

CITY OF WARREN PARKS, RECREATION AND LANDSCAPE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
January 28, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by City Manager, Mike Holtz at 10:05 AM.

ROLL CALL

The members present were Michael Suppa, Paula Bogart, Kristine Whitaker, Jackie Angove and Sherry Johnson. Members excused included Mark Zavinski. Members absent included Duncan Seguin. Attending City Staff were Mike Holtz, City Manager, Joe Reinke, DPW Superintendent and City Arborist, Randy Rossey, Director of Codes & Planning and Kassie Damcott, DPW Administrator.

AGENDA APPROVAL

A motion to approve the revised agenda provided, with the addition of officer elections, was made by Mrs. Bogart, seconded by Mr. Suppa, and passed unanimously by those present.

MINUTES APPROVAL

A motion to approve regular meeting minutes from November 26, 2024, was made by Mrs. Whitaker, seconded by Mr. Suppa, and passed unanimously by those present.

CORRESPONDENCE

None at this time.

JOE REINKE, CITY ARBORIST, REPORT

Mr. Reinke provided his 2024 tree report, which included a detailed list of all trees and species present in the City's right of ways and parks. Overall, we are up ~200 trees in the City, since 2018 and we historically plant more trees than we remove.

MIKE HOLTZ, CITY MANAGER, REPORT

Mr. Holtz reports the 2025 budget was passed and includes the same amount of funding for shade trees as in the past.

CECILE STELTER, DISTRICT FORESTER, REPORT

Ms. Stelter reports the longer periods of cold are good for the forest health. It helps to cut down on diseases and insects when it stays colder for longer stretches. Ms. Stelter stated her and colleague checked on the City's Hemlock tree and it has more HWA growth than expected after a treatment, so they will be keeping an eye on it and will probably treat it more in the Spring/Summer.

POINT PARK

Mrs. Damcott reports the City was successful in receiving DCNR grant money for the rehabilitation of Point Park. This project, because it has additional funding from Senators tied in, will take place in 2026. The fiscal appropriations from Casey and Fetterman's offices is still going through the legislative procedures.

MULBERRY PARK

Mr. Holtz reports funds have been allocated in the budget for Mulberry Park. The City staff will be applying for a DCNR grant for this project, partnered with funding from the Community Foundation as well to make a "total package" for the rehabilitation of Mulberry Park. This project will not happen until 2026 at the earliest, if all funding is acquired by end of 2025 fiscal year. Mr. Reinke will be doing a walk through with our DCNR representative this week at Mulberry to confirm project eligibility.

RIVERFRONT DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Holtz, reports the City continues to work on building the funding for the riverfront development, specifically the boat launch. City staff will be applying for an ARC (Appalachian Regional Commission) grant this spring, and have also requested a legislative line in the 2025 fiscal year from Rapp's office. A public hearing to provide updates and get feedback on the additional amenities in addition to the boat launch was held in earlier January. A survey was generated and distributed throughout the County to gather feedback.

CIVIC BEAUTIFICATION

It was discussed that nominations should be discussed at the May and June meetings so that a mid-July award ceremony can take place. Section assignments will take place at the next meeting. Kassie asked that photos be sent to her so that she can compile them in a document to view at the nomination meetings as well.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 10:57am. The next meeting is Tuesday February 25th, 2025, at 10:00 am.

Submitted by,
Kassie Damcott