

New Castle City Playground Council Subcommittee Meeting Minutes  
June 19, 2023 – 5:30 p.m.  
1 Municipal Boulevard, New Castle, DE

Members Present: Suzanne Swift, Chair  
Judy Guttenplan  
Brian Mattaway  
Andre Jerry

Absent: Michael Platt, Council Liaison  
Nermin Zubaca

Ms. Swift called the Playground Council Subcommittee (PCS) meeting to order at 5:40 p.m. Roll call followed and a quorum to conduct business was declared.

Minutes

A motion to approve the March 20, 2023, and May 15, 2023, Minutes as presented was made, seconded and unanimously carried.

Playground Equipment Update

Ms. Swift reported that Scott from Kompan, Ric Delgado, Mr. Mattaway and she will meet on Thursday, June 27<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. to review the timeline and to brainstorm any issues Kompan has. Information from the meeting will be shared with PCS members at the July meeting.

Neighborhood Playgrounds Update

Battery Park – Ms. Swift stated that she and Mr. Mattaway crafted an email sent to attendees of a meeting in March 2023, alerting them of the timeline for the Battery Park playground and inviting them to partner with the PCS to act as a lead for their community playgrounds. If anyone volunteers to lead for their community, the PCS will take the next step to identify grant funding and select equipment to upgrade their playgrounds.

Dobbinsville Playground – Ms. Swift reported that Mr. Barthel informed her that the hippo in the Dobbinsville playground was damaged and Public Works took it out of use. Ms. Swift asked Mr. Barthel if he would like her to get a quote from Kompan to replace that piece, but she has not received a reply from him yet. No one from Dobbinsville has volunteered to act as lead for improvements to the Dobbinsville playground.

During discussion, it was noted that funding for neighborhood playgrounds would come from grants, and at this time no funds have been promised from either the City or the Trustees for neighborhood playground improvements. Ms. Swift noted that ONCOR is waiting to have its 501C3 in order to secure grant funding. Ms. Swift stated that she is unsure of the subcommittee's role in connection with the Dobbinsville playground. Ms. Swift noted that it would be up to City Council to extend the subcommittee's mandate to work on improvements to neighborhood playgrounds, opining there would need to be some kind of budget and funds. Mr. Jerry noted that it is unclear if the subcommittee would need to ask for an extension of the PCS mandate or if the City would make that request to City Council.

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Member Comments

Mr. Jerry noted that the subcommittee is reaching its sunset date, a plan for Battery Park is in place and without guidance as to future needs, the subcommittee will end. Ms. Swift opined that they would have to discuss this with City Council.

There being no further business to discuss, Ms. Swift called for a motion to adjourn.

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded. The motion was unanimously carried, and the meeting adjourned at 5:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen R. Weirich  
City Stenographer