

Mine Falls Park Advisory Committee

Minutes of Meeting of Nov. 1, 2021

In Attendance:

Paula Lochhead, Vice Chair
Dick Gillespie
Trisha Mullins
Pam Anderson
Doug Gagne

Matt Leblanc, Operations Manager (filling in for Supt. Jason Puopolo)

The chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The minutes of the October meeting were accepted as written.

As Jason was not in attendance, there was no Superintendent's report.

Old Business:

Discussion ensued as to the detailed expense report distributed back in September, itemizing expenses incurred over the past 5 years. It was agreed that this report may not show Park and Rec expenses paid strictly from the Cell Tower Trust account, as there were charges having nothing to do with Mine Falls Park (ex.: soccer uniforms.) Matt will ask Jason for the appropriate report.

Paula asked each member in attendance to present his/her list of most pressing projects requiring expenditures.

Trish:

1. Installation of simple benches within the Park (preferably stone or other natural material)
2. Improved access to the boat launch by Gate City Fence
3. Signage at trail intersections
4. Hydraulic study for improving rate of flow in canal (Note: Trish acquired the Study conducted last year from Deb Chisholm, and passed it along to Jeff and Jason. It has not yet been made available to other Committee members.)
5. Knotweed eradication

Dick:

1. Hydraulic study as mentioned above

2. Re-grading of canal path to reduce wash-outs of banks into the canal (Matt suggested probable need to add gravel over any areas where there are existing tree roots)
3. Install fencing to stop further usage of discontinued path on the Red Trail by the dam, which leads to a steep and dangerous slope.
4. Tree removal from canal
5. Removal of newer beaver dam by the weirs
6. Refinish door to Gatehouse

Pam:

1. Improve access to boat launch
2. Gatehouse repairs (soffit/eaves, etc.)

Doug:

1. Need to know results of engineering study of Park bridges to determine repair/maintenance strategies and priorities
2. Gatehouse repairs as mentioned above
3. Increased signage within the Park: signs to point direction and distance to various Park landmarks, use of directional arrows at intersections, and educational signs (“poison ivy”, natural history, plants and wildlife, etc.)

Paula expressed agreement with many of the priorities cited, including educational signage, sprucing up of bridges, and repairs to the Gatehouse.

Discussion of the above needs to continue in upcoming meetings, with the immediate goal being to present a list to Jason to initiate planning and budgeting strategies to best tackle these backlogged projects.

Following recent tradition, it was agreed that the next meeting will be held at Lui Lui’s restaurant, Daniel Webster Highway, on December 6th. A head count will be needed in advance to reserve either a small room if possible or a table. (Time to be determined.)

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Gagne