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Council of Friends/Friends of North Park – Meeting Minutes March 15, 2022

In Attendance:

- Andy Baechle-Allegheny County Parks Director
- Lauren McAndrews- Chair North Park Friends Council
- Heidi Fornalcyk, Colleen O'Toole, Jake Milosky, Jerry Aufman, Larry Steckel, Rock Kernick- North Park Friends Council members
- Sam Shepard-Allegheny County Park Ranger

Lauren called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm; meeting was held at the Old Fire House

Introductions

- Notice of Meeting posted on group Facebook page
- Discussed mission and ordinance defining advisory role of the Council. - Since the Ordinance establishes our purpose, decided to forgo additional statement. The ordinance to be sent to the FNPC
- Goal of the group is to preserve our park to live on forever - canoeing, kayaking, hiking, horse trails, picnics, tennis, pickleball, wildlife, etc. Some members were interested in reforesting trees, maintaining wildlife, birds, fish, etc.

Reports and discussion Andy Baechle (Allegheny County Parks Director) Requests to County from NPFC:

- Discussion of Accessibility of restrooms, shelters and trails. All accessible areas are noted on the North Park Map
- Asked to have more lights along the tennis court road and making a walking path
- Discussed better monitoring of speeders - esp. speeding on Babcock up to the pool and then down to Lake Marshall - Andy said he'd pass that on to county
- Discussed need for better signs
- Noted a plan developed approximately 7 years ago - a civil & environmental study to get the maximum use of the boat house and other Park assets
- A suggestion to add a shelter and a bench in the small dog park - Andy will ask about getting these in both parks

Reported by Andy:

- North Park Pool improvements including improved bleachers, added more handicapped access areas, plan for a new baby pool and roof
- Finished Pierce Mill Road to give more room for bikers & walkers, plan to extend to 910 County has budget for the Park. It's not a line-item budget but generally provides substantial funding for repairs/improvements.
- Grant received for the north branch of Pine Creek
- Going to be planting more meadows better for nature and better for utility companies Platform tennis is now a three season - push button for lights to go on for one hour at a time to save energy
- NEED LIFEGUARDS - \$16/hour will train & certify for free candidates - have flexible hours & work multiple pools
- Covid brought more awareness to our parks & county had to hire more people
- New signage being made in parks to make them all uniform – NP will be last because of the size

- Marshall Island
 - Being maintained by a park specialist and three landscape architects
 - Storm drainage covered in leaves and sticks - by the state that they address this & that this is being looked at by the McCandless commissioners
- Scouting and other projects need to coordinate with the County to comply with union agreements

Report by Sam Shepard

- 200 miles of trails in all county parks - there is a trail app it is Allegheny City Parks Trails - can find it on Google
- Rangers train on invasive species management specifically Japanese barberry & bittersweet - he also can provide toolboxes with everything needed to do your own volunteering if you can't attend a scheduled volunteer day -- this trail group is shifting to maintain these invasive species and will start in a certain area of the park
- Visit alleghenycounty.us/parks for more information

Miscellaneous

- Liz Spence has information about roughly \$7,000 to spend. Discussion tabled until the next meeting

Ken motioned to adjourn & Jerry seconded

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm

Next meeting will be in June; date to be determined

Council of Friends/Friends of North Park – Meeting Minutes June 15, 2022

In Attendance:

- Andy Baechle-Allegheny County Parks Director
- Lauren McAndrews- Chair Friends of North Park Council
- Braden Meiter-Allegheny County Park Ranger
- Jake Milofsky-Friends of North Park Council
- Barbara Brewton- Allegheny County Parks Foundation
- Liz Spence-Friends of North Park Council
- Colleen Lizzi-Friends of North Park Council
- Barbara Gaertner-Treasurer Friends of North Park Council

Call to Order at 6:51 pm; meeting was held at the Old Fire House
Notice of meeting was posted on the Allegheny County website

