



CITY COUNCIL

Public Safety, Public Works and Neighborhood Services Committee

***Tuesday, February 19, 2013
Meeting Report***

Committee Members Attending: S. Marmarou, M. Goodman-Hinnershitz

Others Attending: S. Katzenmoyer, C. Snyder, C. Jones

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz, Chair, called the Public Safety, Public Works and Neighborhood Services Committee meeting to order at 5:04 pm.

William Lane Parking

Mr. Jones explained where William Lane is located on the north side of Kutztown Rd just past the former Super Shoes building and explained that it serves a business area. He stated that William Lane curves left at one point and that currently there is parking allowed on both sides making it difficult for trucks to maneuver the curve. He stated that all businesses located on William Lane have off-street parking areas and stated that he will be reviewing the situation and will bring a recommendation to Council in the near future.

Ms. Katzenmoyer questioned if William Lane serves any residential areas. Mr. Jones stated that it does not. He stated that William Lane is a cul-de-sac and serves businesses only. He stated that he will be reviewing the off-street parking available. He stated that he brought this to committee so that Council has background when they receive the recommendation.

Egelman's Lease

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that this issue was also discussed at a Recreation Commission meeting. She stated that clarification of the agreement is needed regarding ball fields.

Ms. Snyder stated that she has had meetings with Ms. Klahr, Mr. Lubas, Mr. Washington and Ms. Adams (County Recreation) and that she will be meeting with Mr. Gaston this week.

Ms. Snyder stated that all parties suggested that when the lease is terminated (the letter will be delivered shortly) that the City immediately make accommodations for those who have already scheduled for the 2013 season. She stated that the School District and Junior Legion already have

the field scheduled.

Ms. Snyder stated that several people have voiced their concerns to her about the financial situation at Egelman's. She stated that she will be reviewing this information with Mr. Gaston. She stated that she has been told that it is possible that those concerned do not understand the costs associated with running baseball leagues.

Ms. Snyder suggested that a one year lease be negotiated for 2013 while the City reviews proposals for future agreements. She stated that the Recreation Commission is also interested in using this field to increase their programming.

Ms. Snyder stated that Ms. Adams suggested that all future lease agreements include a clause stating that the leasing group is responsible for paying all utilities, rather than the City. She stated that the utility costs for Egelman's ball field is approximately \$5,000 per year.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that the Recreation Commission recommended that Mr. Younger review the current agreement to determine if ball fields are covered. She noted her concern that some groups may not have the capacity to undertake a large project like this one. She also noted the need for the City to consider the maintenance capability of any new groups as Mr. Gaston always kept the area clean and well maintained.

Ms. Snyder noted the hope of Mr. Klahr and Mr. Lubas that the field use benefits City youth.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz questioned what the fees to participate in tournaments at Egelman's is used for.

Ms. Snyder stated that the equipment also needs to be reviewed. She noted the need to ensure that any equipment that belongs to the City remains at the facility. Mr. Jones stated that Mr. Gaston owns equipment that is also stored there. Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz noted that this review must be part of the lease dissolution process.

Ms. Snyder stated that she will be verifying whose funds were used to make equipment purchases.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz noted her hope that this process will set the example for any future lease dissolutions.

Ms. Snyder noted the need to not rush through this process to ensure that it is done well.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that this lease dissolution has been discussed many times. She stated that there were transition issues which caused delays but the formation of the Recreation Commission brought the issue back to the forefront. She stated that Council cannot break a lease.

Ms. Snyder expressed the belief that Mr. Gaston may not have been great with paperwork but that he always cared for City youth.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that the City is also at fault for not requesting the paperwork regularly.

Mr. Marmarou stated that this organization was recently awarded \$5,000 by the Reading Fightin' Phils. Ms. Snyder stated that the organization receives this award regularly and that it is used to cover umpire fees. Mr. Jones stated that umpire fee payment varies depending on the organization of the league.

Angelica Lease Agreements

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz reminded all that these agreements are still outstanding.

Ms. Snyder stated that she is waiting for information from the Conservancy. Mr. Jones stated that the delay is due to Ms. Murphy's health issues.

Ms. Snyder noted the hope of the Recreation Commission to use this ball field. She stated that negotiations have been stalled because they would need to abide by the current lease.

Ms. Katzenmoyer explained that the current lease allows time for Alvernia to maintain the fields after the NCAA season and that the City often receives complaints that no community organizations are allowed to use this field.

Ms. Snyder reviewed the new usage terms being negotiated between the Recreation Commission and Alvernia. Mr. Jones reviewed the current terms.

Ms. Snyder expressed the belief that the new terms give greater access. She stated that she suggests that the Recreation Commission move forward and that the current lease be amended until the new lease is in place.

Mr. Jones stated that the new terms should be in place before the start of the 2013 season. The Committee agreed.

SAFER Grant Update

Ms. Snyder stated that she continues to meet with representatives of the IAFF. She stated that she does not have enough information for another update at this time. She stated that the City has not yet determined if the grant will be accepted, declined, or modified.

Gas Meter Update

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that issues persist in East Reading.

Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that construction equipment and vehicles remain on S 18th St. She stated

that there are items in the street and in the grass of Pendora. She noted her fear that as the weather warms, children will become interested in the items. Mr. Jones stated that he will follow up with UGI again about their removal of these items.

Follow Up Items

- Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that the Pagoda Foundation has held a meeting. She stated that Mr. Olsen is working with Ms. Snyder.
- Ms. Snyder stated that she will have an update on the capital repairs to the library at the next meeting.
- Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz questioned the status of repairs to Egelman's Dam and the road. Mr. Jones stated that he has requested State funding for repairs. He stated that the City can also use sewer funds to make the repairs as the issues are water related. He stated that repairs will be complete in 2013.

There was a brief discussion about the use of the flagpole at the Pagoda as a communication tower and the possibility of solar lighting for the flag.

The meeting adjourned at 5:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Shelly Katzenmoyer, Deputy City Clerk