
MINUTES OF SYMMES TOWNSHIP WORK SESSION

April 22, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Elected officials present were: Mr. Phil Beck, Ms. Jodie Leis, Mr. Kenneth Bryant, and Mr. Joe Grossi.

Also present: Kim Lapensee – Administrator.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Blong Park Landscape Plans. Mr. Bryant stated that he first wanted to talk about the need to make improvements to this park. He stated that he knows it is the entrance to the community, but no one uses it. He stated that the bank’s home office has relocated, and they used to pay for 50% of the expenses because they used the parking lot. He stated that he still wants the bank to pay for 50%. Ms. Leis stated that she never viewed this park as a hangout – entrance only to the community. Mr. Bryant stated that he would like to see more picnic tables at this park.

Mrs. Lapensee went through the 4 options for the park that was sent to us by Choice One. She stated that option 1 is accent landscape to enhance view and draw attention to the park. She stated that option 2 has accent landscaping to enhance view and has two retaining walls. She stated that option 3 has accent landscaping, curved walls around certain accent trees and grand steps that provide access from the sidewalk on Montgomery Road. She stated that option 4 has accent landscaping to enhance view, two smaller retaining walls, five curved walls and grand steps. She stated that she does not know a price on any of the options. She suggested that pick one that we like the best and get quotes for it.

Mr. Bryant stated that option 1 is out because it does not solve the embankment issue we are having right now, and he has concerns over how we mow it. Ms. Leis stated that option #2 the retaining wall is too long. Mr. Beck stated that he thinks we should lower the existing wall and add a shelter or covered something with swings (maybe) and relocate the existing plaques and quite possibly add sculptures. He stated that it is a memorial park, and we should boost the use of it. He stated that right now everyone drives by it and no one knows its there. He stated that the wall hides the park. He stated that he likes the walking connection with the steps. Mr. Bryant stated that he likes the idea of having a small shelter there and using the park more. Mr. Beck stated that he does not see any of the items in the plan promoting the use of the park, we need to have activities. There was a discussion over sculptures and involving Great Oaks to help us.

Mr. Bryant asked when we fund the landscaping for Blong. Mrs. Lapensee stated that this is a conceptual plan right now and we would fund it in the future.

Ms. Leis asked about doing landscaping in the medians along Montgomery Road while we are doing this park. She stated that she wants to see them landscaped. Mr. Bryant stated that all his neighbors were in favor of having medians instead of concrete. He

stated that the breakdown lanes are less wide than they are in Deerfield Township so we would have to be careful of what plants we put there.

Mr. Beck stated that it is a memorial park, and we should do something in keeping with that theme. He stated that he wants to do something special there. He suggested that we might be able to put in pedestals and the plaques could be reinstalled on the pedestals.

1. Personnel Manual Changes. Mrs. Lapensee stated that Mr. Grossi had asked to place this request on the agenda to change the job descriptions to include clerical work for his office. Mrs. Lapensee stated that she is not in favor of changing the job descriptions again because we had already made extensive changes in 2017 and 2018. She stated that she included all the changes we already made in the packet.

Mr. Bryant stated that he is not in favor of changing them either, but there is already a statement that catches any other assignment from the Administrator. He stated that we should help when needed or negotiate that help. He stated that Mr. Grossi conveyed to him that the Administrator has been under a great deal of pressure to get out from under the Fiscal Office. He stated that Mrs. Lapensee has helped them for over a year now and needs to do other things. He stated that he does not want her to have to give up her administrative staff, but if there is something in the short term that could be done to get to self-sufficiency, then we should help; however, it depends on duration and extent. He wondered if we could come up with a compromise. Mr. Bryant asked for suggestions.

Mrs. Lapensee stated that a lot of what needs to be done is that the finance office needs to spend time learning the addresses of our properties and what codes are associated with those payments. Mr. Bryant asked if the administrative staff could help with that. Mrs. Lapensee stated no, because the system we are using is brand new and the only person who knows the codes for the UAN is her. Mr. Bryant wondered how much time Mr. Grossi needs help for to be more self-sufficient. Mr. Beck stated that he did not think it was fair to Mrs. Lapensee for all the time she has spent helping and that she has gone above and beyond. He stated that he feels that they need to learn how to fly on their own. Mr. Bryant stated that he does not know enough right now without Mr. Grossi being here to tell them. Mrs. Lapensee stated that Mr. Grossi is looking for clerical help because neither of them can type. Mrs. Lapensee stated that she did not want any additional assignments from the Finance office to affect her side of the office in everyone's reviews. Mr. Bryant suggested that we sit down with Mr. Grossi and have a conversation about it. Mr. Beck stated that he was okay with that if Mrs. Lapensee is okay with it.

2. Self-Closing Gate at Camp Dennison Nature Trail. Mr. Bryant stated that he does not want to spend the money for a gate. He stated that he wants to supplement the money for the current person performing the job. He feels that it would be reasonable for us to pay Mr. Howell the additional money to be an independent contractor. Mr. Bryant stated that he does not want to spend the \$800.00 to post the job. Mrs. Lapensee stated that we could post it on our website and the in the building and around the parks. She stated that we would normally post in the Enquirer to get a wider response.

Mr. Bryant made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Beck seconded the motion and the roll call vote was as follows: Mr. Bryant - 'aye'; Mr. Beck - 'aye', Ms. Leis - 'aye'. Motion passes.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Minutes of WORKSESSION

Held SAFETY SERVICES CENTER

April 22, 2021

Approved:

Kenneth N. Bryant, Board President

Jodie L. Leis, Vice-President

Philip J. Beck, Trustee