Reports

- Andy Baechle (Allegheny County Parks Director)
 - Repairs have been made to drainage problems
 - Shelters have been painted
 - Multiple Murdock's (fountains) have repaired or replaced
 - JC Stone Field
 - New Scoreboard
 - Barn- new roof, gutters, and downspouts
 - Sinkhole in parking lot
 - Lake Shore landslide
 - Core drilling is underway
 - Information and bids for repairs being collected
 - Other Miscellaneous repairs
- Barbara Brewton (Allegheny County Parks Foundation)
 - Water Tower
 - Grant received
 - Structurally sound
 - Lead paint removal a major concern
 - Upcoming events
 - Gala at Hartwood Acres (Aug. 20th)
 - Park 'til Dark/ Pour at the Park (Oct. 15th)
 - Volunteer opportunities - information to be circulated for FNPC to help in conjunction with Rangers
- Braden Meiter (Ranger)
 - Summer Programs are underway
 - invasive plant removal and other projects
 - Volunteer Projects are available for all ages
 - Visit alleghenycounty.us/parks for more information

- Miscellaneous
 - Security Cameras have been installed around the park
 - Pine Creek Land Trust- Garden in the Park event July 30th
- Volunteers needed from FNPC to staff a table 9-12
 - Discussed how to spend money/savings in trust and generally decided that buying trees to plant in and around the Park is consistent with purpose and needs. Rangers to assess areas of need and cost, with goal of fall planting

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm

Next meeting will be in September; date to be determined

Council of Friends/Friends of North Park – Meeting Minutes January 17, 2023

In Attendance:

- Andy Baechle- Allegheny County Parks Director
- Heidi Fornalcyk, Barbara Gaertner, Ken Allshouse, Colleen Lizzi, Larry Steckel, Jake Milofsky, LizSpence, Nancy Furbee- North Park Friends Council Members
- Sam Shepard- Allegheny County Park Ranger
- Anita Prizio- County Council
- Jaime Filipek, Caitlin Harpster, Joey-Linn Ulrich- Allegheny County Parks Foundation
- Members of the Public

Heidi Fornalcyk called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm; the meeting was held at the Cabin.

- Minutes will be posted on the Allegheny County Parks web page under Friends of North Park Approved minutes from the September after accepting the following corrections:
 - Colleen O'Toole was in attendance
 - Ranger Sam indicated there was a significant presence of Lantern Flies in the park
 - Liz Spence discussed the tree planting project that occurred on October 15, 2022. \$4000 was spent on larger trees; the remaining \$2000 will be used to plant trees in the spring.

Reports and discussion by Andy Baechle (Allegheny County Parks Director)

- Discussed the stream bank stabilization project that is underway on Tennis Court Road.
- The project aims to improve the aquatic and terrestrial habitat
- Discussed a path along Tennis Court Road near the solar lights
- Improvements are being made to the ice rink, water tower and pool

Reports and discussion by Sam Shephard (Allegheny County Park Ranger)

- NAEC hosted 2 workdays pulling invasive species; upcoming workdays: March 25 and Oct 14
- Anyone interested in becoming a park steward can reach out to Ranger Sam at Sam.shephard@alleghenycounty.us
- Early spring live stakes and shrubs will be planted along Pine Creek near the tennis courts
- Improvements are going to the trail from Irwin Road to North Ridge Road

Allegheny County Parks Foundation introduced new members

- Park 'til Dark and Pour in the Park will be held on October 14, 2023

Miscellaneous

- Discussed the Archery Range
- Discussed the need for updated lighting in the Cabin parking lot

Ken made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 pm; Andy seconded the motion

Next meeting will be held on March 21, 2023

Council of Friends/Friends of North Park – Meeting Minutes March 21, 2023

Old Firehouse North Park 7:00 PM

In Attendance:

- Andy Grobe- Allegheny County Parks
- Lauren McAndrews, Ken Allshouse, Colleen Lizzi, Larry Steckel, Jake Milofsky, Liz Spence, NancyFurbee, Jerry Aufman - North Park Friends Council Members
- Braeden Meiter - Allegheny County Park Ranger
- Caitlin Harpster, Joey-Linn Ulrich- Allegheny County Parks Foundation
- Karly Bitsura Meszaros and Linda Wilkins - Boyce Park Friends Council
- Members of the Public

Call to Order 7:05 pm – L. McAndrews

Approved minutes from the January meeting w/ correction denoting Nancy Furbee Council member was in attendance.

