

AMBLER BOROUGH PLANNING COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MARCH 23, 2021, MEETING

The Regular March Meeting of the Ambler Borough Planning Commission was held on Tuesday, March 23, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM. Consistent with Council President's and the Mayor's Declaration of Disaster Emergency executed Tuesday, April 7, 2020, this action was taken to ensure the health, safety and welfare of our community and to promote our commitment to maintain social distancing in our community. The meeting was not held at Borough Hall as previously advertised. A public copy of the meeting agenda was posted on the Borough website and the public was invited to forward questions or comments to the Glenn Kucher, Code Enforcement Officer, by 5:00 p.m. this evening or request attendance at the meeting. Glenn Kucher hosted the meeting and Chairman Robert Lagreca presided.

Prior to this regular meeting a special public meeting began at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of public input for Locust, Jean Thompson, and Wahl Parks and Ambler Square. Some comments made with regard to the Locust Park were benches, tables, overgrown fence, cracked basketball court and installation of a storm water basin to reduce flooding. Comments for Wahl were positive that the space is used frequently and appreciated. The Jean Thompson Park comments were the grounds stay muddy after a heavy rain event, could a sprinkler be used during the summer months for the children to run through and could there be a book stand, rubberized surface and additional playground equipment. The comments for Ambler Square were also positive. Although the park is still under construction, it is shaping up to be a welcoming space and asset for the borough. The meeting was conducted by Glenn Kucher and Michael Lowrey. Residents' comments expressed for This meeting ended about 6:50 and a recess occurred before the beginning of the Regular March Meeting at 7:00.

ROLL CALL: Present: David Kralle, Carissa Hazelton, Elizabeth Iovine, Carol Ann DiPietro, Salvatore Boccuti, Peter Amento, William Mulroy, Al Comly and Robert Lagreca.

Also in attendance: Glenn Kucher. Borough Code Enforcement Officer, and Michael Lowrey, Montgomery County Planner.

James Dougherty, Borough Engineer, were excused.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Salvatore Boccuti made a motion to approve the minutes of February 23, 2021, seconded by Peter Amento. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

Review the guidelines and recommend changes to the Borough's existing wireless ordinance and fee schedule to comply with the FCC Order Dated September 26, 2018, as well as develop design requirements for wireless facilities in the rights-of-way to prevent aesthetically obtrusive facilities. Montgomery County review will follow at a later date.

Input is requested to create a conceptual plan incorporating identified community needs and improvements for each park in the Borough to be used as part of a larger Master Park Plan. The residents' comments made at the Public Meeting for Locust Street Park, Wahl Playground, Ambler Square and Jean Thompson Park at 6:00 were briefly acknowledged. At the October meeting, the members created a schedule for the monthly public meetings to discuss each park. The meetings begin at 6:00 on the night of the regularly-scheduled Planning

Commission meeting. After this meeting, all of the scheduled public meetings will have taken place with numerous residents participating offering comments and suggestion.

NEW BUSINESS:

Input is requested on the Planning Assistance Contract between Ambler Borough and the Montgomery County Planning Commission for future planning areas of interest. The following suggestions were made to forward to Council.

1. Assistance in Developing a Plan for Each Borough Park and Recreational Space for its Optimum Use in Accordance with Public Comment Received at the Parks Workshops and Analyzing, Prioritizing and Implementing Affordable Recommendations;
2. Assistance in Creating an Ambler Parks App as a Resource for the Community for Increased Enjoyment of Each Park's Unique Location and Amenities;
3. Assistance with Implementing and Prioritizing Recommendations Contained in the RF100 Plan;
4. Assistance in Enhancing Storm Water Management and Developing Affordable Practices for Homeowners as a Beginning Step;
5. Assistance in Analyzing Ambler's Transportation Demand and Multi-Modal Needs Including Trail Connections;
6. Assistance in Maintaining the Borough's Knowledge of Other Municipalities' Efforts to Continually Enhance their Resources and Staying Current with Developing State and Local Issues to Allow the Borough to Better Serve the Community; and
7. Assistance in Identifying Grant Opportunities and Preparing the Applications for Future Projects
8. Assistance in Creating an Ordinance to require damaged sidewalk and curb replacement upon the sale of a property in order to maintain walkability in the Borough.

A letter will be prepared for Council.

The Planning Commission continues to express its appreciation to Mr. Kucher and the Borough Staff for hosting the meeting on ZOOM and to Michael Lowrey for his research and presentations at the public meeting and the Planning Commission Meeting.

Several residents were in attendance.

CONTINUED BUSINESS FOR APRIL AND FUTURE MEETINGS

Receive and review Montgomery County review letter and thereafter vote to adopt ordinance regulating design standards for the new small wireless facilities.

Further work on a conceptual plan incorporating identified community needs and improvements for each park in the Borough and proposed App for information regarding our parks for users of the park to download to assist them in using our parks to their full potential. Review resident comments and potential changes for each park.

Elizabeth Iovine made a motion at 7:55 seconded by Peter Amento to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carol Ann DiPietro
Recording Secretary,
AMBLER BOROUGH PLANNING COMMISSION