

Myerstown, PA
Monday, March 16, 2015

President Bryan L. Rittle called the public meeting to order at 6:34 p.m., on Monday, March 16, 2015. The meeting was held in Borough Council Chambers in the Myerstown Municipal Center, 101 East Washington Avenue, Myerstown, PA 17067.

Present were: President Bryan L. Rittle, Park W. Haverstick, II, Mayor Gloria R. Ebling; Recreation Board Chairman Zina Rittle, Zoning Hearing Board Chairman James L. Rittle, ARRO Consultant Michael Knouse, Deputy Secretary Lisa A. Brubaker and Manager Christopher J. Moonis.

The Public meeting is being held as part of the requirements for the DCNR (Department of Conservation and Natural Resources) Development Grant Application for the purpose of the revitalization of the swimming pool.

The Manager gave background history on the conditions at the pool that were discovered prior to opening for the 2014 season. It was not in a safe condition. The Borough Council authorized the spending of funds to get the pool back into usable condition. With the contractors and volunteers help we were able to get the pool usable and open. At the same time, options on renovating the pool, more than just fixing it were researched. The pool is an asset to the community, but to make it a show piece and a place people want to come on a regular bases renovation are needed. With that, the Manager went to DCNR for the process to acquire funding to help the borough pay for renovations to the pool.

The Manager stated Katie Perloski is present from Wade Associates to present the revocation plan for the pool. The Borough contracted Wade Associates to do a feasibility study on the pool. Wade Associates is an expert in development and design for new pools as well as reconstruction and renovations of existing pools. A feasibility study is a requirement in order for the borough to apply for funding through DCNR and it also helps to apply for funding in other places having this study completed. Another requirement is having a Public Meeting that is why we are here tonight to review and discuss what Wade Associates have come up with and what we need to do next to apply for funds specifically with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. There will be a public comment and discussion period after the presentation.

Katie Perloski - Wade Associates – passed out booklets with information on other pool work the company has done. Currently, the borough pool is not in ADA compliance. The first part for compliance would be the placement of a ramp or beach entry or a ramp and steps. What they are proposing is a zero depth entry onto the existing pool. This would allow for the ADA access together with a second step entry.

A pool needs to provide things for the youth to do. Water features are the best attraction for a pool. A tube slide is shown and water features placed in the zero entry for ages zero to seven years old. The lane lines have been kept open for general and competition swimming. A climbing wall has been added at the deep end of the pool. Seating has been added near the pool house for parents. A separate wading pool has been added. The first portion was no standing water. You would walk down that portion to the water, again with a zero depth entry.

The existing filter building would still be used but a new filtration system would be placed in that building. The diving well would be deepened if diving boards are placed. The Manager asked if the water features can be changed based on costs. Katie Perloski stated the features can all be bid as line items on the bid and can be adjusted from there. The infrastructure could be placed and then features could be added at a later time to meet budget restraints. The Manager asked if the bath house is part of the plan. There are ADA compliance issues there also. Katie Perloski stated it is not but can be part of the plan. Michael Knouse from ARRO Engineering stated the bath house could be part of the DCNR funding application.

Myerstown, PA
Monday, March 16, 2015

The fencing around the pool was discussed. The Recreation Board Chairman stated the fencing is coming apart in areas and there are a lot of issues with the fence. Michael Knouse stated fencing can also be part of the application.

The Council President asked what material is the surface area that was discussed for the baby pool. Katie Perloski stated the no water area will be a rubber material, than an abrasive tile will be placed for approximately eight to ten feet, then plasterer with an aggregate finish. The rubber material will last about twenty years and it is made for chlorine water. The Council President asked how the steps are ADA compliant. Katie Perloski stated as long as you have a ramp, lift or beach entry in the pool steps can be your second entry for compliance.

The Manager asked if the new design will require additional lifeguards. Katie Perloski stated the design will require four to five lifeguards.

Recreation Board Chairman stated the pool is made of concrete now, if reconstructed what will it be made of then. Katie Perloski stated it will be concrete again, but with a plasterer finish so you will not have to paint it and it could last twenty years if taken care of. There is also a cover that can be placed over the pool during the winter season for additional protection.

