

Environment and Recreation Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 3, 2022 – 6:00 p.m.

Present: Councilpersons Wendy Margolis, Ben Bell, Joe Frederick, and Dennis Livrone, as well as Borough Manager John Davis and Deputy Borough Manager Phil Ehlinger.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Wendy Margolis.

The approval of **Minutes** from November 4, 2021 was postponed by Wendy until they are able to be seen.

John Davis gave a **Broad Commons Playground** update. He said we are not looking for any decisions about this tonight. Park and Rec will be taking a closer look at this. Construction is scheduled for spring or summer 2023. We have learned about a DCNR grant that can help offset the cost but it is due in April of this year, so we are hoping we can gather enough information for the grant to be submitted and used as a placeholder for the time being. We will keep working on a design until we find what works best. It will be located next to the plaza. We are looking for something that is unique and will fit the themes of the overall park. This is not intended to be our primary playground but to be ancillary to Broad Commons Park. Phil Ehlinger provided some insight about the playground including the shape of the space it will be located in. He believes it will create a good placeholder, but he doesn't want to rush the design process to get a grant. Wendy suggested perhaps a designer can be brought in to help with this process. The potential cost was discussed extensively. Ultimately, we want to avoid a cookie cutter type of playground and to integrate as much variety as possible. A long conversation took place regarding pros and cons of various playground elements as well as how it will fit into its intended location between the plaza and the arboretum.

The Park and Recreation Board signed off on the **Soccer Shots Program Expansion** agreement. We have an existing agreement with them now that is working well. They meet and compete on Wednesdays from 4-6:30 pm. The Park and Rec Board was amenable to them expanding to Friday evenings at the same time if they have large enough enrollment in their program. Park and Rec recommended they use Chapman Park inside the oval. There is no conflict with existing schedules. Dave Burger has no concern about the grass getting torn up due to the kids. ERC voted unanimously to recommend to the program expansion agreement to Borough Council.

Old/New Business: Wendy reported on EAC activities. EAC met and received more information about the plastic bag ban. There is still a lot of work to do with the community and an ordinance is in the process of being drafted. Penn Environment has given recommendations to help with the process. Straws are no longer included in the plastic ban. The state legislature has not acted upon this yet, either, so there is not much urgency at this point. Most of the bans happening in the state are of plastic bags. Penn Environment is working with other local municipalities and has provided a lot of useful insight.

Adjourned: 6:41 p.m.