

SHARON CITY COUNCIL

Purpose: Public Hearing
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2008
Time: 6:30 P.M.
Location: Sharon Municipal Building Council Chambers

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

TIME: 6:30 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL - Present:

Council:

President Heutsche
Mr. Connelly

Mr. Donato
Mr. Messina

Absent: Mr. Flower
(out of town)

News Media:

Attorney Madden - City Solicitor
Mayor Robert J. Lucas
Sharronda Faber - City Clerk

Tom Davidson - The Herald

Dept. Heads:

Terry Whalen - Fire Chief
Michael J. Menster - Chief of Police
John Cave - Street Dept.

Also Present:

Brian Barnhizer, MCRPC
Carol Swartz
Frank Garguilo, HHSDR
Beth Zych
Bob Fiscus

Vikki Gruitza
Janet Thomas
Leon Nichols
Michael Pape

LEGAL NOTICE:

"The City of Sharon shall hold a Public Hearing on the Bicentennial Park Master Plan on Thursday, September 25, 2008, at 6:30 p.m. at Council Chambers, located in the Municipal Building, 155 Connelly Boulevard, Sharon PA. The building is accessible to the mobility impaired. Please contact the City at 724-983-3220 if you require a special accommodation to be present."

Frank Garguilo of HHSDR presented an update on the plan. He advised that in February 2008 a series of meetings was held to gather information from people about the project and receive input. He stated that the Sharon Beautification Commission would like to approach the state and City for funding, and therefore need to determine priorities for the project. He said the main concerns seem to be safety, lighting, maintenance and river views. He stated that there is already alot of potential with the park due to the existing foot path and Budd St. canoe launch area. Mr. Garguilo outlined six (6) phases to improve the park: (1) River-Focused - with a cost of approximately \$260,000 - This would remove non-native species, install overlook areas and improve the view of the river by selectively clearing areas; (2) New Lighting - with a cost of approximately \$315,000 - This would remove old lighting, repeat patterns of new lighting that already exist downtown, and upgrade wiring; (3) Trail & Sight Improvements - with a cost of approximately \$212,000 - This would call for the installation of new benches, waste receptacles, and removal of damaged structures and old playground equipment; (4)

Pavilion - with a cost of approximately \$170,000 - This would include the gazebo and stage/deck area and call for a possible relocation of the gazebo, opening up a path behind and use land as view to river, and make handicap-accessible; (5) Develop parking area - with a cost of approximately \$73,000 - This would allow for a parking area on Budd St, put up a retaining wall, and install ten parking spaces; (6) Develop foot bridge and comfort station - with a cost of approximately \$250,000 - This would include the south shore of the river and is considered an "extra."

Mr. Gargiulo stated that he intends to continue working with the Beautification Commission and their efforts to secure funding. He also acknowledged Mr. Joe Kurtanich for donating his time for survey work and Lowe's Home Improvements for offering to make a donation to the project.

<u>COMMENTS:</u>

NEWS MEDIA:

None

CITIZENS:

Carol Swartz - Commended Frank Garguilo for his hard work on the plan

MAYOR LUCAS:

None

MR. CONNELLY:

Inquired if the phases could be done independently of one another. Mr. Gargiulo advised that they could and suggested that someone knowledgeable with ecology be brought in for some of the project. He also advised that some of the work can be done by volunteers and that the residents of the apartments by the park would likely be very willing to donate time to help. He also suggested that the Shenango Valley River Watchers would be helpful. Mr. Connelly inquired about the lighting phase and the condition of the current lights. Mr. Gargiulo advised that there is power but further investigation of the wiring and conduits needs to be done. Mayor Lucas discussed the possibility of using older lights that are being replaced along State St. for the project. Mr. Connelly inquired about the possibility of using solar lights, but Mr. Gargiulo advised that there may be an issue with the circuits and vegetation. Mr. Connelly also commented that if waste receptacles are placed in the park, then workers would be needed to maintain them.

MR. DONATO:

None

MR. MESSINA:

Inquired about if one project had to be picked, what recommendation would Mr. Gargiulo make for it. Mr. Gargiulo suggested lighting and/or parking as good places to start that would make an immediate impact on the park usage.

MR. HEUTSCHE:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 P.M.

Motion: Mr. Messina

Second: Mr. Donato

**Vote: Yes - Mr. Messina
Yes - Mr. Connelly**

**Yes - Mr. Donato
Yes - Mr. Heutsche**

Attest:

Council President

City Clerk