

**HOUSE COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
February 22, 2017**

The meeting of the House Committee was called to order at 7:00 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 Charles Heller, Terry Mest and Lori Carnes; Mayor Marianne Deery; Patricia Loder, Borough Manager, Scott Rothenberger, Landscape Design and Installation, and Charles Haddad and Roger Lehmann, representing Building a Better Boyertown and the Boyertown Community Center, and numerous other interested individuals.

A motion to approve the minutes of the January 25, 2017 meeting of the committee was made by Mr. Gabel, seconded by Mr. Endy, and approved.

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

Unfinished Business

Cancer Memorial Garden Community Park – Mr. Rothenberger reviewed with the committee a proposal to install a Cancer Memorial Garden at the Boyertown Community Park. Mr. Rothenberger's proposed location for the memorial is on the hillside in front of the old schoolhouse. The Committee and Council members present expressed concern about the proposed location due to its close proximity to a disc golf hole and the likelihood of discs being thrown into the garden.

Mr. Deery advised Mr. Rothenberger that the Committee discussed this proposal previously and suggested he consider placing the garden at the rear of the park in the location where previously an RC track was located.

Another suggested location was the front of the park between the park driveway and the former ice skating rink.

Following all discussion it was decided that Mr. Rothenberger will meet Borough representatives at the park on Saturday, February 25th to review the proposed locations.

New Business

Charles Haddad and Roger Lehmann, Building a Better Boyertown Main Street Planters – Mr. Haddad and Mr. Lehmann discussed with the Committee a BBB proposal to place fifty planters within the public right of way of Philadelphia Avenue between Reading Avenue and Washington Street and Reading Avenue south to Third Street and north to Fifth Street. Mr. Haddad noted that in 2016 BBB placed eight planters at the main intersection. The cost to purchase the additional planters and purchase plants is approximately \$16,000. Mr. Haddad and Mr. Lehmann will acquire the funds to make the purchase.

Mr. Haddad and Mr. Lehmann requested the Borough consider the purchase of a John Deere Utility Vehicle with a starting list price of \$9,839.00. The vehicle would be used by volunteers to water the planters during the growing season. A suitable location to store the vehicle also has to be determined.

Discussion was held on the legality of driving the utility vehicle on the street and/or sidewalk. Mr. Lehmann questioned if the vehicle could operate on a public street in the same manner that farm equipment is permitted to operate on a public street. Also discussed was insuring the vehicle.

Following all discussion, the Committee directed Mrs. Loder to investigate the two above noted questions. Further discussion on this matter will be held at the next meeting of the Committee.

Charles Haddad, Community Center – Mr. Haddad reviewed with the Committee the history of the Boyertown Community Center which was located in a residential home on West Philadelphia Avenue. Mr. Haddad noted that because the property was a residential property it became infeasible to continue to use the property as a Community Center. Therefore, several years ago the property was sold and the proceeds were placed in a Trust Fund Escrow controlled by a Board of Directors. In addition to the proceeds from the sale of the property the Trust Fund Escrow received a \$250,000 bequest from Ermine Hafer; these funds were donated to assist with the annual operation of the Community Center.

Mr. Haddad proposed to provide funding assistance to the Borough for the installation of an elevator at 25 South Reading Avenue to provide accessible access to the second floor, and to undertake a renovation of the second floor to permit its use as a Community Center.

Mr. Haddad was advised that the Borough is awaiting the completion of floor plan design drawings for 25 South Reading Avenue and 16 West Philadelphia Avenue and the accompanying estimated cost of the renovation. The Committee made no decision at this time regarding the offer.

Resignation Nathan Babb Emergency Management Council – Mrs. Loder shared with the Committee a resignation letter submitted by Nathan Babb concerning his appointment to the Boyertown Emergency Management Council. The resignation is effective February 13th.

Mr. Deery noted that the Emergency Management Council met on February 21st and interviewed John Rambo to replace Nathan Babb as a Boyertown representative on the Emergency Management Council. Mr. Deery and Mr. Mest who both serve on the Emergency Management Council agreed that Mr. Rambo should be appointed by the Borough to replace Nathan Babb. The resignation of Mr. Babb and the appointment of Mr. Rambo will be listed on the agenda of the March 6th meeting of Council.

Disc Golf Course Boyertown Community Park – Mr. Steve Bleiler representing the Boyertown Disc Golf Club advised the Committee that the club would like to relocate Hole 1. Mr. Bleiler noted that this hole is subject to wet and muddy conditions at certain times of the year and the area surrounding the hole becomes congested when the club meets to play on Tuesday evening and Saturday morning. Mr. Lehmann offered his opinion on relocation options and he offered to look at the course with Mr. Bleiler.

Public Comment

There being no further business to conduct, a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. was made by Mr. Gabel, second by Mr. Christman. The next meeting of the House Committee is scheduled on Wednesday, March 22nd, 2017 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Loder
Borough Secretary