



Minutes - Final

Parks and Recreation Committee

Wednesday, July 13, 2016

5:00 PM

Call to Order: Chairperson Mota, Councilpersons Affa and O'Connell

[15-716](#)

Bill 33 Parks and Rec, Recommended Favorably
Amending the 2016 Capital Project Fund Budget to provide for a transfer of Twelve Thousand (\$12,000) Dollars from one Capital Project to another Capital Project to correct Ordinance 15243 (11/18/ 2015) – the legislation appropriated a \$12,000 grant from the Century Fund into the Capital Fund and was intended for the WPA Wall Repair Project, the project number referred to the Park Land Acquisition Project rather than the WPA Wall Repair Project.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 33 Ordinance 15243 Correction](#)
[Bill 33 Memo](#)

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked Ms. Lindsay Taylor to talk about the Bill.

Ms. Lindsay Taylor stated that the purpose of the Bill is to correct the mistake of where the money was appropriated and putting it in the correct account, the WPA account.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked any questions from her colleagues or the public.

Mr. Tom Hahn stated that he sent an email with questions that they can reply back to at a later date.

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated that that we got those about 4:00. We will get those questions to the appropriate people and Mr. Hanlon or one of the Council people will send those back to you.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked any other questions from the public.

A motion was made by Ray O'Connell, seconded by Candida Affa, that this Ordinance be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Cynthia Mota, Candida Affa and Ray O'Connell

Enactment No: 15297

[15-916](#)

Bill 34 Parks and Rec, Recommended Favorably with Amendments Amending Article 951, Park Regulations of the Codified Ordinances, by making Parks and Recreation the governing agency, modifying the language on conducting city business in parks, renumbering definitions, prohibiting buses from entering and parking in the park without a permit, prohibiting bonfires, using a generator, possessing or drinking alcoholic beverages or building a fire without a permit, allowing bike riding only in authorized places and times, modifying the permit process including deleting the appeal process and allowing the Director or designee to revoke a permit, and enabling SWEEP tickets to be issued for a number of violations.

Sponsors: Administration

Attachments: [Bill 34 2016 Parks Regulations](#)

[Bill 34 Memo](#)

[Amendment to Park Regulations](#)

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated to Ms. Lindsay Taylor that they met yesterday and it was a wonderful meeting. She asked if Ms. Taylor can go section by section to get a better understanding.

Ms. Lindsay Taylor stated that Article 951 has not been updated since 2000 and changes have been made in the Parks and Recreation Department and in our parks systems and how our parks are being used that necessitates an update to these regulations. We want to enhance the quality of life in our city. We have a fantastic park system. We are experiencing more instances of over-use and abuse in our park systems. We are moving the Parks out of the Department of Community and Economic Development, Codify long-standing departmental rules, and simplify enforcement.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that her colleagues are having difficulties following.

Mr. Ray O'Connell asked can we go through 951.01, 951.02, 951.03, 951.04, and tell us your recommended changing by deletions and cross-outs.

Ms. Lindsay Taylor stated that under 951.02 it is a creation of the Department of Parks and Recreation. Under 951.08 Vehicle will be bringing a parker or a chartered school bus in the park without a permit and only in designated areas. 951.13 fires ignitable and combustible materials.

Mr. Ray O'Connell asked if this is the first time that you will be your own department. You were under Community and Economic Development. He

asked for copies of Bill 34.

Ms. Lindsay Taylor stated that under 951.08 vehicles, I will be adding to the park any Chartered School Bus in the park without a permit, under 951.13 Fire Ignitable and Combustibles materials.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked what was the problems before.

Ms. Lindsay Taylor stated that the problem is what other municipalities experiences with Charter buses, parking and staying for the day. 951.13 Fire, there are no fires in the park unless it is in a designated area fire box or grill box.

Mr. Ray O'Connell asked about buses in the parks. He asked if people can bring their own grill.

Ms. Lindsay Taylor stated what we want to get a gasp on is charter buses coming from out of state. 951.13 - Fires, there is no fires in the park. We do allow grills by Pavilions where they have permits.

Dr. David McGuire stated that he walks at Cedar Beach with his dogs. He asked about the coals and the grills are forbidden. He asked about reasonable signs that say you can't do this. He asked if people are grilling with charcoal about who is authorized to tap them on their shoulders.

Mr. Rick Holtzman stated that the problem is putting them in where people can see them. We try to put them at trailheads and locations where we are having the problems, but the problem is spreading everywhere. Signage is not cheap. We put universal signs and symbols. We do have a signage plan in place in our park system. He stated that the park system has Field Rangers and the Police that enforce. We pay police overtime to actually bicycle through Cedar Beach and Lehigh Parkway.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that she agrees with Dr. McGuire that they need more signs, but at the same time that doesn't mean people care about them.