- o Minutes will be posted on the Allegheny County Parks web page under Friends of North Park

Allegheny County Parks report-A. Grobe

- Water tower project has a shortfall of approximately \$1.2 million and is on hold.
- Baby pool improvements are on track for completion this year.
- Solar path on tennis court road to be completed this year.
- Hiring now for lifeguards - will train.
- North Park golf course tee time reservations are now available online, in person and by calling Lauren will share the press release with the friends group.
- Ice rink attendance was down from prior years due to the mild winter.

Park Ranger update-B. Meiter

- Beaver Dam program
- junior Ranger program
- Earth Day cleanup on April 22nd
- late afternoon program on April 26th focusing on invasive species removal.
- hiring seasonal Rangers apply online.
- streambank restoration continues April 3rd through 5th to install live stakes in the stream beds -volunteers needed
- April 21 FedEx and Tree Pittsburgh will be planting 500 trees, EQT holding a volunteer day for further tree planting.

Allegheny County Parks Foundation – C. Harpster and J.L. Ulrich

- Pour in the Park/Park till Dark October 14th; looking to partner with the Friends for volunteering.
- Report on the small improvement projects program:
 - o Friends develop a project idea, like planting a pollinator garden, a butterfly garden, etc

- Project must be approved by the Allegheny County Parks
- Friends group conducts fund raiser, like T-shirt sale.
- Funds will be held by the nonprofit Allegheny County Parks Foundation
- Program spending through the Foundation.
- Raising money for the water tower is going to be a big effort - once they get closer to funds needed, they will have close the gap fundraisers held by Parks Foundation.

Liz Spence reported on NAEC

- Arboretum restoration is ongoing Saturday March 25th looking for helpers to remove invasive species.
- PSU master garden is hosting another garden in the park event on July 29th and hoping the Friends can staff a table with information about the Park and the Friends Council, maybe with a game or survey.
- NAEC is involved in trying to bring the tiger swallow tails back to Pennsylvania by planting pawpaw trees.

Jake Milofsky

- update on the fall tree planting with Friends' funds. Approx. 125 trees planted.
- Spring planting in plan stage.
- It is important to plant before invasives takeover but also to protect new plants from deer.
- Friends' funds held by NAEC will be sufficient to plant another 50trees. Jake will develop a proposal and circulate via e-mail for a vote. Need for trees in the Park remains strong.

- Collen Lizzi asked for Friends to have a one-day event to clean up fishing line and bobbers from aroundthe lagoons and lake. Request has to be submitted to the Rangers prior to proceeding. Volunteers needed.

Nancy Furbee reported on the recent pipe removal/replacement near Pie Trainor Field. Rangers were aware of work conducted by the Wildwood Golf Club. While they have a water withdrawal permit to remove water from the Creek, no clear permission to remove trees, or to replace pipeline. Rangers willfollow up.

Lauren McAndrews to report to County Council County Parks Committee March 29

Next meeting June 20 at 7:00 pm Old Firehouse

K. Allshouse moved to adjourn, L. Spence second, adjourned 8:10 pm

Council of Friends/Friends of North Park – Meeting Minutes June 20, 2023

Old Firehouse North Park 7:00 PM Call to Order 7:06 pm

Attendance: Friends of North Park Appointed Members, McAndrews; Lizzi; Spence; Allshouse; Aufman; Ranger Shepard; Parks Director Baechle; Allegheny County Parks Foundation Joey-Linn Ulrich; 3 North Park users; 9 members of North Allegheny Horseman's Association

Approved minutes from the March meeting with one correction.

