

**SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP
WALNUT AVENUE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2024 AT 6:00 P.M.
MINUTES**

1. Call to Order (*E. Baiada*)

Lee Abberley	Member
Christine Hesser	Member
Nick Matteo	Member
Robert McGrath	Member
Adrienne Smythe	Member
Katie Widmeier	Member
Susanna Ratsavong	Commissioner Liaison, Ward 2
Jim Lee	Commissioner Liaison, Ward 3

Guests:	Gary Pogue	Resident, Oreland
	Lisa Aita	Resident, Oreland

2. Approval of Minutes from December (*All Members*)

The Walnut Avenue Steering Committee unanimously approved the December minutes.

3. Agenda Item Public Comment (*All*)

No public comment.

4. New Business (*All*)

Scope of Work: The Committee reviewed and unanimously approved the Scope of Work. The final version will be submitted to the DCNR office as a portion of the grant obligation.

Volunteer Wish List: The Committee shared their vision for potential park features. The Committee discussed the following ideas:

- Combination of active and passive use with a focus on nature similar to Mondauk Park, Upper Dublin
- Preservation of naturalized area, trees, animal habitats
- Maintain existing trees and greenspace
- Small athletic field in rear of complex
- Maximize use as a passive park
- Walking trail around the perimeter with a berm between neighboring properties
- Natural playscape that mimics playground style play while using minimal equipment
- Retain pine trees
- Center focal point commemorating the progress made in turning an EPA site into a park

Neighbors also submitted a list with a focus on maintaining the nature preserve with tree plantings, benches, large berms, no lights, and no sport signage. If an athletic field is required by the Township, the neighbors request installation is limited to one natural grass field, no turf, for local programs only.

5. General Public Comment (*All*)

Lisa Aita commented on concerns regarding the environment cleanup and transparency of EPA reporting. A recommendation was made to post historical signage referencing the clean-up process for all future park visitors. Ms. Aita also noted concerns about after-hours use. Mrs. Baiada noted that the Township Police Department completes regular surveillance of park properties, especially after hours. Mrs. Baiada suggested a vehicle width walking path to provide access for a patrol vehicle.

6. Commissioners' Report (*S. Ratsavong*)

Commissioners Ratsavong reported a review of the December Commissioners meeting. The Township approved the 2024 Budget with no tax increase. The Police Department was recognized for receiving Accreditation. The Rotary pavilion and pad donation were accepted.

7. Call for Adjournment (*E. Baiada*)

Next meeting: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 at 6:00 pm