

October 9, 2017 MARC Meeting Minutes

MARC Attendees:

BOARD MEMBERS

Dr. Victor Marks
Mike Mills
Kevin Herritt
Frank Dombroski
Commissioner Ken Holdren
Heather Good

STAFF

Bob Stoudt
Connor Durkin

Public:

Lloyd Bunch
Steve Jacks
Ellie Jacks

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm by Mike Mills.

OFFICER REPORTS

Chairman's Report

Mike Mills noted a lack of a quorum at the beginning of the meeting. Discussion moved to Partner Reports.

PARTNER REPORTS

Washingtonville Borough

Frank Dombroski reported that the Borough hoped to receive CDBG funding to upgrade the streetscape along the PA-54 corridor through the Borough. Work is anticipated in 2018, funding permitting.

Danville Borough

Kevin Herritt reported that he and Stoudt had met earlier in the evening with the Danville Parks & Recreation Committee to discuss options for cost-cutting measures at the Hess Recreation Area. Stoudt will present the proposal to the full Danville Borough Council on Tuesday evening, October 10. Stoudt passed out a hand-out at the meeting detailing the specifics of the proposal. The item will be discussed under New Business.

Riverside Borough

Dr. Marks had no updates to report.

Montour County

Commissioner Holdren reported that Montour County and the SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority had moved forward with filing a notice of praecipe in Montour County regarding the continued dispute with the adjacent landowner along the North Branch Canal Trail. Doing so will allow the parties to proceed if needed with additional legal action on the lands owned by the SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority and Montour County.

Commissioner Holdren noted the continued budget stalemate at the Commonwealth level, expressing concern about possible ramifications for Act 13 and other funding that Montour County uses to help fund MARC and other entities.

Commissioner Holdren also commended the recently completed work at Hopewell Park.

Danville Area School District

No representatives in attendance.

OFFICER REPORTS (continued)

Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Holdren presented an overview of the financial reports included in the agenda packet. With no quorum present, no action could be taken on the reports.

Secretary's Report

Secretary not present. No action taken.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lloyd Bunch expressed concern regarding continued funding for watershed restoration work in the Chillisquaque Creek watershed, particularly if the Commonwealth's budget standoff continues.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Connor Durkin noted details of the Assistant Director's report.

MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN'S REPORT

Connor Durkin noted details of the Maintenance Technician's report.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Stoudt noted highlights of the report, particularly recent work at Hess Field, Hopewell Park and the Montour Preserve.

OLD BUSINESS

2018 River Towns Race Series

Bob briefly discussed the notes on page 22 of the agenda packet regarding the 2018 River Towns Race Series. No action could be taken due to lack of quorum. Item again tabled until the November meeting.

2017 Budget Update / 2018 Budget Preparation

Bob provided a detailed explanation of the proposed revised 2017 budget. Expenses have exceeded expectations at the Hess Recreation Area, Hopewell Park, Riverside Borough River Access and River Towns Race Series. Revenues have fallen short of expectations for the River Towns Race Series and general donations. Stoudt anticipates a net year-end loss of roughly \$8,100, rather than a year-end balanced budget as projected. Work on the 2018 budget can not accurately begin until MARC and Montour County know what the Commonwealth will do with the Act 13 funding. Stoudt will begin work on other line items to the extent possible.

With no quorum present, no action could be taken. Item tabled until the November meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Montour Preserve Lease Agreement Renewal

MARC must notify Talen Energy whether it intends to renew the annual lease for the Montour Preserve. Those in attendance expressed a desire to continue the lease agreement, but with no quorum present, no action could be taken. Item tabled until the November meeting.

Hess Recreation Area Maintenance Planning

Stoudt presented a hand-out which had been presented to the Danville Parks and Recreation Committee earlier in the evening. In order to reduce annual maintenance costs at the Hess Recreation Area and improve public safety at the site, Stoudt proposes: the removal of the backstop fencing and dugouts at both the softball field and old baseball field; conversion of the softball field infield to grass; removal of the wooden fencing around the parking lot; and conversion of approximately two to three acres of grass to wildflower meadow. Conversion of the sports fields could be avoided if some other group expressed a desire to use the fields and assumed the costs necessary to restore the fields to good, safe condition. Stoudt will contact DCNR, Danville Area Little League and other groups as needed to determine whether there is any desire to use/maintain the fields or any reason why the proposed changes may not be done (such as previous grant agreements).

Those present discussed the proposal and agreed with the need to reduce costs and improve site safety, but with no quorum present, no action could be taken. Item tabled until the November meeting.

Seasonal Maintenance Technician Employment Status

Stoudt reported that the Seasonal Maintenance Technician position was set to expire on October 13 unless MARC elected to retain the part-time employee (Connor Durkin). Durkin expressed a desire to continue as a part-time employee, working as needed and as his school schedule allowed, and Stoudt recommended Durkin's continued employment.

With no quorum present, no action could be taken. Item tabled until the November meeting.

OTHER ITEMS

Chairman Mills noted MARC's continued difficulty with securing a quorum to conduct business. While nearly all absent Board members had understandable work or personal reasons for missing the meeting, one board member has attended only one of this year's meetings. Stoudt and/or Mills will contact the Board member to determine their ability to continue to serve.

Those in attendance discussed options for improving attendance at meetings, including reconsidering the date and time of the monthly meetings. Stoudt will send out an online poll to Board members to seek input on different dates and times for consideration at the November meeting.

Those in attendance also discussed MARC's current bylaws, noting that they were badly outdated and in need of a comprehensive review and update. Stoudt will begin the process with a goal of having a first draft ready for initial review at the November meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Mike Mills adjourned the meeting at 8:06pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Stoudt



Director / acting Secretary

10/9/17