The Manager asked what are the differences from the current filtration system to the new filtration system in this plan. Katie Perloski explained the new system will be a sand filter and the chlorine will be an injection system. The system will be wireless and manage all of the pool chemistry. It can be monitored from a smart phone, I pad, or computer. A pesticide license will still be required.

Councilmember Park W. Haverstick, II asked if there is any benefit to a salt water system as a posed to a chlorine system. Katie Perloski stated salt is great and better for the environment but it is not good for large pools, but for a large pool it would not keep up with the usage.

Michael Knouse stated as part of looking for grant opportunities the borough has to address the Americans with Disabilities Act which requires the designing of things like the zero entry and secondary excesses because of looking for state funding there are certain guidelines that have to be met. The current pool does not meet some of the guidelines so that is why it is being addressed in the new design.

The Manager asked for the scheduling be discussed. Michael Knouse stated the DCNR Grant Application cycle is April 15, 2015. They accept several types for submissions like construction and pools are part of construction. As part of the application you have to compile certain items, like an on-lime grant application, supplemental information and public comments. After the application deadline, applicants are notified in the fall if funding has been awarded. The borough has been in contact with DCNR and they are excited to see our application. There is a matching portion to the grant of 50-50 and the normal maximum received from DCNR is \$300,000.00. The Boroughs match can be through private donation, borough funds and other grant funding. The construction period is approximately nine months.

The Manager stated this part of an overall plan. The borough will also be submitting a grant application for a master park plan. This plan is part of the requirement to get funding for DCNR Grants. It shows the borough is looking at all of their green space not just the pool.

Katie Perloski stated the company that makes the water features, if someone makes a major donation, their logo can be designed into the water feature.

Sam Moyer asked if ADA compliance is required are there funds from the ADA available to use. There is funding for curb cuts and there funds for this type of project. Council President stated it would be nice if there was but the Redevelopment Authority does the curb cuts, it is a different authority. Councilmember Park W. Haverstick, II stated ADA compliance is one of those things you are required to do and add and if you find the funding to make it ADA compliant you cannot have it. The Council President stated it is one of those unfunded mandates municipalities deal with.

Myerstown, PA
Monday, March 16, 2015

The Council President stated there is an issue in getting the chlorine to the filter house. Could that filter house be relocated so there is easier access for the chlorine deliveries. Katie Perloski stated that is not currently part of the plan but it could be added.

James L. Rittle asked questions on the cover for the pool and what is this projects cost. Katie Perloski explained the cover goes across the pool and there are anchors in the pool that the cover attaches to and it is made of a heavy vinyl material. The estimated cost as presented here tonight is \$800,000.00.

The Manager brought attention to the diving area, prior discussion was because of liability issues no diving boards will be placed. Katie Perloski stated another type of water feature like a drop slide could be placed instead of diving boards.

Jackson Township Recreation Member Keith Miller was present. He asked if he may give some comments and ask some questions. The body welcomed him to the discussion. Jackson Township is currently starting the Fairlane Park. They are allowed to go for different grants based on different parts. Is there such a thing as wet projects and green projects, they can apply for construction and then again reapply for equipment. Is there any such breakdown that you can apply for more than one grant. Michael Knouse explained currently as far as grants, the construction grant through DCNR is the only grant available. That is why the borough will pursue other funding sources.

Mr. Miller stated instead of diving boards maybe something like a slip and slide would be fun for the children. Katie Perloski stated she has never seen something like that, but it is not a bad idea.

Mr. Miller asked about the increase in lifeguards, why would the number increase. Katie Perloski explained the design adds new areas to the pool and with the addition of water features like the slides, it is required that a lifeguard be stationed there. The Recreation Board Chairman explained how the lifeguards rotated.

The Manager expressed he is glad representation from Jackson Township was present and would like to continue to building a working relationship with them. The State really favors joint applications and letters of support for projects from adjoining municipalities. As we get into a comprehensive park study that is where we are linking the two communities and those are huge advantages on being on the same page. The Manager appreciates Mr. Miller being here and providing comments. The more we can look at these things together the better opportunities we will have. Working together all makes the quality of life better for our communities.

The Manager thanked everyone for coming and Katie Perloski from Wade Associates for the presentation. The Council President also thanked everyone for coming.

There were no additional comments.

The Council President adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m. the Manager will be present until 8:00 p.m. for any additional comments as publically advertised.

Lisa A. Brubaker
Deputy Secretary

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