



# FOX CHAPEL BOROUGH

## MINUTES OF THE PARK COMMISSION MEETING HELD MONDAY, JUNE 12, 2023, AT 9 AM

**PRESENT:** Wesley Posvar, Chairperson; Jay Troutman, Carrie Casey, Nicholas Muller, Jeffrey Cohen, Members; Gary Koehler, Manager; Larry Kurpakus, PWD Director; Michael Stevens, Police Chief; Shawn M. Peterson, Borough Secretary

**ALSO PRESENT:** Alex Scott, Mayor; Frederick Leech, Councilmember; Jim Herald, Melinda Guinn, Residents

**VIA ZOOM:** Susan Crookston, Steve Whittingham, Liz Nelson, Members

Wes Posvar called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM.

The minutes of the April 10, 2023, meeting were unanimously approved.

### RESIDENT COMMENTS

None

### PARK COMMISSION VACANCY UPDATE

Due to a vacancy on the Park Commission, the committee will meet with and interview candidates on July 6, 2023, and will make a recommendation to Council.

### POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Stevens stated that the Police Department continues to issue warnings and citations to violators without parking permits at designated Borough parking lots.

While discussing whether the Dog Task Force should reconvene to discuss a proposal for dog zones or corridors at Riding Meadow Park, resident Jim Herald suggested waiting for the June 22, 2023, Joint Comprehensive Plan meeting as the survey conducted by Pashek +MTR contains information pertinent to this subject.

### HARDIE VALLEY PARK AND M<sup>c</sup>CAHILL PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Mr. Koehler stated that drawings had been submitted for the M<sup>c</sup>Cahill Park Improvements, and two DEP permit applications were submitted. One permit consisted of 1,483 pages of information with a fee of \$4,970. Before the permit was submitted, Borough staff, State Representative Mandy Steele, and Borough Engineers, LSSE, met with DEP, and LSSE said the meeting was the most productive one LSSE has attended with DEP. DEP provided input on the permit requirements.

Mr. Koehler also said there is a two-step process for the Hardie Valley Park permit. The first step was to apply for a permit to relocate a sewer line along the streambed. Borough Council approved this work, and the Public Works Department will perform the relocation work sometime in the fall or winter.

### JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Mr. Cohen stated that a meeting before the next statutory meeting in September would be beneficial to discuss active transportation, greenways, and stormwater. The Joint Comprehensive Plan Committee held two meetings on the topics in early June 2023, and a lot of information from the meeting consists of Borough Parkland.

## PARK COMMISSION MINUTES

June 12, 2023

### **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

Mr. Kurpakus reported on the ongoing stream bank cleanup and restoration projects at Salamander Park and Scott Park. The permit from DEP also consists of the required plantings of approximately 2,000 seedlings and grasses along Sycamore Run. The permit is for 1800 feet of stream bank work, with 800 feet already completed. The Public Works Department will move onto another phase of this project within the next month, working towards the Fox Chapel Racquet Club, and the remaining work near Scott Park towards the Trillium Trail will be completed next year. Other items, including muddy trail conditions, are addressed in the staff report provided to the Park Commission.

### **RECENT FOX CHAPEL PARK COMMISSION EVENTS**

Mr. Posvar thanked all the wonderful volunteers who came and helped with Fox Chapel Cleanup Day, Fox Chapel Garlic Mustard Pull, and the Arbor Day Planting events.

Mr. Cohen updated the Commission on the Arbor Day Planting event on April 29, 2023.

- 155 seedlings were taken home
- 250 seedlings were planted near Rockwood Drive
- 225 seedlings were planted in Riding Meadow Park
- In total, 955 seedlings were planted this year so far.
- Almost 30 volunteers came to the Arbor Day event to plant the seedlings, and 343 elementary school students assisted with other plantings.

A fall planting event may be scheduled with the required plantings along Sycamore Run. Mr. Cohen obtained a list of volunteers from the Arbor Day planting that can be used to cultivate interest for a fall planting. The Commission will have a table at Fox Chapel Community Day on Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup> to garner more volunteer interest.

### **WELCOME GARDEN & WILDFLOWER MEADOW**

Mayor Scott said Jeff Brooks Landscaping planted the wildflower meadow at the Welcome Garden along Fox Chapel Road near Delafield Road with a Northeast wildflower mix that contains over 150 varieties of wildflowers. The colors will change throughout the season as new blooms emerge. The wildflower meadow will assist with stormwater management.

Ms. Nelson stated that the forest restoration project at the Welcome Garden is doing well; 21 of the original 25 Sycamore trees planted are healthy. One tree needs to be removed as it is dead. The Sycamores in the area, along with allowing the grass to grow in this area, have reduced the swampy conditions dramatically.

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS**

- Fox Chapel Day – Saturday, June 17, 2023, from 12 - 4 PM
  - Ms. Casey asked for volunteers from the Park Commission as there will be a table at the event for residents to learn more about the Borough parks. Ms. Casey, Ms. Crookston, Mr. Cohen, and Mr. Whittingham will attend.
- The next Park Commission Meeting – Monday, September 11, 2023, at 9 AM

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:41 AM.

Shawn M. Peterson  
Borough Secretary