



Allentown

435 Hamilton Street
Allentown, Pa. 18101

Meeting minutes

Recreation Board

Thursday, April 3, 2025

8:00 AM

Bucky Boyle Recreation Building

10 Pump Place

Roll Call

8:03 am Meeting Called to Order by Nancy Wilt

Board Members & City Administration:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nancy Wilt - Chair	<input type="checkbox"/> Zaleeae Sierra
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Julie Ambrose	<input type="checkbox"/> Mike Cornick
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ana Tiburcio	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Josh Novak
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dave Snyder
<input type="checkbox"/> Rebecca Kiss	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hamp Smith
<input type="checkbox"/> City Council	<input type="checkbox"/> Mayor
<input type="checkbox"/> Mike Hanlon (City Clerk)	

Parks and Recreation Staff in Attendance: Brynne Heffner-Bair, Mandi Tolino, Anthony Ross

Allentown Parknership visitor, Ruffian Tittmann

Minutes

March 6, 2025 minutes: Motion to approve made by Dave Snyder to accept as written; Seconded by Hamp Smith.
Motion Passed Unanimously.

Communications

Nancy sent emails to two people who have been recommended to join the Commission. She's waiting to hear back from them regarding their interest.

P&R Reports

Various Project Updates: Bryne

- Bogert's Bridge bids will open May; Construction to begin Fall.
- Mni-pitch install Good Friday; **April 29 Ribbon Cutting; Time TBD.** Board invited.
- Working through Master Plan. **April 30 is next public meeting.** Please join.
- **April 10 Ground Breaking** at Skate Park phase 2.
- Urban Forestry – federal grant to do tree inventories, master plan, add street trees and some park trees. Had been on hold, but funding is released so the project is moving forward. Working on contractual tree work; new plantings must be planted in disadvantaged communities. 4 year timeline but will try to accelerate planting. Veronika, sustainability coordinator, is working on this project.

Recreation Update:

- Playground hiring at 60% (55 of 83 returned from last year)
- Teaching lifeguard classes/swim classes to recruit.

- Allen High School players leading/ helping with sport clinics.
- April 23-May 21 programming – Wednesdays/Sundays (Fall was only Sundays and it wasn't enough) to increase skills development.
- Movies in the Parks – Summer Concert Series are both well underway with planning.
- Allentown Yoga Fest – May to September in several parks
- Monday Fun Days will also be in multiple locations – information on the website
- Applied for CDBG funding for Franklin Park construction.
- DCNR grants for MLK phase 2 construction, and upgrade basketball courts by South Mountain. It is used for summer playground program.

Special Events Updates

- Blue Zone event coming up. City attending and has mutual goals, but not sure how to partner yet. Master plan team will be there to collect input.
- There is a list of community egg hunts in Stevens, Midway Manor, Mountainville, Percy Ruhe, Bucky Boyle, Fountain #4, Jordan Park and Cedar Beach Pavillion scheduled for April 12 and 19.
- Potential to theme Halloween Parade as America250PA Lehigh County. Point of contact is Fadia Halma if the city is interested.
- Puerto Rican Cultural parade might be a nice tie in for America250PA.

Old Business

New Business:

Welcome to Allentown! Ruffian Tittmann had a chance to introduce herself as the new Executive Director of the Allentown Parknership. She came from Philadelphia where she worked 18 years as ED of Friends of the Wissahickon. Focusing on ways to pull together park organizations. Recreation facilities are exciting. Will support what comes out of the Master Plan and will look for opportunities to move projects forward. Very happy the Urban Forestry project will move forward. Sees role as helping the Parknership be a strong partner for the city parks system.

Josh: excited to hear about the Jordan Skate Park groundbreaking

Dave: trees damaged by Wyoming Street – is there an inventory already of trees that should be replaced? Bryne responded that the tree inventory needs to be revisited; trying to create a centralized GIS mapping system to track these. Environmental Justice mapping site no longer exists under current federal Administration, so need to use different tools. Mandy shared the existing tree map:

[City Tree Map](#)

Nancy -thanked Mandi. Hosting Community Conversations and put edited versions on their social media. Mandi is doing one in April. Other topics were PennDot, Library, and branching out to Salisbury and Emmaus. Email Nancy with ideas for future conversations – must be NonProfits or Community Organizations. Pete's office is happy to share information from the city.

We need to remember to post the minutes 2 weeks prior to each meeting.

8:55 am Meeting adjourned