

**BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN PARK
BOROUGH COUNCIL PRE/POST MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JULY 20, 2022**

A pre/post meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Franklin Park was held on Wednesday, July 20, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 2344 West Ingomar Road, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15237. The meeting was also held virtually via remote audio and video conferencing.

Council President John Parks called the meeting to order.

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Jiang Lipresent
Brian S. Malkinpresent via Zoom
Lucas R. Myslinski, Vice Presidentpresent
Uday Palledpresent
John P. Parks, Presidentpresent
Thomas C. Schwartzmier, Second Vice Presidentpresent
Junior Councilperson Jackie DiGiacomopresent
Mayor Dennis E. O'Keefepresent

BOROUGH ENGINEER:

Kevin Brett, Lennon, Smith, Souleret Engineering, Inc.present

SOLICITOR:

Robert Max Junker, Babst Callandpresent

STAFF:

Zach Brower, Recreation Program Directorpresent
Gary Bucuren, Superintendent of Public Works.....present
Cindy Crain, Finance Director/Borough Treasurerpresent
Rege Ebner, Borough Managerpresent
Walt Healy, Police Chief.....present
Cathy Krummert, Borough Secretarypresent
Tim Phillips, Building Inspector/Zoning Officer.....present

PRE-MEETING

AUDIENCE: 2 (2 in person and 0 virtually)

ANNUAL MEETING WITH RECREATION BOARD CHAIRPERSON – Rachel Bricker was introduced as the Recreation Board Chairperson. Ms. Bricker stated that prior to serving on our Recreation Board, she had served on the Whitehall Recreation Board. She noted that Mr. Brower is very organized, and the board members all work well together. They also respect and value each other. She has had a great experience so far. All of the events that the Recreation Board has done for the community are really great, and the community appreciates it. The Festival in the Park was very crowded and included a lot of entertainment and activities. The vendors seemed very happy and had a successful day. Ms. Bricker suggested reaching out to the community more to see what they want. The Board will need to discuss if registration will be necessary for the events going forward since it helps with the preparation for each event. She noted that one of the things she really liked at the festival in Whitehall was that they would honor a community member each year for their community service or for implementing something great into the community. Ms. Bricker stated that the Recreation Board is open to feedback from the community. Mr. Ebner noted that the Recreation Survey ends July 31st, and so far, we have received 366 resident responses.

OLD BUSINESS - None

AGENDA REVIEW - The following July 20, 2022 regular meeting agenda items were discussed:

- WetGo Pro Car Wash applications & Nicholson Heights townhome development application - Mr. Junker noted that due to a lack of a quorum at the June Planning Commission meeting, these applications were reviewed and recommended for approval by the Planning Commission last night. Mr. Junker reviewed the procedures for the WetGo conditional use public hearing and also the deadlines for the approval of the applications. He also answered questions from Council regarding the applications.

