

Mt. Penn Preserve Executive Committee Meeting

Thursday, October 12, 2017

Liederkrantz

7 pm

Attending: K. Barnhardt (County), K. Mallatratt (Alsace), M. Dudash (Mt. Penn), C. Crupi (Lower Alsace & Pagoda Skyline), L. Kelleher (City and CHCC), S. Rossman (County Planning), M. Goodman-Hinnershitz (City and Pagoda Foundation), M. Reinert (Pagoda Skyline), P Schleicher (Hessian Camp Community Council), A. Showers (County Planning), B. Burkovich (County Planning), S. Auchenbach (County Planning), P. Kline (Alsace Twp), Rich Rock, C. Stress (County Parks), S. Kauffman (Steering Committee Pagoda), D. Frankhouser (Steering Committee)

Mr. Barnhardt called the meeting to order at 7 pm. As a reminder, the Master Plan and event calendar is available at www.MtPennPreserve.org

Mr. Barnhardt stated that updates were presented to all five (5) municipalities along with a briefing on the COG and draft COG agreement. The last draft COG Agreement was also shared electronically with the group so it could be reviewed to the local elected officials and solicitors.

Mr. Barnhardt stated that while the group works to finalize the agreement and have the municipalities consider enacting the ordinance to create the COG, the group decided to form four (4) committees to begin working on Mt. Penn Preserve issues:

1. Marketing & Promotions
2. Finance & Capital
3. Governance
4. Public Safety

Mr. Barnhardt distributed the list of committee volunteers and asked everyone to consider participating on at least one (1) committee. The committee list will be distributed to the group by Mr. Barnhardt's assistant within the next few days. He suggested that all committees hold their first meeting prior to the next Executive

Committee meeting scheduled for Thursday, November 9th. The committee chairs can then report on their progress at the next Executive Committee meeting.

Mr. Frankhouser suggested adding an Environmental Committee to discuss issues such as the trails, the condition of the overlooks, etc.

Council of Government (COG)

Mr. Barnhardt stated that the County Solicitor reviewed the COG Agreement and he suggested making the term of the COG 10 years, allowing it to renew for an additional 10 years, retaining the member municipality's ability to withdraw annually.

Ms. Rossman agreed as it will initially take the newly formed COG at least 3-4 years to solidify.

Mr. Barnhardt stated that the County Solicitor also suggested that each municipal member should have an equal vote and equal financial contribution, rather than an amount based on the size of the municipality or the amount of property within the Preserve area.

Mr. Barnhardt suggested removing the section related to the Executive Director as the potential need for employees will not be within the near future and if the position is needed in the future an amendment can be made to the agreement.

Ms. Kelleher volunteered to make the changes to the agreement and circulate the document to the Governance committee.

In response to a question, Mr. Barnhardt expressed the belief that a financial contribution is not needed for 2018 and possibly 2019 as the soft costs can be handled by or shared by the member municipalities.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz suggested developing a strategic plan to guide the groups' progress. Ms. Kelleher suggested that the group first work to complete the formation of the COG and for the committees to begin discussing the high, medium and low initiatives listed in the Master Plan.

Ms. Rossman noted that when considering the initiatives, the committees should remember to consider the capital needs and costs involved. As an example she used the initiative from the plan for the relocation of the island located at the Pagoda:

1.1 Pagoda Circulation Improvements Improve Skyline Drive vehicular circulation at the Pagoda; create two-way travel lane to reroute vehicular traffic out of parking area 1. High

Ms. Rossman noted that the current location of the island creates vehicular flow problems, public safety problems and greatly limits parking at the Pagoda. Eliminating the island would resolve those issues. She noted that there are two (2) PennDOT grants available to perform the engineering and construction to remove the island. Ms. Crupi suggested avoiding the expense of removing the island by adding a new event parking area near the Bridal Path.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz noted the importance of communicating about events scheduled for the mountain to avoid competing events and congestion.

Ms. Crupi noted the need to avoid allowing events that require the closure of Skyline Drive and the importance of coordinated permitting across the five (5) municipal partners. Mr. Kauffman suggested creating Pagoda detour signs if there are road closures.

Ms. Rossman stated that Ms. Burkovich has created an Events Calendar located on the Mt Penn Preserve page.

Ms. Burkovich stated that the calendar is quite crowded with events and that she is working with the County's IT Department to reformat the calendar. Ms. Burkovich also suggested contacting the steering committee members to remind them to send events of all sizes and types so they can be added to the calendar.

Mr. Dudash expressed the belief that all events should go on the calendar, not just those requiring a permit and he suggested developing some type of event application that can be submitted and shared with all member municipalities. Ms. Rossman agreed noting that this cross communication will work to ensure that events get listed on the calendar.

Mr. Stress noted that the County Parks Department has a permitting process for all event types and sizes. He suggested developing a similar process. Ms. Showers suggested adding a map of the Preserve area to the permit which will enable everyone to easily identify where events are located and when they will cross municipal boundaries.

Ms. Rossman suggested that the group consider creating it's own Mt. Penn Preserve website.

Minutes

The meeting minutes are posted on the Mt. Penn Preserve website.

Meeting Schedule

Mr. Barnhardt stated that the updated meeting schedule is listed below. All meetings are at the Liederkrantz. Committees are reminded to hold their first meeting prior to the November 9th Executive Committee meeting.

- November 9th at 7 pm
- December 14th at 7 pm
- January 9th at 7 pm
- February 6th at 7 pm
- March 6th at 7 pm

Respectfully submitted by Linda A. Kelleher CMC, City Clerk