

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

The meeting of the House Committee was called to order at 8:30 p.m. by Chairman Gene Gabel. Committee members present in addition to Mr. Gabel were Keith Endy, and Frank Deery, ex-officio member. Committee member Barry Christman was absent.

Also in attendance were Council members Charles Heller, Terry Mest and Lori Carnes; Mayor Marianne Deery; Patricia Loder, Borough Manager, and Bruce Hansley, Street Department Supervisor.

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 22, 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 was out of town and unable to attend the meeting. Mrs. Carnes and Mr. Deery reported that they and Mr. Rothenberger looked at various areas in the Community Park where the Memorial Garden could be located. The location that is agreeable to Mr. Rothenberger is along Madison Street below the walking trail. Mr. Deery noted that Mr. Rothenberger requested parking spaces be created along Madison Street adjacent to the area proposed for the garden to allow individuals with difficulty walking to easily access the garden. Mr. Deery noted that the area is too small to allow vehicle parking. It was also noted that it would create an unsafe condition because vehicle operators would have to back onto Madison Street to leave the parking area.

Following all discussion, it was decided that Mr. Rothenberger should provide a written proposal for his plan for a memorial garden at the Community Park for consideration by the Borough.

BBB Planters Water Cart – Mrs. Loder advised the committee that there was nothing new to report on this matter. Mr. Haddad had approached the Finance Committee in February and requested the purchase of two water carts with an anticipated cost of \$5,000. The Committee agreed to purchase the water carts and stated that the funds would come from the return of half of the donation for the 150th Anniversary Celebration, which is \$5,000 and is currently held by Building a Better Boyertown pending finalization of a 150th Anniversary Book.

Boyertown Community Center Proposal 25 South Reading Avenue – Mrs. Loder reviewed with the committee information from Tim Cox, Meister Architects,

concerning use of the second floor of 25 South Reading Avenue as a community room. Mr. Cox informed the Borough that the use classification under the building code for a community room is an A-3 Assembly Occupancy Type. The classification of the first floor is a B Occupancy; these two occupancies are required to be separated by a 2 hour fire separation, which means that the drop ceiling will have to be removed from the first floor and several layers of fire rated gypsum board will have to be installed. In addition, because the assembly space is not located on the level of exit discharge it is required by International Building Code to have a sprinkler system.

If the second floor can be classified as a B Occupancy, then it will follow the same rules as the first floor. Mr. Cox suggested that the most cost effective option would be to divide the second floor community space into (3) 750 square foot spaces, and use the remaining area for circulation; and enlarge the existing toilet rooms to meet ADA requirements. This would allow for the classification of the space as conference rooms and part of the B Business Occupancy. This occupancy classification would not require a sprinkler system or a 2 hour fire rated separation.

Discussion was held on the matter and it was agreed that the second floor should be laid out to be used as conference rooms and retain the B Business Occupancy.

Mrs. Loder will also advise Mr. Cox to include a kitchenette in the second floor space.

Disc Golf Course Boyertown Community Park – Mrs. Loder advised that she believes Mr. Bleiler and Mr. Lehmann have come to an agreement regarding the relocation of hole number 1; however, no official plans have been submitted. Therefore, there is no action which needs to be taken at this time.

New Business

Pet Water Fountain – Mrs. Loder reviewed with the committee a proposal from the Park and Recreation Board to purchase and install a pet water fountain at the Community Park. Park and Recreation Board member Amy Quigley contacted Patt Veterinary Clinic concerning a contribution toward the purchase, and they have agreed to fund the entire purchase.

Mrs. Loder noted that the price provided does not include a handicap water spigot; and recommended that the Borough add that feature, and pay the additional cost of \$318. Mrs. Loder stated that the Board would like the fountain to be installed close to the Rohrbach Pavilion. Mrs. Loder will have the fountain installed by Jody Sailer Plumbing. It was agreed that the Borough staff will handle the installation and determine a workable location for the fountain.

Authorization to purchase the Pet Water Fountain will be listed on the agenda of the April 3rd meeting of Borough Council.

Earthfest Celebration – Mrs. Loder advised the committee that she was contacted by Gerhart Hartman & Ritner Insurance Company concerning their ongoing financial support for the shred event associated with the Park and Recreation Board Earthfest Celebration. The company representative informed Mrs. Loder that Pro-Shred who has been providing the service was not contacted to schedule their participation in this years' event. The representative further stated that they took it upon themselves to look for another company. All the companies they found have minimum four hour charges of \$1,000 or more. The insurance company's sponsorship in the past has cost them \$400, and they are not in a position to fund the entire \$1,000. Mrs. Loder asked the company if they would be willing to provide \$500 in financial support this year and they agreed. Mrs. Loder recommended the Borough pay the remaining \$500. The committee agreed.

It was noted that the insurance company was not the party responsible for scheduling Pro-Shred, they provide financial support, man the operation during the event, and collect donations.

Public Comment

There being no further business to conduct, a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m. was made by Mr. Gabel, second by Mr. Endy. The next meeting of the House Committee is scheduled on Wednesday, April 19th, 2017 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Loder
Borough Secretary