

New Castle City Playground Council Subcommittee Meeting
Minutes
February 27, 2023 – 5:30 p.m.
1 Municipal Boulevard, New Castle, DE

Members Present: Suzanne Swift, Chair
Carl Benson
Nermin Zubaca
Brian Mattaway
Andre Jerry
Michael Platt, Council Liaison

Absent: Judy Guttenplan

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 January 23, 2023, Minutes as presented was made, seconded and unanimously carried.

ORPT Grant

Ms. Swift reported that the City passed Resolution 2023-09, a Resolution to approve the purchase of specific playground equipment using State provided funds not to exceed \$160,000. The \$100,000 grant will be used exclusively for equipment. The \$60,000 grant can be used for surfacing; and if there are any funds remaining after surfacing has been done, City Council can be asked to re-appropriate those remaining funds to purchase additional equipment.

Trust Grant

Ms. Swift stated that the Trustees need to approve the Grant. The Trustees are proposing that they give the necessary funds for mulch to the City and that the City will be responsible for the purchase and installation of the mulch. This proposal needs to be agreed upon between the City and the Trustees. In response to a question from Mr. Benson, Ms. Swift stated that whether the Trustees proposal for the purchase and installation of mulch will be ongoing or if this is a one-time proposal is uncertain.

Playground Equipment

Ms. Swift reported that they are waiting for the surfacing estimate to be returned before an order is placed for playground equipment. Mr. Platt suggested that a partial order be placed in order to take advantage of current pricing. Ms. Swift noted that the ADA ramp and the borders are essential to the playground, and hoped that funds that may be left over after resurfacing could be used for those two items. Mr. Platt noted his understanding that they could reuse the existing borders if they are still serviceable.

Ms. Swift noted that Mr. Leonard Sophrin has agreed to review the Plan and she is waiting for final feedback from him.

Satellite Parks Update

Mr. Mattaway reported that an additional City park was identified in Penn Valley. Mr. Zubaca noted that the Penn Valley playground was not in good shape. Mr. Mattaway added that the majority of responses to the survey requested climbing and turning equipment for the 2-5 year old range. The majority of responses were from Van Dyke and Dobbinsville.

It was noted that on March 7th members of ONCOR will host a meeting at the Library to review data from the neighborhoods and present their findings to the Subcommittee.

In response to a question from Mr. Platt regarding funding and budgeting, Mr. Mattaway opined that the surveys were completed to provide feedback to City Council and leadership regarding the wishes of the residents.

During discussion FOIA was discussed relative to the number of Subcommittee members who could attend a meeting where Subcommittee business will be discussed. Ms. Swift noted her understanding that three Subcommittee members could attend the meeting without violating FOIA regulations. Mr. Platt stated that he will attend the March 7th meeting and recommended that Mr. Mattaway also attend.

Public Comment

Phil Gross – 1301 13th Street

Mr. Gross noted that the Buttonwood playground is very old and dilapidated. He added that in speaking with several local residents they commented about the state of the playground.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The motion was unanimously carried and the meeting adjourned at 5:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen R. Weirich
City Stenographer