

MINUTES
BROOKVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
Tuesday, September 17, 2019 @ 6:30 P.M.

The Brookville Borough Council met in the large conference room on Tuesday, September 17, 2019 at 6:30 P.M. for a public hearing regarding the Riverwalk with the following in attendance:

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Phil Hynes
Bill Kutz
Dave Ferringer
Ken King
Rick Baughman
Randy Bartley

STAFF

Manager Dana D. Schreckengost
Solicitor Jim Dennison

VISITOR/MEDIA

Rose James
Aly Delp
Catherine McKinley
Jim Dunn
Ken Burkett
Kat Lyons
Sam Rubino
Robert J. McLaughlin
Ano McKinley

CALL TO ORDER:

President Phil Hynes called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

INTRODUCTION TO THE PLAN:

President Phil Hynes stated this is a public hearing to have input from residents on the proposed Riverwalk Project that Council is proposing along with all the work of Arthur McKinley. President Phil Hynes stated you have an engineering plan with the drawing on the wall. President Phil Hynes stated the black outlined area is the proposed Phase One which the Council at this point is willing to try to pursue. President Phil Hynes stated we did have an engineering study done. President Phil Hynes stated this has been at no cost to the taxpayers, and it is a privately funded project. President Phil Hynes stated the engineering study with our proposed Phase One Project will then be submitted to the Army Corps of Engineers. President Phil Hynes stated even though the land that is outlined is mainly owned by the Borough, the Army Corps of Engineers has a say in it because it is within the floodplain so we have to get their permission for any kind of project in that area. President Phil Hynes stated at this point we are opening it up to questions or comments from the public.

COMMENTS:

- Arthur McKinley stated he has comments, but he will defer to anybody else that wants to speak first.
- Sam Rubino asked if you are funding Phase One, what does that do to Phase Two? President Phil Hynes stated Phase One is a doable first step, and the Army Corps of Engineers would not have as much of a say in that area as they would in the north side section of this. President Phil Hynes stated we are hoping to get this as a trial run. President Phil Hynes stated the entire Master Plan will be

submitted to the Army Corps as a proposal for future plans, but the proposal we have right now is limited to that one section as a first step. Sam Rubino asked if the proposal is not approved for Phase Two, is Phase One worth spending the funds? President Phil Hynes stated it is all private funding, so we have to get a plan approved before any fundraising efforts can begin. Sam Rubino stated he does not see the first phase attracting people to Brookville.

- Mrs. McKinley stated she walks a lot on the track. Mrs. McKinley stated people will use the Riverwalk to walk or bike.
- Ken Burkett stated the Riverwalk will attract people, and it has the potential to connect to the Redbank Trail.
- Arthur McKinley stated the Riverwalk is a different kind of trail - it is an urban trail. Arthur McKinley stated it will attract people who do not necessarily want to walk in the woods, but want to take a walk and relax by the river in a safe environment where there are no bears. President Phil Hynes stated it will be a different crowd using the Riverwalk as opposed to Redbank Trail. President Phil Hynes stated a lot of people on the Redbank Trail are bikers, and there will not be biking on the Riverwalk as far as he knows. Arthur McKinley stated he disagrees with that.
- Member Dave Ferringer asked what the width of the trail is. Arthur McKinley stated between five to seven feet. Member Dave Ferringer stated five feet wide will not allow for bikes. President Phil Hynes stated that issue has not been addressed, and he thinks it will be before the Riverwalk is actually constructed. Arthur McKinley stated let us not sacrifice the whole project over width. Member Dave Ferringer stated no, he just wanted to throw that out as a concern.
- Member Rick Baughman stated from what I am understanding about this situation tonight is we are trying to find out if this would be a good starting point, and to make people aware of what we have and to make it bigger. Member Rick Baughman stated the area around Memorial Park brings in six hundred people during flag football, and this area is probably the most used area in Brookville. Member Rick Baughman stated so if that is the starting point, he is all for it because you will show the people in the community and people outside the community the value of it. Arthur McKinley stated he totally agrees with Member Rick Baughman.
- Member Dave Ferringer asked what is the total distance of that. Arthur McKinley stated he guesses one and a half miles.
- Member Randy Bartley stated the grantor whether it be PennDOT, DCNR, or DCED will have their own requirements about how wide the paths are going to be. Member Randy Bartley stated just to give you an insight as to what went on in our committee meeting with Arthur McKinley present. Randy Bartley stated we looked at our engineer's plan and nobody really liked that plan. Randy Bartley stated we looked at Arthur McKinley's plan again and found this to be something doable for a couple of reasons. Member Randy Bartley stated the north shore plan crosses two extremely busy roads three times. Member Randy Bartley stated the south shore project goes across property we already own, and it provides a safe course for people that do not want to walk in the woods. Member Randy Bartley stated he thinks we agreed this is a good first step, and it does not

