



CITY COUNCIL

Committee of the Whole

Tuesday, July 26, 2022

ARPA Update

5:00 pm

Hybrid Meeting

Agenda

The City Council Committee of the Whole meetings are filmed and can be viewed LIVE while the meeting is taking place via the attached Zoom link and dial-in phone number, on Facebook and on BCTV MAC Channel 99 or at your convenience at <https://www.readingpa.gov/content/city-council-video>.

Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device:

Please click this URL to join.

<https://readingpa.zoom.us/j/84353039934?pwd=NTFpYU9BT2U1aDI0em05NXdXbzBDZz09>

Passcode: 933418

Or join by phone:

Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 646 558 8656 or +1 646 931 3860 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 386 347 5053 or +1 564 217 2000 or +1 669 444 9171 or +1 720 707 2699 or 877 853 5257 (Toll Free) or 888 475 4499 (Toll Free)

Webinar ID: 843 5303 9934

Passcode: 933418

I. Review ARPA Application Recommendations

(see spreadsheet distributed electronically on 7-19-22)

1. From the Review Committee
2. From the mayor

II. Additional ARPA Recommendations

1. Reading Phillies request for additional 1.5 million ARPA funds- Scott Hunsicker -15min
2. City non grant eligible ARPA fund request-Frank D-15 min
 - a) Public Works-Mt Penn Preserve Trail study -\$115,000
 - b) Reading Recreation Commission facilities/programing -\$352,200
 - c) Reading Public Library equipment - \$100,139

III. Final ARPA Plan

IV. Next Meeting?

American Recovery Act Funds Reading Public Library Pennsylvania Room Digitization

The materials in the Pennsylvania Room at the Main library are irreplaceable. They include maps, local history, genealogy, city and county records, military history, and more. For example, we hold the print volumes of *The Journals of City Council* going back to 1856.

Purchasing a professional grade scanner that can accommodate large atlases and thick journals, will allow specially trained staff and paid interns to scan and digitize the collection. This will preserve a new format and provide online access for worldwide research.

Our request for \$87,945 will include:

- Professional grade scanner to include installation and training
- Two years of part-time, library paid interns – perhaps from Alvernia’s College Towne Campus

American Recovery Act Funds Reading Public Library Boost Outdoor WiFi at Four Library Branches

Residents are often seen outside our libraries when the branches are closed because we do not shut down the free WiFi. They sit on the steps or on the concrete apron under the porticos and log on. People need to be within 10 feet of the front of our libraries to connect. Good WiFi service would be within 25 to 50 feet so people could use the parking lots, lawns, or sidewalks.

Our request for \$6,000 for one year includes:

- Main Library front and back
- Northeast Branch front and parking lot
- One all-weather bench installed at Northeast
- Northwest Branch front and parking lot
- One all-weather bench installed at Northwest
- Southeast Branch front and parking lot

American Recovery Act Funds Reading Public Library Programming to Address Educational Disparities

During the Covid 19 pandemic shutdown, Reading Public Library pivoted from in-person to virtual programming for all ages. From toddlers to adults, we offered early literacy, STEM, mindfulness, cooking, and health programs free to the public. From April to December 2020:

- 220 virtual programs on YouTube and IGTV

- 7,054 views
- 8,049 free Library Go Packs with all materials needed to participate each virtual program
- Reading Public Library hosted the only SAT classes in Berks County – online

Virtual programs will not end. Patrons love the ease of logging on whenever it is convenient and accessing previous programs for learning and entertainment. Our request for the tools needed to provide and market virtual programs for \$6,194 for one year includes:

- Apple MacBook Pro 13-inch with 512 GB storage to edit video
- Adobe Illustrator Subscription
- HP Page Wide Enterprise Color 586 printer/scanner
- Art Cart for Adults crafting materials
- Creative Bug database subscription

Total request \$ 100,139

**American Recovery Act Funds
Public Works Dept.
Resource Management Plan**

Master Plan for Mt Penn includes the need for a trail study and forest management plan similar to that performed by the County for the Antietam Property and by Berks Nature for Neversink. The Resource Management Plan will provide a plan to reduce the trails, address the erosion, etc. on the land that the City owns. would be in a great position to leverage additional funding