Dr. David McGuire stated that one thing that happens with signs, once people are on a pathway just because you change it from 35 to 25 they don't see it.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that you talked about policing, does police check for permits.

Ms. Lindsay Taylor stated that the only place we require permits, we don't

have the minimum number of aid to get a permit. We do require a permit for pavilions and our rangers check for those.

Mr. Rick Holtzman stated yes, they are issuing citations.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked any other questions from my colleagues.

Ms. Lindsay Taylor stated that 951.15 - Miscellaneous Conduct there is an added H which is to bring generators to the park without a permit, 951.17 - Eliminating Allen Park, under I no drinking or possessing alcohol beverages without permits, riding a bike accept where and when it is allowed, and building any type of fire without a permit.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked who owns Allen Park.

Ms. Lindsay Taylor stated that it is under County Management. She stated under 951.18 - permits we are proposing to delete section F and section D, and Section B - Appeal. Under 951.19 - Reservations on B we are changing reservations to permit. Under 951.20 - to switch from Community and Economic Development to Parks and Recreation., Under 951.21 - Enforcement item A - Enforcement will remain, B - the police department will have the authority to leave the parks or recreation area, under 951.99 we are putting in the Sweep language to simplify issuing Sweep Tickets, Section 951.08 - Vehicles add an item J - it is unlawful to bring a food truck into the parks without a permit, 951.01 - Firearm weapons we would delete the word firearms, Section 951.15 Miscellaneous Conduct we will be adding amplified music in the park without a permit, under Section 951.17 - playing amplified music without a permit, Section 951.18 - Permit allows the Mayor to enter into a short-term lease agreement, Section 951.21 - Enforcement enabling the Mayor to authorize certain supervisory employees to enforce provisions of the ordinance.

Dr. David McGuire asked about 10th Street Cemetery Park. There are two cemeteries that touch 10th Street which one are you talking about. he asked about when it snows the city cleans the sidewalk, but not 10th and Chew. That is a private cemetery.

Mr. Rick Holtzman stated that will be between Turner and Linden.

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated that we are deleting the word firearms.

Ms. Lindsay Taylor stated that the word is not used in that Section. It is just weapons and tools.

Dr. David McGuire asked why did we take out firearms, but kept in

weapons.

Ms. Lindsay Taylor stated that because bb guns or air gun are not permitted and that is not a firearm. I guess we consider those as weapons.

Dr. David McGuire asked Mr. MacLean and Mr. Hendricks if bb guns be considered a weapon. What about a machete or a big knife.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that she believes weapons compasses everything.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that we are putting titles in here that he doesn't think make as much a difference. The gist of it is the other language.

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated that it almost seems as firearms as an outdated word.

Mr. Michael Hanlon stated that you did prohibit guns and that was taken out of the ordinance.

Mr. Roger MacLean stated that they are removing firearms in the heading because it is not addressed in the body. Firearms are addressed by state law.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked any other questions from my colleagues.

Mr. Roger MacLean stated on enforcements, the Mayor has authorization designate certain supervisory employees to enforce some of the ordinances. He asked if parks check to make sure that is a legal proceeding.

Ms. Lindsay Taylor stated yes, I did.

Mr. Tommy Hahn stated that we you go by the rules with a permit does that include a porta-potty and asked about those armed and unarmed, training and responsibility on crowd control and disturbances. There is vague information about people following all the rules. He asked if there will be training for the people that has the authorization and be trained to handle confrontation.

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated that in most of our parks we have bathrooms. If there is any unruly behavior at any of our parks the police can take care of the situation.

Ms. Lindsay Taylor stated that permits are required near pavilions. We are

trying to clean up our ordinances, be good stewards and manage our parks system the best way we can.

Mr. Roger MacLean stated that they are on a regular basis. He stated that he doesn't believe there is any alcohol or smoking on any school district property.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that the positive thing is that we are dealing with our parks.

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated that if there is any unruly behavior anywhere any there criminology behavior, Allentown Police work 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that the Park Rangers are trained.

Mr. Rick Holtzman stated that there is no confrontation. The Police are called.

Mr. Kenneth Laudenslager, 721 W. Cumberland Street, stated that this past week he noticed people bringing gas grills into the parks for a picnic. He talked about 951.08 B restricting bicycles in Trexler Park. He would like to see the restriction lifted.

Ms. Lindsay Taylor stated no grills.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that she had a meeting with Ms. Taylor and they will bring it up in this month. We are going to talk about it and has been an issue for a lot of people.

Dr. David McGuire stated that suppose that went into consideration. What usage of the bike path would have reasonable flexibility.

Ms. Lindsay Taylor stated that she did not want to bring a significant without acknowledging users of the parks.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that this is on the agenda and why are they not here tonight. They have clearly designated trails for bikes and pedestrians. We need to make it constant.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that the racing bikes not having breaks. If we switch it for every day is there anyway we can keep these bikes out.

