

Mine Falls Park Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes – February 6th , 2023

Attendees: Jeff Hannigan, Paula Lochhead, Dick Gillespie, Greg Andruskevich, Trisha Mullin, Matt Leblanc

Guests: **Lon Hohberger (Committee Candidate), Gene Whitcomb (Committee Candidate), Matt Franz (City Engineering Dept)**

Call to Order – 7:00 PM

Approval of January Meeting Minutes – Motion (Jeff) Seconded (Pam)

Parks Dept Topics:

- High School Bridge Replacement
 - Matt Franz presented a draft from the City Engineering Dept of the plans for a permanent bridge replacement
 - Studies have completed on the type of supports that are feasible for the existing location
 - Assessed against the selection of a pre-built bidge
 - A high-level timeline is estimated but does not yet constitute a committed plan
 - Cost and funding are still to be determined
 - Committee inquired into the upkeep of the bridge as it relates to the surface and the bridge will need to be treated as part of the installation but should last up to 25 years

Committee Topics

- Trail Day Planning
 - Reviewed the candidates for the first two trail days:
 - April:
 - Clearing the Cove knotweed site in preparation for covering
 - Preventative clearing around the Whipple St bridge and any fill or other localized improvements (if necessary, will inspect in the spring as the growth may be seasonal and only there in the summer)
 - Overlook cleanups (hill to the cove)
 - Erosion/Wear repairs on Red Trail
 - Retaining Wall repairs at Cove/Canal junction
 - Cleanup Gatehouse parking boundary/small fence area
 - May:
 - Scrape & Paint gatehouse fences (plans from Parks Dept to clear growth in advance)
 - Paint Weirs/Spine Road Bridges (need for powerwashing in advance)
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- Park Enhancement Brainstorming:
 - Other topics were raised for improvements that are beyond a trail day activity:
 - Tree species identification signs
 - Re purposing some of the boulders as seating in other areas of the park
- Term Renewals: In motion (some members received between Meeting date and Minutes compiling)

- Park Signage
 - Discussion of the various options that could be implemented
 - Objective would be for major “landmark” routing like “Boat Ramp”, “Lincoln Park,” “High School”
 - Strongly considering a possible partnership with the High School wood shop to let the students gain a stake in the park

Adjournment – 8:03 PM