MANAGER'S REPORT DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Update regarding outstanding grant applications:
 - Allegheny County ARPA Trails Grant Application – A grant application was submitted through the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County in the amount of \$450,200 for the purchase of the Graff property along Big Sewickley Creek Road. A notice of award is expected by the end of the month.
 - DCED Local Share Account Grant Application – A grant application was submitted through the Commonwealth Financing Authority in the amount of \$1 million for an addition to the Public Works garage. A notice of award is expected in the Fall of 2022. If awarded, construction would begin in 2024.
 - DCED Municipal Assistance Program Grant Application – The grant application was submitted, and the Borough was awarded \$29,700 for consulting fees for the preparation of a Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan with Ohio Township. The actual cost for the Borough is \$74,100 (60% of the total cost).
 - DCNR Community Conservation Partnership Program Grant Application – The grant application was approved by DCNR in 2020. They then forwarded the application to the National Parks Service, and we are one of twelve projects that is still waiting to hear back from the National Parks Service. DCNR contacted Mr. Ebner last week indicating that they are very frustrated with the National Parks Service and asked if we would have any problem if they sought out funding at the state level rather than the federal level. Mr. Ebner indicated that the Borough has no problem with that option. If all participants agree, DCNR would reach out to the National Parks Service and threaten to bring it into the state level if something does not happen soon. The National Parks Service is severely understaffed, and this is not one of their high priorities.
 - (3) DEP Growing Greener Grant Applications for the MS4 Program
 - A grant application was submitted in the amount of \$424,794 for the stream restoration along Montgomery Road. The total project cost is \$549,361.
 - A grant application was submitted in the amount of \$381,862 for the stream restoration along Fish Run. The total project cost is \$506,247.
 - A grant application was submitted in the amount of \$440,256 for the Ramblewood detention pond retrofit. The total project cost is \$553,385.We should know by the Spring of next year if we receive these DEP grants, and we have until March of 2024 to complete these three projects.
- Update regarding Linbrook Park Riparian Buffer Project – The Penn State Extension has created the program, and we are participating along with Plum Borough. They have received a grant that will purchase all of the plants needed for the riparian buffer planting. They plan to hold four workshops in Franklin Park in the Fall and Spring. The workshops will be held here or at the Sewickley Creek Greenhouse. They want to hold a kickoff meeting here and on Zoom on August 25th for elected and appointed officials to hear about the program. Mr. Ebner has drafted a letter to invite the neighboring municipalities in the Big Sewickley Creek Watershed to attend. They would like to do the riparian buffer planting on October 1st in Linbrook Park. Plants and shrubs would be provided to volunteers to plant. The Borough will need to provide the fencing and stakes to protect the plants from the deer, and also provide the manpower to put up the fencing and stakes.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS & MAYOR

- Mayor O’Keefe has received inquiries regarding the status of the Nicholson Road paving. Mr. Ebner noted that West View Water is now doing some work, and they expect to be done in two weeks. According to the PennDOT representative, Nicholson Road is on the calendar sooner rather than later, but he would not provide a date. Mr. Nock offered that Peoples Gas now has work to do prior to the road reconstruction. Dr. Li asked if we should reach out to our state representatives to see if they can move things along. Mr. Ebner will reach out to the PennDOT representative to see if he is aware of the planned work by Peoples Gas. Once we have more information from PennDOT, we can let residents know an estimated start date for the project.

There was also a brief discussion regarding signs posted on Arndt Road, Reis Run Road and McAleer Road to provide notice of tar and chipping over the next few weeks.

- Mr. Schwartzmier noted that the Borough had postponed paving on Ingomar Heights Road due to the fact that West View Water Authority had some work to do, and he asked if they had begun that work. Staff will check on the status.
- Mr. Parks received another email from Mr. Pinevich regarding litter. The Chief had responded to Mr. Pinevich regarding the identification of the litter and noted that the burden of proof is on the Borough to prove that someone littered. When the Chief contacted the person, he admitted to littering, and he was warned. Mr. Parks noted that the house at 1521 King John Drive has been in ill repair for several years, and he has received another inquiry asking what can be done. He asked Mr. Phillips for a status update. Mr. Phillips noted that the house is in ill repair, but the difference between this house and others that the Borough has condemned and torn down is that this house is full of personal items. The homeowner lives in a facility and does not have the means to take care of the home. Mr. Phillips stated that he does not know how to proceed. The Borough has hired a contractor to cut the grass on several occasions when it was over 10” in height. The Property Maintenance Code allows the Borough to secure the property if the homeowner does not do it. Council discussed and it was noted that possibly starting proceedings would spark a response. Mr. Junker indicated that the first step would be a Property Maintenance Code order to secure with a statement that this is one step away from being condemned. Mr. Phillips was directed to start a paper trail.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – An executive session was held to discuss the Bliss Development potential litigation, the Summer Fields potential litigation and the Davies litigation.

The regular meeting was held from 8:00 p.m. to 9:07 p.m.

POST-MEETING

As there was no further business, no post meeting was held.

Respectfully submitted,



Cathy L. Krummert
Borough Secretary