

New Castle City Playground Council Subcommittee Meeting
Minutes
March 20, 2023 – 5:30 p.m.
1 Municipal Boulevard, New Castle, DE

Members Present: Suzanne Swift, Chair
Judy Guttenplan
Nermin Zubaca
Brian Mattaway
Michael Platt, Council Liaison

Absent: Carl Benson
Andre Jerry

Ms. Swift called the Playground Council Subcommittee (PCS) meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Roll call followed and a quorum to conduct business was declared.

Minutes

A Motion to approve the February 27, 2023, Minutes as presented was made, seconded and unanimously carried.

ORPT & Bond Bill Grant Update

Ms. Swift reported that the Grant is still awaiting signature by the City. Mr. Barthel and the Trustees are working to get the grant language approved. Mr. Platt recommended to Mr. Barthel that a meeting be scheduled with the City Solicitor, the Trust Attorney, Messrs. Toner, Barthel and Platt and Ms. Swift to review the grant. Ms. Guttenplan expressed her frustration with the length of time the process is taking.

Playground Equipment Update

Ms. Swift reported that the final proposal was agreed upon; however, because the bid is over budget, the Chimes element was removed from the proposal. Mr. Scott Leon from Kompan was able to include the border and the ADA ramps in the proposal. Mr. Leon also advised Ms. Swift that the border is easy to install if the PCS members want to do the installation.

In response to a question from Ms. Guttenplan, Ms. Swift advised that the ADA swing is part of the final proposal; however, to keep costs down one of the parent/child dual swings was swapped out for another baby swing.

In response to a question from Mr. Mattaway, Mr. Platt stated that at the last City Council Meeting it was clarified that the \$60,000 grand funds can be used for the ADA walkway as well as any playground equipment. Ms. Swift added that Senator Nicole Poore had informed her that St. Peter's School had offered to fund the ADA swing, and she will confirm with the school that they are still willing to do that.

Ms. Swift reported that Mr. Leonard Sophrin approved the plan.

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Mr. Zubaca noted that slides are a very important component of the project, but they are not included in Phase 1. He asked if the existing slides could be used until the slide feature in Phase 2 can be installed. Ms. Swift stated that she will reach out to the City Administrator to see if the existing slides can be moved to the area designated for the new slide feature.

Neighborhood Playgrounds Update

Mr. Mattaway reported that members of ONCOR met with members of the public at the Library on March 3rd. He stated that it was a very successful meeting and it was insightful to hear from all demographics of the neighborhoods in attendance.

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

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The motion was unanimously carried and the meeting adjourned at 5:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen R. Weirich
City Stenographer