- Minutes will be posted on the Allegheny County Parks web page under Friends of North Park Reports and discussion by Liz Spence:
- Update on Friends' funded tree planting project, 50 trees planted on red trail, \$2,000 spent, purchased from Tree Pittsburgh.
- Work continues at Arboretum to remove invasives and to mark trees. Volunteers needed. Historic map to be provided by S. Johnstonbaugh. No mowing or brush hogging pending landscape architect review.
- Colleen Lizzi suggested a t-shirt fundraiser for the arboretum work.
 - July 29th 9-1; Garden in the Park seek volunteers to staff a FONP table and games to promote the Friends Group.

Reports and discussion by Andy Baechle (Allegheny County Parks Director)

- Pine Creek tree planting 500 trees, 1,000 stakes; solar path installed near tennis courts; baby pool improvements to be done by August; pool open with more than 200 lifeguards; senior games to be held at NP including 10K and 5K runs; professional arborists to assist with arboretum restoration.

Reports and discussion by Sam Shephard (Allegheny County Park Ranger)

- Hired 6 seasonal rangers; Rangers lead Pine Creek tree planting; drought requires watering trees; website has information on park ranger programs and ongoing volunteer opportunities in the Park.
- June 27 7:30-8:30 pm Park Ranger event at Rose Barn. History and gems of North Park; promote on FB page.

Allegheny County Parks Foundation report by Joey-Linn Ulrich

- Many groups helped with tree planting in North Park
- Park til Dark scheduled for October 14 will need volunteers.
- Twilight picnic Aug. 19
- Summer social media campaign - donate money and win prizes.
- In response to a question about an ecological survey – actively raising money for one.
- Public request to see design for water tower restoration for public input. This is not a FONP project so not addressed at these meetings.

Input from the public

- New general email for feedback/suggestions: fonpfeedback@gmail.com
- Request for public Facebook pages such as Harrison Hills and Hartwood Acres have. Post only minutes and notices, not pictures and public information. Reference 2021 ordinance-Only one social media account per platform is allowed and FONP has a Facebook page. The information is available on the County web page and is open to all and not just Facebook users.

- North Allegheny Horseman's Association asks why horse trails are not listed on the trail maps like they are at Hartwood; seek to have rink shows listed in the summer events book, promote their events; want attention to potentially unsafe rink, fence, boards; water fountain not operating; shelter requires work, and they are willing to assist. Instructed to work with Blaise at the County to address concerns and to cease use if unsafe.
- Question about Go Ape status – to be removed this summer.
- Question about lily pads-removal is difficult. Any other business-none

Next meeting Sept. 19 at 7:00 pm Old Firehouse

Open to the public.

Adjourn 8:22 pm

After the meeting adjourned, a member of the public provided a list of issues for possible discussion at the September meeting.

Council of Friends/Friends of North Park – Meeting Minutes September 19, 2023

Old Firehouse North Park 7:00 PM

Call to Order 7:06 pm

- Attendance: Friends of North Park Appointed Members, McAndrews; Lizzi; Spence; Steckel; Allshouse; Furbee; Ranger Shepard; Parks Director Baechle; Allegheny County Parks Foundation Brewton and Merry; 11 North Park users; 3 members of North Allegheny Horseman's Association

Approved minutes from the June meeting.

- Minutes will be posted on the Allegheny County Parks web page under Friends of North Park

Reports and discussion by Liz Spence:

- Work continues at Arboretum to remove invasives and to mark trees. Seeking members and volunteers see NAEC.org work Nov. 5 and tours Sept. 24.
- Reports and discussion by Andy Baechle (Allegheny County Parks Director)
- footbridge connecting tennis court road to Lakeshore 90% complete.
- senior Olympics in north park was a success.
- solar light trail along tennis court road 85% complete
- folds of honor basketball tournament success new
- plumbing installed for Millie's ice cream.
- go ape removal completed.
- replaced 25 posts and rails at horse rink.
- regraded reseeded dog park and power washed shelter and repaired fencing.
- 8 to 10 shelter roofs repainted.
- apple orchards at Latodami Nature Center 6 new benches built and installed.
- repaired and replaced dedication bench at Lakeshore shelter.
- 1 1/2 miles of north Ridge being repaved.
- along with implementation of new tee time system installed a clock tower at north park golf course.
- 6 gazebos throughout north park were power washed and painted.
- repaired drainage at police Academy fire range along with replacing concrete on firing range.

