

MADISON PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

October 19, 2022

7:30 PM, Hartley Dodge Memorial Building, Trustees Room and via Zoom link.

PRESENT: D. Miller, T. Crimmins, G. Thomas, D. Mantone, and Council Liaison, Rachel Ehrlich.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS STATEMENT READ

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order by the Chair at 7:35 PM

MINUTES: Motion made and passed to accept the minutes from the August 17th meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

The following members of the public attended the meeting in person and via Zoom to comment on the condition of Delbarton Park and make suggestions for improvements:

- Nancy Eldridge (Durwood Pl.) described damaged and obsolete play equipment, lack of safety surface, uneven ground with debris and obstructions. She brought photographs of the equipment and an article about playground safety. She requested improvements for safety and improved recreation, noting that the park is used for Little League games and serves families in a dense, 6-block neighborhood
- Elizabeth Mazarella (Durwood Pl.) described poor drainage and requested pressure washing for the play equipment and the provision of mulch or wood chips around the equipment
- Caitlin Samora (Niles Ave) noted that the playground is underutilized because it is unappealing.
- Jessica Rezny (Niles Ave) organizes a moms' group in the neighborhood for young families. She noted that Delbarton Park has no facilities to support a playgroup for young children.
- Meg and Gabe McCarthy (Niles Ave) voiced support for their neighbors' comments.

Members of the Committee commented on Delbarton Park as follows:

- Dave Miller, Committee Chair, noted that the Committee is working on a Madison Parks Improvement Plan targeting several parks including Delbarton Park. He suggested that safety issues be addressed as a priority

- and advised that the Committee would contact Dept. of Public Works and the Borough Engineer to address safety issues as soon as possible.
- Geoff Thomas noted that the current play equipment was installed in 2007 based on a survey of community needs.
 - Debbie Mantone and Tom Crimmins asked whether there was a comprehensive maintenance plan for the Parks, and if not, could one be developed to ensure that all parks received regular maintenance. Rachel Ehrlich will ask Ken O'Brien, the Director of Public Works, about the Parks maintenance schedule for Delbarton Park.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Parks Improvement Plan: Dave Miller will circulate the latest draft of the RFP for the Parks Improvement Plan to the Borough Administration, Mayor, and the Borough's planner, Susan Blickstein, for review and comment.
2. Dodge Field accessible playground: Dave advised that the working group met today to review latest concepts. Dave will circulate any materials provided to the Committee.
3. James Park Art Walk: Rachel to forward Dave the most recent email from Lisa Ellis summarizing the status of this project.
4. Memorial Park Trail improvement: Rachel reported that the construction documents for Phase I trail improvements will be rebid with clarifications regarding the project scope.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

NEXT MEETING: December 21, 2022, 7:30 PM , Hartley Dodge Memorial Building, Trustees Room and via Zoom link. Please notify the Chair if unable to attend.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 8:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Rachel Ehrlich