

December 10, 2015

A special meeting of the Ligonier Borough Council was held Thursday, December 10, 2015 @ 6:00 PM in the Ligonier Town Hall with Robert Helterbran presiding. The purpose of the meeting was to receive input and discuss the proposed Diamond Park Renovations.

Members Present: Robert Helterbran, James McDonnell, Margaret Garland, Judy Hoffer, Matt Smith, Pat Scanlon and Terry Murphy.

Others Present: Secretary-Treasurer Paul Fry, Mayor Ormond "Butch" Bellas, EADS Architect Greg Elliot, Solicitor George Welty, Police Chief John Berger. Absent was Zoning Officer Rick Schwab and Fire Chief Steve Barron.

The Special meeting was led by Council President Robert Helterbran and EADS Engineer Greg Elliot.

President Robert Helterbran explained the purpose of the meeting is to receive input and discuss the proposed Diamond Park Renovations.

The Diamond has been repeatedly run over and damage has been received to the sprinkler system as well as brick work many times by large trucks. EADS Engineers as well as the project committee have come up with designs to please everyone.

Helterbran reported that in order to attempt to rectify the problem the plan is to enlarge the curbs to a 10 inch height hopefully preventing drivers from jumping it. The perimeter sidewalk will consist of 3-inch-thick concrete pavers atop a 1-inch thick bituminous setting bed and a 6-inch-thick concrete base. The radiuses on the corners will be reduced between 2 and 3 feet allowing vehicles extra space to maneuver around the Diamond.

The seating area will be comprised of 8 half round brick (curvilinear) seating pods clustered on the east and west sides of the bandstand to replace the linear wooden benches. The pods will consist of a brick wall and stationary curved metal benches. Curvilinear seating will allow people to more easily carry on conversations. There will also be a bigger walkway, an elongated center area and a 4.5-foot perimeter sidewalk wide enough to allow two people to pass each other comfortably.

Helterbran stated that the biggest concerns he has heard are regarding the tree removal on the Diamond. It was noted that the older trees have added to the Ligonier aesthetic charm and are appreciated by the town's residents and visitors. The oldest are approximately 65-70 years old. Helterbran explained that with the work that is to be done on the Diamond the roots of the current trees will more than likely be damaged to the extent that the trees will die within a short period of time. If this is the case, the Borough will then have to go in and replace the trees and tear up the Diamond again.

Councilman Matt Smith added that the Borough would plant large caliper trees, which are salt-tolerant and suited for the conditions around the Diamond area.

Resident Paul Goodfellow of Summit Avenue asked who would cover the repair cost if damage continues after the Diamond is rebuilt.

Helterbran answered that the truck companies would be responsible. The renovation plan also includes an enhanced security camera system to monitor traffic and identify vandals.

Engineer Greg Elliot added that the lawn area of the Diamond will be reinforced with a concrete product yet to be decided on as there are several types to be considered to stabilize lawn areas. Elliot added that at some point the existing curb is so worn down that it is virtually flush with the asphalt. Installing a higher curb will create a stronger barrier.

Councilmember Judy Hoffer questioned the potential liability issues for the higher curb concerning people tripping or falling over.

Elliot replied that the curb height is in compliance with building codes and only two inches greater than the PennDOT standard. The Borough would be responsible for any incidents regardless of the curb height.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made by Pat Scanlon and seconded by Matt Smith to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul A Fry
Secretary-Treasurer
Office Manager