Mr. Kenneth Laudenslager stated that there is a 10 mile speed limit.

Mr. Ray O'Connell asked what is a passive park. He asked when is the meeting about the bicycles in Trexler Park.

Ms. Lindsay Taylor stated that a passive park is one that really doesn't have any playground, basketball court or tennis court. We have not set a date. She actually wanted to coming back before Council with another change of the ordinance for the Dog Park.

Mr. Glenn Hunsicker asked is there a requirement from the Trexler Trust. He asked about the amendments related to Mayfair and asked about restrictions for Lights in the Parkway.

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated that he heard that they have input.

Ms. Lindsay Taylor stated that they do not make a decision. She stated no to the restrictions for Lights in the Parkway. We are going out for bid for the Gift Barn.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks stated that it would help because of the busiest days of the week.

Mr. Rick Holtzman stated that we have a bike police officer and a patrol car that hits the hotspot. The barn is to bring in vendors to operate the barn for the ticket sales. We are not looking for vendors to operate the barn.

Ms. Lindsay Taylor stated that we are just at the planning process.

Mr. Dennis Pearson, 942 E. Tilghman Street, asked about the Passive Park. They are so-called designated parks, owned by the City of Allentown. Can they use that for after five music?

Ms. Lindsay Taylor stated no.

A motion was made by Ray O'Connell, seconded by Candida Affa, that this Ordinance be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Cynthia Mota, Candida Affa and Ray O'Connell

Enactment No: 15298

[15-973](#)

Amendments to Bill 34

Attachments: [Additions to Article 951 Park Regulations](#)

Discussion: Parks Maintenance Facility

Councilpersons Hendricks, McGuire and I visited the old Parks Maintenance facility site a few weeks ago to get a better handle on the situation. Ms. Taylor and Mr. Holtzman gave us a tour. They noted the inadequate facilities at the Parkway – both for their workers and equipment; and expressed concern about the impact truck and other vehicles were having on the Parkway infrastructure. They see the old facility as the primary site for relocating the bureau. The secondary site on the radar screen is Trexler Park which would need costly infrastructure improvements. They see the old site as being the most cost effective solution to their needs; and it is a central area for dealing with their snow plowing responsibilities during the winter season. They are responsible for plowing the west end of Allentown. During the major storm last year it took them 6 hours to get out of the Parkway. There is a pole barn on the site currently being used by Parks. Three concerns were raised at the last meeting where the contract for the engineering study wasn't approved – is city staff capable of doing the engineering study, can we or is it wise to rebuild a facility in a floodplain, and why is a study necessary - shouldn't we just apply the funds toward taking the structure down. It was also noted Trexler funds are being used to pay for the study – and that this will be the first part of a plan to construct a facility for Parks Maintenance. Perhaps Ms. Taylor could further scope out the need for the Engineering study and after that perhaps the committee could entertain a motion to make a recommendation on having the contract reconsidered at the next contract meeting.

Mr. Rick Holtzman stated that this past winter we had one huge snowstorm and stuck in the hole for six hours with no trucks on the road on the west end.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that there is a pole barn on the site that is being used by Parks. She asked if city staff is capable of doing the Engineering Study. Can we or is it wise to build a facility in the floodplain and why is a study necessary. Shouldn't we apply the funds to tear the structure down? She asked Ms. Taylor scope out the need for an Engineering Study.

Ms. Lindsay Taylor stated that the scope will involve to mapping typography and regulatory constraints, assessment of the construction of the building, a site survey. All this we would look at is outside the scope of the city Engineer. For the \$3900 we would have clear direction. The location of the site gives us the best location. The money is coming from the Trexler Fund.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked any questions from my colleagues.

Dr. David McGuire asked Ms. Mota what kind of Resolution she would like.

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated to bring the Resolution back for the next Council meeting.

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated that the administration can bring it back at any time. We don't need a motion.

Mr. Roger MacLean stated that he is a stickler for this and he is not in the Parks and Recreation Committee, but cannot believe that we can't decide

without a study.

Mr. Rick Holtzman stated that we don't know what's under the building, what was there before and there is a lot of history in that building that may say we can't disturb the earth. Structural we don't know what's there.

Mr. Roger MacLean stated that he hopes it is not a brownfields because before the city had it, it was Pepsi Cola. He asked with the Brownfields is it something that the Federal Government or state can handle.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked if we had anybody from Parks and Recreation that is able to make the decision without this study.

Ms. Lindsay Taylor stated no.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks asked if we had anybody on the city's workforce that is an Engineer qualified to do this and what I found out is that we do not. He stated that they would probably take soil samples.

Mr. Ray O'Connell suggested to Ms. Taylor to bring it back next week.

[15-972](#)

Park Maintenance Facility Map

Attachments: [Park Maintenance Facility Map](#)

Adjournment: 6:07 PM