



Ridley Park Borough Council
Council Workshop Meeting
April 5, 2022 7PM

Welcome

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Councilor Michelle Stock Mattus- Present
Councilor Michelle Endriss Dalessio- Present
Councilor Kim Collins- Present
Councilor Michael McGinley- Present
Councilor Len Pinto- Present
Council Vice President-Richard Guerra- Present
Mayor Hank Eberle- Present
Council President Dane Collins- Present
Junior Councilor Colin Walls- Present

Mayor's Report

Discussed success of Borough-wide events in the previous two weekends. Specifically, Lake clean up and Borough-wide clean up efforts. Reported each effort was hugely successful and praised uniqueness of Ridley Park Borough as a community.

- Borough History: Shared some history of the Sellers Avenue Bridge. Discussed the Bridge's importance to access to Downtown Business District with reference from an article from nearly ten years ago by former Councilor Sue Murtha. Discussed some of the meetings that were held in the past with the public's input with respect to the bridge and its repair.

Committee Reports

Planning and Zoning (Councilor Len Pinto)

- Advised report will be delivered at regular Council Meeting
- Planning Commission

- Zoning Hearing Board
- Code Enforcement-
- HARB

Communications (Councilor Michelle Stock Mattus)

- Telecommunications Advisory Board-
 - o Advised Board met and is exploring streaming options to broadcast Council Meetings. Will be pricing some of the current equipment. Looked for some cable contracts on franchises agreements.
- Cable TV
 - o No report
- Library
 - o Discussed bids for roof repairs and water remediation.
- Historic Commission
 - o No report

Parks and Properties/ Trash and Recycling (Councilor Michael McGinley)

- Highway Department
 - o Advised more detailed report will be delivered at regular Council Meeting
 - o Road resurfacing will be discussed at upcoming Council Meeting
- Trash and Recycling
 - o Discussed the success of the Lake-specific and Borough-wide community clean-up events.
 - o Thanked the Highway Department for all their work on these two events.
- Parks and Properties
 - o No report

Community Affairs (Councilor Kim Collins)

- School Board
 - o Advised Kindergarten registration is on-going, specific instructions located on Ridley School District Website.
 - o Ridley School District will begin its Spring Break in the following week.
 - o Advised the School District has several open positions, including teaching and other employment needs. Job postings are available on the District website.
- Recreation Board
 - o Rec. Board is excited to announce “Taste at the Lake” event, scheduled for May 21. Tickets are on sale and proceeds will be for the benefit of a scholarship donation to a graduating high school student.
 - o Yard Sale will be May 7th at 8AM.
 - o Ridley Park summer day camp will resume this summer- more specific details to be announced after Easter.
- Barnstormers
 - o Seussical Jr. will be performed in June. Keep an eye out for more information.

- Main Streets of Ridley Park
 - o Easter Egg Hunt will be next week at Veteran's Park.

Community Organization (Councilor Dane Collins)

- Seniors
 - o Advised nothing new to report.
- RPAC
 - o The Catania Park Project will be meeting next Tuesday at the County to discuss the development and progress of project.
- Shade Tree
 - o Will be meeting on April 26th, mulching, weeding, and planting at Stewart Ave. is planned. There will be more information to come.

Finance and Personnel (Council Richard Guerra)

- Finance-
 - o Will have normal finance report at Regular Council Meeting.
 - o Repairs to Borough Roads will be discussed.
 - o Will be discussing a list of potential projects to invest funds received via American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) , as suggested by residents- and prioritizing best use of funds.
 - o Action item to transfer \$300,000 into the Capital Reserve; Borough has collected necessary funds to return funds back to capital.
- Grants
- Personnel

Public Safety (Councilor Michele Endriss-Dalessio)

- Police Department Report-
 - o Will have normal report at regular Council Meeting.
- Fire Department Report
- Board of Health
 - o Waiting for direction from the County Health Department. Currently, Borough Board is still meeting and maintaining duties.
- Emergency Management-
- Civil Service
 - o Discussed candidacy of two part time Police Officers.

Junior Councilor (Colin Walls)

Will have normal report at regular Council Meeting.

- o April 16th Ridley Park Cub Scouts will be having a cleanup at ABC field.
- o Inquired into the Borough's recent removal of basketball hoops at ABC field, indicated students were curious as to the reason and when/if they would be back up.

Council President Collins shared that there had been several incidents in this area regarding crowds gathering at the courts and creating disorderly environment, including fights and use of offensive language around neighborhood children. Discussed this was a temporary solution in response to several reported incidents and acknowledged the importance of the park for recreation.

- Mayor commented on the matter and some of the trouble related to trash and profanity.
- Councilor Michael McGinley: Acknowledged local students had been organizing recreational basketball league, and applauded those efforts. Discussed need to come to a solution to address the issue of some spectators becoming unruly and preventing bad behavior, so the parks can be used for playing.

