

**HOUSE COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
September 21, 2016**

The meeting of the House Committee was called to order at 7:40 p.m. by Chairman Gene Gabel. Committee members present in addition to Mr. Gabel were Keith Endy, Barry Christman, and Frank Deery, ex-officio member.

Also in attendance were Council members Lori Carnes and Charles Heller; Patricia Loder, Borough Manager; and a concerned citizen.

A motion to approve the minutes of the August 24, 2016 meeting of the committee was made by Mr. Gabel, seconded by Mr. Endy, and approved.

Mr. Gabel called for public comment; and recognized Mr. Clayton Leister who expressed dismay that the final public comment period of meetings is limited to “public comment on the agenda.” The first “public comment” period allows comment on any subject as well as agenda items.

Mr. Leister was reminded that the public comment portion of the agenda was modified in response to a complaint he filed against the Borough with the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission in which he alleged claims of disability discrimination in public accommodations. Mr. Leister claimed that his disability prohibited him from sitting through entire meetings; therefore, not affording him an opportunity to provide public comment.

As part of the Settlement and General Release Agreement the Borough agreed to provide a public comment section at the beginning of the agenda; and another public comment section at the end of the agenda, which would be limited to discussing issues arising during the meeting. Mr. Leister is now stating that at the time he filed the complaint with the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission he was undergoing treatment for cancer; and that he does not currently have cancer and is now able to sit through meetings to their conclusion. Mr. Deery and Mrs. Loder inquired if he is now telling us to return to our previous practice of listing “public comment on the agenda” at the beginning of the agenda, and “public comment of a general nature” at the end of the agenda. Mr. Leister responded affirmatively and was advised that future agendas would reflect this change.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business to conduct.

New Business

Park Use Agreement – Relay for Life of Boyertown – Mrs. Loder reviewed with the members the Park Use Agreement for the 2017 Relay for Life event at the Community Park. The event is slated to be held on June 24 and 25, 2017. This matter will be listed on the agenda of the October 3rd meeting of Council.

Cancer Memorial Garden Community Park – Mrs. Carnes advised the members that local Landscape Architect, Scott Rothenberger, has expressed an interest in creating a Cancer Memorial Garden in the Boyertown Community Park. The project would be funded and maintained through donations. The current preferred location is behind the old school house. Discussion was held on the topic and members of the committee and Council members present suggested looking at the rear of the park where the former RC Race Track was located. Following discussion, Mrs. Carnes stated that Mr. Rothenberger would attend the next meeting of the House Committee to further discuss the project with the committee.

Appointment of Robert Miller to the Zoning Hearing Board – Mr. Gabel noted that Mr. Robert Miller will accept appointment to the Zoning Hearing Board to complete the unexpired term of Thomas Heeney whose term expires January 2019. This matter will be listed on the agenda of the October 3rd meeting of Council.

St. John's Church – Campfire and Church Service Community Park – It was noted that St. John's Church advertised in their Church Bulletin a campfire and church service at the Boyertown Community Park on Saturday, October 8th beginning at 5:00 p.m. Mrs. Loder noted that the church does not have a Park Use Agreement for use of the park; however, if the committee is in agreement with the church's use of the park an agreement can be prepared for approval at the October 3rd meeting of Council. Mrs. Carnes explained that the campfire and service are part of the Park and Recreation Board Fall Festival Event. It was noted that the hours of the Fall Festival are listed as 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and if St. John's use of the park is in conjunction with the Fall Festival then the event hours should be changed and the church activity should be listed as part of the event. Mrs. Carnes stated that the event hours will be changed and the church activities will be included in the Fall Festival line up.

Comments on the Agenda

Mr. Gabel called for public comment on the agenda; no comments were forthcoming.

There being no business to conduct, a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. was made by Mr. Gabel, second by Mr. Christman. The next meeting of the House Committee is scheduled on Wednesday, October 26, 2016 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Loder
Borough Secretary