rule out the north shore but there are some realities you have to face there that make it a more difficult proposition. Randy Bartley stated we are presenting this as an improvement to the quality of life for the people in the Borough of Brookville. Vice-President Bill Kutz stated and hopefully at no cost to the Borough.

- President Phil Hynes stated the thing about Phase One only is our experience with submitting anything to the Army Corps of Engineers or any agency is the more compact and small steps are easier to get approved than a master plan.
- Ken Burkett stated the Redbank Valley Trail crosses route twenty-eight and route sixty-six and a multiple of higher speed highways than you are going to encounter here in Brookville. Ken Burkett stated fish basket turn is one of the most winding turns on route twenty-eight. President Phil Hynes stated and it is an incredible problem too. Ken Burkett stated it is hard for the vehicles and it is hard for the bikers. President Phil Hynes stated that is an issue, but for the Redbank Valley Trail board that is a huge concern we have. President Phil Hynes stated we are trying to eliminate as many problems as we can on this project. Member Randy Bartley stated this is from the engineer, this is not something from Brookville Borough Council.
- Arthur McKinley stated he would like to remind us of how we got here. Arthur McKinley stated he has enjoyed the process of getting us to this point, and he appreciates this committee and Brookville Borough Council getting us to Phase One.
- Sam Rubino asked is there a reason why while you are doing Phase One that you cannot go after the legal documentation that is needed from landowners. Member Randy Bartley stated remember every time we want something done legally, no offense to our Solicitor, we pay for it. Solicitor Jim Dennison stated you cannot go after agreements until a route is picked out. Sam Rubino stated we are not even considering the other side of the creek. Member Randy Bartley stated we are considering it, but the reality is the Borough has finite funding and once we cross that stream we are getting into a lot of other issues that we cannot take on at this point.
- President Phil Hynes stated we are submitting Phase One to the Army Corps of Engineers for their approval, but we are also trying to get feedback from the master plan for possibly Phase Two.
- Member Rick Baughman stated he believes Phase One allows us to make mistakes and correct them. Member Rick Baughman stated we have to wait and hear how it is going to be built.
- Member Randy Bartley stated the other key factor is funding. Member Randy Bartley stated at this point we have no clue without a plan that has Corps of Engineer approval even where to seek that funding.
- Arthur McKinley stated we had a few false starts with this thing. Arthur McKinley stated Gwin, Dobson, and Foreman seems to be a good choice to pursue a solid engineering study based on all the work that we have done of this Riverwalk and then an approach to the Army Corps of Engineers. Arthur McKinley stated the goals are we want to provide public access to our rivers in

our town, beautify the rivers, create a safe recreation area, and connect the town's neighborhoods.

- Sam Rubino stated he is interested in what Arthur McKinley has to say, and Council's feedback. President Phil Hynes stated we have had numerous discussions, and there has been interplay between us for months. President Phil Hynes stated everyone on Council is aware of the entire project and Arthur McKinley's input into it. President Phil Hynes stated we have agreed on a plan to present to the Army Corps of Engineers. President Phil Hynes stated the purpose of this meeting was to get public input. President Phil Hynes stated if anybody in the public wants to talk to Arthur McKinley about the details of this, you are welcome to stay after our meeting and I am sure he will be glad to go over it with you.

ADJOURNMENT:

This public hearing regarding the Riverwalk adjourned at 7:00 P.M.

Borough Manager