The following objectives for inclusion in RFP for the trails and forest management plan:

Trails Component:

- Review existing trail systems in all five areas of the Preserve to identify missing trail connections, trails to be removed/closed, and/or new trails needed to be established.
- Review all trail priorities as listed in the Mount Penn Preserve Masterplan as well as any emerging priorities that members of the MP3 have
- Provide cost estimates for identified priority trail projects
- Develop a multi-use trail system which protects the Preserve’s natural resources and utilizes stormwater best management practices
- Develop universal trail sign design requirements
- Identify emergency access points to trails within the entire Preserve and map for emergency personnel including police and firefighter utilization
- Develop a paper/digital universal trails map for the entire Preserve
- Develop a Trail stewardship plan
- Develop sample trail use regulations and ordinance

Forest Stewardship Component:

- Review Antietam Lake Management Plan and Neversink Preserve and Community Forest Stewardship Plan and mesh into MP3 FSP to encourage consistency
- Develop Management Committee with managing entities (County of Berks ; City of Reading; Berks Nature) for communication and shared services moving forward
- Identify and the forest characteristics of the entire Preserve
- Identify and map forest management zones of the entire Preserve with prioritized management recommendations for each and preserve-wide recommendations
- Identify and develop plan to manage invasive species within the Preserve
- Identify current hazard trees and develop Hazard Tree approach
- Develop Ranger service plan for the entire Preserve
- Develop shared hunting approach for entire Mount Penn Preserve Hunting Program; build off Antietam Lake USDA hunting program
- Develop Firewood program with ordinance or eliminate.
- Identify and investigate carbon storage programs to manage and determine forest carbon storage and link to City’s Climate Action Plan (CAP) and other municipality climate action plans .

**American Recovery Act Funds
Reading Recreation Commission**

Reading Recreation Commission Parks and Recreation Improvement List

3rd & Spruce Recreation Center

<input type="checkbox"/> Bottle refill stations for kids – (2)	\$3,200.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Replace (4) basketball backboards at 3 rd and Spruce gym	\$6,000.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Additional security cameras	\$4,000.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Parking gate (Spruce)	\$10,000.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Television (with modern connection ports for kids)	\$1,000.00
<input type="checkbox"/> New, energy-efficient windows in front of the building	\$30,000.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Food steamer for meal program	\$10,000.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Replace benches at Spruce	\$1,500.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Bleachers (hockey rink)	\$5,000.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Bleachers (gym – falling apart)	\$50,000.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Installation of new scoreboard	\$4,500.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Replace hockey benches	\$1,400.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Upgrade/renovate Spruce bathrooms (install air dryers)	\$15,000.00

Subtotal: \$141,600

11th & Pike Recreation Center

<input type="checkbox"/> Bottle refill stations for kids – (2)	\$3,200.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Television (with modern connection ports)	\$1,000.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Bleachers and benches	\$5,000.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Additional security cameras	\$6,000.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Replace doors that do not shut (5)	\$10,000.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Landscaping (grass, beds)	\$3,000.00

Subtotal: \$28,200

Ballfields

- Replace backstop boards at all ballfields with composite wood \$9,400.00
- Aerate and over seed baseball fields \$36,000.00
- Benches– various parks \$8,000.00
- Bleachers (Schlegel Upper, Schlegel Lower A and B, Brookline, Pendora, Egelman’s, EJ Dives \$40,000.00

Subtotal: \$93,400

Park Buildings

- New tables (20) \$1,000.00
- New chairs (50) \$2,500.00

Subtotal : \$3,500

Programming

- Van for youth programs \$ 30,000.00
- Knights at the Rec Sept.2022-Dec. 23 season \$ 8,000.00
- Podcast equipment (teen programming – Reading/Philly teen exchange) \$ 15,000.00
- Family Nights at Hampden \$ 1,000.00
- Family Movie Nights (5) \$ 2,500.00
- Leadership Programs for Teens (Girls/Boys) \$ 16,000.00
- Youth Basketball \$ 8,000.00
- Youth DEK hockey start-up and equipment \$ 5,000.00

Subtotal: \$85,500

Total Request : \$352,200

TOTAL REQUEST FOR ARPA FUNDS FOR CIITY FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS: \$567,339