Reports and discussion by Sam Shephard (Allegheny County Park Ranger)

- tree planting 10/14
- Working to improve the trail behind the admin building.

Allegheny County Parks Foundation report by Brewton.

- Park till Dark Pour in the Park October 14.
- Discussed transferring funds NAEC holds for FNP to ACPF

Input from the public

- Questions regarding event closures at the park that closed roads request to post on website - should always be there.

- Concerns over off leash dog in woods and near Pie Traynor- request for signs. Noted dogs off leash outside of a dog park is illegal in the state of Pennsylvania; call the police and do not confront the owner, request for patrol.
- PA trails council seeking votes for the Allegheny County Mountain Rescue funding.
- parking lot cameras added.
- request for a dedicated Friends of North Page webpage like some other parks have. Already have Facebook for north park friends. Ordinance limits multiple sites and information is posted by the county on the north park page.
- horsemen associations are very happy with the improvements being made.

Any other business-none

Next meeting June 18 at 7:00 pm Old Firehouse Open to the public.

Adjourn 8:08 pm

Council of Friends/Friends of North Park – Meeting Minutes January 16, 2024

Old Firehouse North Park 7:00 pm

Call to order 7:05 pm

Attendance: Lauren McAndrews(FNP), Barbara Gaertner(FNP), Ken Allshouse(FNP), Suzy Shay, Caitlin Harpster (ACPF), Shelley Bates, Katrina Bates (Latodami Naturalist), Jake Milfsky(FNP), Colleen Lizzi(FNP), Andy Beachle(Parks Director), Deaglan McManus(Ranger), Liz Spence(FNP),Rick Oberndorf

Approved minutes from the September meeting.

Minutes will be posted on the Allegheny County Parks web page under Friends of North Park.

Reports and discussion by Liz Spence:

- Work continues at the Arboretum to remove invasives and mark trees. Requested a new sign.
- Volunteers continue to be needed. In 2023, 672 volunteer hours were accrued.
- Tree Pittsburgh will hold a tree give away/adoption on May 4th. See treepittsburgh.org for more information.

Reports and discussion by Katrina Bates:

- Volunteer programs continue.
- Educational programs are ongoing
- See alleghenycounty.us/lotodami or [Facebook.com/latodami](https://www.facebook.com/latodami) for a full listing of opportunities.

Reports and discussion by Andy Beachle:

- The baby pool is scheduled to reopen this summer.
- The lights on the Tennis court work intermittently and need to be adjusted.
- The ice rink is open for the season.

Reports and discussion by Deaglan McManus:

- Programs continue to be offered. See the county website for listings.

Reports and discussion by Caitlin Harpster:

- The North Fork project and plantings were a success.
- Fundraising continues for the Ecological Plan.
- Discussion continues regarding the repairs to the Water Tower.

Community Input:

- Cold Water Kills signs need to be added/replaced
- Can the Tennis court trail be extended from the Boat House to Pierce Mill Road

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00

Next meeting is March 19 at 7:00 pm at the Cabin- open to the public

Council of Friends/Friends of North Park – Agenda March 19, 2024

The Cabin Near Babcock Blvd And Ingomar Rd.
7:00 PM

Call to Order

- Approve minutes from the January meeting
 - Minutes will be posted on the Allegheny County Parks web page under Friends of North Park
- Reports and discussion by Andy Baechle (Allegheny County Parks Director)
- Reports and discussion by Deaglan McManus (Allegheny County Park Ranger)
- Reports and discussion by Allegheny County Parks Foundation
- Annual Report to County Council County Parks Committee
- Reports and discussion by NAEC-Liz Spence
- Input from members of the Public-speakers will be asked to identify themselves
- Any other business
- Next meeting June 18 at 7:00 pm THE CABIN
- Adjourn