



# Allentown

435 Hamilton Street  
Allentown, Pa. 18101

## Minutes - Final

### Parks and Recreation Committee

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Wednesday, September 21, 2016

5:00 PM

Council Chambers

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#### Roll Call: Chairperson Mota, Affa, O'Connell

[15-1076](#)

Bill 53

Amending Article 951 Park Regulations, Section .08 Vehicles, by deleting the provision that allows biking in Trexler Park only on days of the week with the letter t in them, in effect, allowing biking at Trexler Park every day.

Sponsors: Hendricks, Mota and Affa

Attachments: [Bill 53 Bicycling in Trexler Park](#)  
[09-21-16 Trexler Bicycling Resolution](#)

Ms. Lindsay Taylor stated that bicycles are permitted on Trexler Park on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. These restrictions were implemented after a fatal accident between a bicyclist and a pedestrian. A request has been made in the past few months to consider opening the park for bicycles seven days a week. We are requesting opening Trexler Park to bicyclists seven days a week. The speed limit will remain 10 miles an hour. The signage will be updated on the path.

Ms. Cynthia Mota thanked Ms. Taylor and asked any questions from the dais.

Ms. Penny Roth stated that she is a resident of Allentown and uses Trexler Park seven days a week, 365 days a day. She lives close to the park and runs with her dog in the park. The etiquette that is suggested is not used in the park currently. There are two issues: safety and signage. She stated that she doesn't understand how bikes are considered passive. She is concerned of the children safety and people riding in the park and don't understand. The bike lane is too narrow.

Ms. Cynthia Mota agreed and thanked Ms. Roth for her time. She asked any other questions from the public.

Mr. Brian Sherry, 2727 W. Gordon Street, stated that he is a frequent user of all city parks. He is on the board of the Coalition for Appropriate Transportation. We advocate for pedestrian, cyclist and public transportation and how to get them working together. There are Rules for

sharing the trail and it applies to everybody. That park is wider than any other trail in Allentown.

Ms. Cynthia Mota thanked Mr. Sherry for his comments.

Ms. Helen Hahn, 2016 E. Highland Street, stated that if we can find out how to handle the dog defecating park in Trexler Park. She asked if people are picking up after their dogs and a place to dispose of it.

Ms. Lindsay Taylor stated that any issue of dogs defecating in Trexler Park is no different than any of our other parks. We do have cans and bags there, but will confirm that.

Mr. Kenneth Laudenslager, 721 W. Cumberland Street, stated that he uses Trexler Park every day. He walks and rides in it. The bicyclists that he sees follow the Rules. He sees a fair amount of senior citizens riding out there in the non busy hours. The 10 miles an hour speed limit is sufficient. It is the safest park in the city. He urged the Committee to pass the Bill.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked any other questions or comments from the public. She thinks the key to this issue is working together and giving people the common courtesy. She agrees that they may need more signage. She asked any comments from the dais.

Mr. Ray O'Connell asked Ms. Taylor how long has the Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday process been in effect. Have you received multiple calls that said it had to be changed to every day? Have you received calls pro or con to this ordinance. He asked for the definition of a passive park.

Ms. Lindsay Taylor stated for many years. She does not know the exact year, but for several years. No, there were a couple of request this year. We have not received a number of calls. She stated yes. We received about a dozen emails and very few phone calls. The emails were 30 percent for the biking and 70 percent against the biking. Every resident that was against the biking was a nonresident. She wanted to post an invitation to work together and develop a better culture in the park. She stated that the general definition is a park that doesn't have a lot of improved facilities or active activities.

Ms. Candida Affa asked about passive parks and asked is the Parkway considered a passive park. Bike riding is considered passive.

Ms. Lindsay Taylor asked Lehigh Parkway. No, we consider that as a passive park. Trexler has a whole different set of Rules. She said correct.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked any other questions.

Mr. Daryl Hendricks thanked Ms. Mota and stated that he is an avid bike rider and has ridden in all the city parks. In Trexler he found that a pedestrian was walking in the bike lane. He stated that Ms. Roth made a good point. the most important thing we can do is put more signage there. Trexler Park has the widest path.

Ms. Cynthia Mota asked any other comments.

Mr. Roger MacLean asked who will do the monitoring and when. He stated that he would hope that they will have someone with a little more authority doing some kind of enforcement. He asked if they are talking about consolidating signage.

Ms. Lindsay Taylor stated that we will be stopping intermittently. The park staff is already out there. We would hope to work with the users. She stated yes.

Ms. Cynthia Mota thanked Mr. MacLean.

Ms. Candida Affa stated that on the monitoring, if someone is speeding, is there consequences or tickets.

Ms. Lindsay Taylor stated that it is in the Code. A sweep ticket will be able to be issued.

Dr. David McGuire stated that he goes to Trexler Park frequently. It is surprising to me to learn that traffic is supposed to go counterclockwise. He stated about dog etiquette, he never goes anywhere without his doggie bag. Hopes for a more uniformed trash container in the city.

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated that opposite. One is clockwise and the other is counterclockwise. It is clear that the bike trails are wide enough.

Mr. Julio Guridy stated that he goes to Trexler Park often and has no problems with the bicycles. He asked for a couple of signs for the speed limit. He stated with the doggie bags, put a number receptacles around the park. He thinks the bikes should go one particular way.

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated that the Trexler Trust gives a lot of money to the city for our parks. Did they weigh in on this issue.

Ms. Lindsay Taylor stated that they did not officially weigh in. She heard from Janet on her desire, but the Trust has not weighed in officially.

Mr. Ray O'Connell stated that you heard from Janet Roth on her desire. What is her desire?

Ms. Lindsay Taylor stated that she is a daily runner and prefers not to see bikes in the parks, at all.

Mr. Tom Hahn thanked everyone here who really discussed this issue and brought out each individual point. You did a good job discussing everything. Do we have a portable camera for a portable speed limit?

Ms. Cynthia Mota stated that is not really the issue. The issues is using the park Monday through Sunday. She asked any other questions from the dais.

**A motion was made by Candida Affa, seconded by Cynthia Mota, that this Ordinance be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 2 - Cynthia Mota and Candida Affa

**No:** 1 - Ray O'Connell

Enactment No: 15315

**Adjourned: 5:41 PM**