

Borough of Crafton  
Special Council Meeting  
Tuesday, March 29, 2022.

*(Council Meetings are broadcast live via Zoom Communications Webinar and can be viewed on YouTube at [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC\\_iL1uJ842r9UF1M0zNoEoQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_iL1uJ842r9UF1M0zNoEoQ))*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

President Oliverio called to order the Special Meeting of the Crafton Borough Council, Tuesday, March 29, 2022, at 6:30 PM.

**2. FLAG SALUTE**

Pledge of Allegiance

**3. ROLL CALL**

Interim Manager Sample recorded six (6) Members of Council present as follows: Ms. Bollenbacher, Mr. Chandler, Mr. Levasseur\*, Mr. Marks, Mr. Oliverio, and Mr. Ridilla. Also present were Mayor Perry and Engineer Flynn. Absent was Ms. Compitello. \**Mr. Levasseur joined at 6:35 PM.*

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

*AJ Schwartz, Environmental Planning & Design (E.P.D.),* noted that he had brought additional exhibits for anyone who wished to review.

*Eric Valcheff, 78 Belvidere Street,* gave each member of Council a written list of his personal site-based comments outlining areas in need of improvement throughout the Borough's parks and where he feels grant funds would be best used. He added that he is opposed to investing in parks over infrastructure.

**5. DCNR GRANT RESOLUTION**

Mr. Oliverio noted that the special meeting was called to discuss the submittal of a \$500,000 project application to DCNR for Phase 1 of the Linwood and Noble Parks. He added that the grant funds would cover \$250,000 and the Borough would be responsible for the remainder of the project costs.

Mayor Perry stated that she tabled the motion to allow Council Members additional time to review the project and grant information and to allow for further discussion prior to voting. She spoke regarding the financial requirements of the Borough to obtain the grant, as well as the state of the economy and the need to take opportunities as they are available. Mayor Perry added that parks and recreational areas are not just for children but for all residents of all ages to enjoy. She also noted that parks and recreation areas are great investments as they attract potential new homeowners as much as improvements to infrastructure.

Mr. Levasseur first thanked the steering committee for all their work and efforts in bringing this project along. He spoke regarding the origin of the DCNR Grant funds and noted that Crafton is already under contract with DCNR on a \$250,000 grant project to renovate the Crafton Pool Bathhouse. Mr. Levasseur added that Council will need to strategize going forward on grant projects and consider long term improvements. He stated that he looks forward to hearing ideas from fellow Council Members.

Engineer Flynn noted that DCNR has been involved in conversations regarding the Master Site Plan and the progress of this project from the beginning and is expecting Crafton to apply for this grant cycle. He added that the Steering Committee hosted an exercise at the previous meeting where Linwood Park was identified as the area with the most needs, followed by Noble Park, based off the essentials, including ADA and Lighting.

Mr. Marks asked to clarify when the Council would have an opportunity to prioritize the specifics of the essential improvements.

Engineer Flynn stated that those items will be outlined in the application at the time of submission as one combined project. He outlined the scope of work for Linwood Park and Noble Park.

Mr. Schwartz, E.P.D, spoke about the accessibility upgrades at Linwood Park due to the grading required to do so.

Mr. Levasseur inquired if these projects that were selected reflect the wishes of the Council or if there were other projects Council would like to see completed.

Mr. Chandler noted that he visited both Linwood and Noble Parks and added that both parks need improvements. He stated that he would rather see funds go toward the accessibility aspect of the improvements than a fire pit or court lighting. Mr. Chandler also added that he would like to see a Dog Park integrated at one of the Borough's recreation areas.

Ms. Bollenbacher inquired how the addition of new lighting would affect the surrounding residents and if those residents have been contacted or surveyed.

Mr. Schwartz, E.P.D., stated that those issues would be discussed and brought up in future meetings before being constructed.

Mr. Ridilla noted that he and Ms. Bollenbacher had visited each of the recreation areas outlined in the Draft Master Site Plan and had prepared a report. He spoke regarding the pending improvements to the Pittsburgh side of the Clearview Trail and added that the Clearview Trail is utilized more than either of the parklets by a two to one ratio, therefore he suggested using the funding to invest in the Clearview Trail.

Mr. Schwartz, E.P.D., stated that during the last exercise Linwood Park and Noble Park were the top concern of those in attendance at the Steering Committee meeting. He noted that there are other grants available through DCNR for improvement of the Clearview Trail specifically designed for Trails and Greenways.

Interim Manager Sample spoke about the in-house plans to improve the Clearview Trail including clearing of the non-native plants to help open the trail up.

**MOTION #1:** It was moved and seconded (*Chandler/Levasseur*) to adopt Resolution 2022-008 requesting a grant of \$250,000.00 from the DCNR for Phase I of Linwood and Noble Park Renovation Projects.

ROLL CALL: Ridilla (NO), Oliverio (NO), Marks (YES), Levasseur (NO), Chandler (YES), Bollenbacher (YES), Perry (YES)\*.

*\*Mayor Perry votes yes to break the tie vote.*

**MOTION #1** carries by a Roll Call Vote (4-3).

## **6. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **Upcoming Council Meeting** – Thursday, April 14, 2022, at 7:15 PM.
- PA State Representative Dan Deasy will be holding a mobile event in Council Chambers on Thursday, April 28th from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM to meet with constituents.
- The Crafton Volunteer Fire Department will be sponsoring the annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 16, 2022, at promptly 2 PM at Crafton Park.

## **7. PUBLIC COMMENT**

*Eric Valcheff, 78 Belvidere Street*, noted that the Committee never discussed the addition of nighttime lighting for the basketball courts and added that there is a large sink hole in the middle of the court at Noble Park that needs repaired. He thanked Mayor Perry and the Committee members for their efforts to move forward on this.

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted  
Carissima Kerns, Borough Secretary