Michelle Stock Mattus: Noted the courts were an investment to the community and Council wants to ensure they are able to be open.

- Discussion among Council and Junior Councilor Walls- general agreement the behavior of some was not acceptable but hope to have courts back up soon.

Manager Report

-Ridley Park completed and submitted Audit to DCED. Thanked all of Council and the office staff for all of the hard work involved to get it submitted on time for the third year in a row.

-Advised there will be a discussion of a resolution for PMRS at upcoming Council Meeting. This is for the Borough Non-Uniformed Pension Fund.

-The Borough Website is nearly complete. Advised of efforts to have site up and running as soon as possible with update to follow at April Council Meeting.

Council Business

-ARPA Discussion: Shared the list that was generated from public input and circulated to Council related to the spending of these funds

-Certain projects that had been suggested to public and ranked by Council included addressing necessary library, firehouse, and Borough Hall repairs.

-Mayor Eberle: Would like to see some revitalization for the Ridley Lake and Ridley Downtown District. Pumphouse would be great to have some work put into it to help generate revenue from the Ridley Lake.

-Council had a discussion on several projects that they would like added to the list. They have directed the Borough Manager to provide quotes and dollar amounts to several of the projects and alternative scope of projects to optimize benefit of funds.

-Firework Ordinance: Circulated sample ordinance on restricting use of fireworks in Borough, ordinance in place in Youngswood Borough. Intention is to better regulate the use of fireworks in the Borough without restricting Fourth of July Borough Fireworks or overly restricting otherwise non-disruptive activities.

- Kim Collins: Suggested in the ordinance will reference a state law/statute, the language of the state law should be included in the ordinance so it's clear to residents what is prohibited and allowed.

-Council President Dane Collins: Discussed implementation of Rules of Conduct governing Council Meetings. After consideration, Council will not require public commenters to sign up in advance of a meeting. Citizens of the Borough will be limited to 5 minutes of public comment. Council may extend the time. If there is insufficient time to conduct business, may postpone additional public comment to another public meeting as outlined in Resolution.

-Council briefly discussed schedule of workshop meeting over summer. In the past they have been held at the beginning of the regular meetings. No determination made.

Public Comment

-Mike Eckenrode 115 Barker Street: Commented on the issue of basketball courts at ABC park. Raised concern that removing opportunity will encourage crowds to congregate at Bonnes or other parks.

-Mike Gale 51 Collier Circle: Thanked the Highway Department on a cleanup on Stewart Avenue. Discussed efforts at Hetzel Park today to trim and clean up park. Wanted to discuss the cutouts in the business district, suggested planting trees and clearing weeds. Expressed approval the sign-up sheet was removed from the proposed Resolution on Meeting Conduct.

-Andy Furman 419 Pomery: Inquired into the bid process for paving roads, and sought clarity on whether the lowest bidder was awarded the project. Spoke on ARPA funds : how the funds will be used, whether the proposed projects are in line with purpose of funds. Commented on how the list, that was generated by public comment of residents, was asking to a wishlist. Asked questions related to the sinkhole in the business district and when it will be repaired.

Eileen Somers 21 E Hinckley: Inquired into whether a streaming option will be coming for publicizing meetings- also inquired into a pedestrian bridge being erected during bridge construction.

Mike Eckenrode: Spoke on the Sellers' Ave. bridge and new weight limit imposed on traffic. Advocated for additional traffic-regulating measures.

Action Items

- Motion to approve Council Workshop Minutes for March 1, 2022.

Motion: Len Pinto

Second: Michel McGinley

Vote 7/0

-Motion to hire Part-time Police Officer Sean Quigney pending final background check.

Motion: Michelle Endriss Dalessio

Second: Michael McGinley

Vote 7/0

-Motion to hire Part-time Police Officer Gabriel Rossi pending final background check.
Motion: Michelle Endriss Dalessio
Second: Michelle Stock Mattus

- Motion to approve HARB Application 2022-6 Certificate of Appropriateness for 512 N Swarthmore Ave.
Motion: Len Pinto
Second: Kim Collins
Vote 7/0

-Motion to approve HARB Application 2022-1 Certificate of Appropriateness for 108 Penn Street
Motion: Len Pinto
Second: Michelle Endriss Dalessio
Vote 7/0

-Motion to approve transfer of \$300,000.00 from Ridley Park's General Fund to Capital Reserve Account
Motion: Richard Guerra
Second: Michelle Stock
Vote 7/0

Adjourn

-Motion: Michelle Endirss Dalessio
Second: Len Pinto
Time 8:16PM

Respectfully Submitted
Richard Tutak, Jr.
Borough Manager