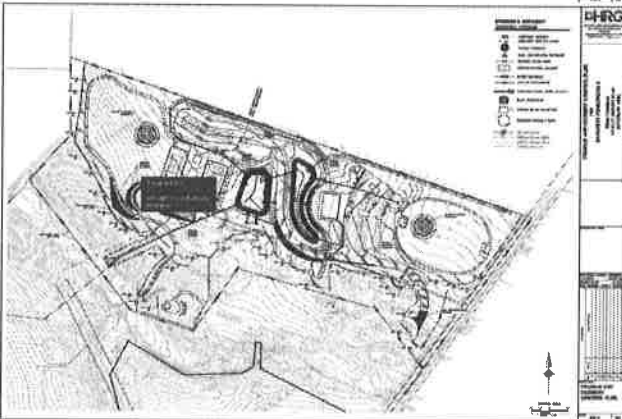


Where we are

- Survey complete
- Wetland delineation complete
- Preliminary site grading complete
- Preliminary stormwater complete
- Erosion & sediment control plan/report @ 90%
- PCSM plan/report @ 90%
- NPDES permit @ 85%
- QA/QC and value engineering storm and grading review



Site Grading & Stormwater



Erosion & Sediment Control

