

Ross Township Commissioners Meeting
1000 Ross Municipal Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
July 18, 2016
7:30 p.m.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Jeremy Shaffer (via telephone), Daniel L. DeMarco, Grace Stanko, David J. Mikec, Lana Mazur, Stephen Korbelt, Richard Avon and Jack Betkowski

ABSENT: Patrick Mullin

SOLICITOR: John Stranahan, Esq.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER: Douglas Sample

RECORDING SECRETARY: Deborah Ann Betzler

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND BOARD LIAISON: Dominic J. Rickert

Commissioner Mikec is acting chairman.

Pledge of Allegiance/Invocation

A moment of silence was held for the lives lost overseas and here in the United States due to the senseless violence over the past week. Thoughts and prayers go to Larry and Joan Tielsch on the tragic death of their daughter, Dana Marie Tielsch.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS - None

PETITIONS AND COMPLAINTS - None

RESOLUTIONS TO BE ADOPTED:

Resolution No. 2209 – Approving a plan revision for land development for a parcel of land identified as the LRC Redevelopment Project (7451 and 7475 McKnight Road)



Motion to adopt made by Commissioner Korbelt and seconded by Commissioner Mazur.

Motion passes – 8 to 0

ORDINANCES TO BE INTRODUCED - None

ORDINANCES TO BE ENACTED - None

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of Minutes – June 20, 2016

Motion to approve made by Commissioner Mazur and seconded by Commissioner DeMarco.

**Motion passes – 6 to 0 with 2 abstentions
Commissioners Avon and Korbelt abstaining**

PAYMENT OF BILLS AND FINANCIAL REPORTS:

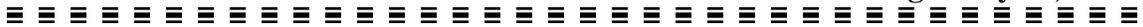
Motion to approve made by Commissioner Mazur and seconded by Commissioner DeMarco.

Commissioner Avon commented that he did not have a problem with the sum of Ms. Brimmeier’s bill, but he suggested that the work that is done with developers is identified on the bill so the Finance Department knows they can take it out of the sum paid by the developers.

**Motion passes – 6 to 0 with 2 abstentions
Commissioners Stanko and Mazur abstaining**

PLANNING COMMISSION:

S-16-6 – David Batykefer requesting consolidation and subdivision approval for property located at 252 Gass Road in an R-1 Zoning District of the 4th Ward.



Mr. Rickert read the Planning Commission recommendation as follows:

MR. RICKERT: "The Planning Commission, having reviewed this application, is of the opinion that it meets the terms as set forth in the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance and/or the Zoning Ordinance and hereby recommends approval of the above Consolidation and Subdivision application."

Mr. David Batykefer, 122 Sunset Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15237, was present and explained his request in detail. He stated the request is basically a subdivision between him and his brother. Mr. Batykefer is deeding a 40-foot access drive to get to the two-acre plot in the rear. He is staying on his half of the paper street. They want to make sure it stays a private drive. There are no issues with the right-of-way.

Motion to approve made by Commissioner DeMarco and seconded by Commissioner Mazur.

Motion passes – 8 to 0

PLANNING/ZONING REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT:

Commissioner Korbelt stated they are continuing to work through some changes to zoning ordinances that Mr. Rickert is working on that will probably be ready for review in the committee very soon. Regarding the chicken matter, Commissioner Korbelt clarified that nothing has been drafted in this regard. They are examining the issue, and there will be plenty of opportunity for public input in that process.

The old Jerry’s Car Wash and the Kia dealership have been demolished where the First National Bank and the Chick-fil-A will be located. Commissioner Mikec commented that he has received “a lot of serious concerns from residents” regarding restrictions due to the size of the lot. There is an ordinance with regard to nuisance animals. Commissioner Korbelt indicated he was interested to see how a current matter before the magistrate is resolved. Commissioner Mazur agreed the topic needs more discussion.



SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Regarding an issue previously raised by Commissioner Mikec, Mr. Stranahan commented as follows:

MR. STRANAHAN: "Last meeting Commissioner Mikec had asked the solicitor's office to review possible legal action against the gas company for an expenditure that the township had made. And after reviewing the materials and the circumstances that led to that expenditure, the solicitor doesn't see that there's a chance of litigation here, success in litigation. So that's our position on it."

RECREATION COMMITTEE REPORT:

Commissioner Mazur commented that there were 85 participants that came to see The Good Dinosaur at Rosecliff Park. The next movie will be Inside Out on July 22nd at Sangree Park. Commissioner Korbel stated each child that attends Inside Out will receive a free scoop of ice cream. On July 29th at Denny Park will be the movie Frozen. Popcorn and water will be provided.

The annual Fishing Tournament was a success. Commissioner Mazur thanked all those who donated items for the tournament including Aramark, Attorney Cathy Conley, Dunham's, Fischer Landscaping, GT Cleaning, Mazur's, Michael Heintz, Monte Cello's, Paul Trilli, Pepsi-Cola, Remo's, Ross Police, Public Works, Eloise Peet, Frank Zotter, all the commissioners and the taxpayers.

ADMINISTRATION/LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT - None

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT:

Commissioner Mikec stated Public Works continues to work on the ball fields, grass cutting and weed spraying.

PUBLIC SAFETY/POLICE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Commissioner Avon reminded everyone the distracted driving presentation will be held on Thursday, July 21st, at 7:00 p.m. in the commissioners' meeting room. There will also be a Crime Watch

meeting held on Thursday, August 4th, at 7:15 in the commissioners' meeting room. The Crime Watch meeting will be held in cooperation with District Judge Richard Opiela.

Commissioner Korbelt mentioned that he spoke to the chief regarding people being in Sangree Park after dusk playing Pokemon Go and going on private property. The chief stated they are aware of the situation and have reminded people on social media to be aware of their surroundings. The chief stated it also ties in with distracted driving, as people are playing the game as they drive and causing accidents. Commissioner Korbelt stated if there is a virtual battleground on your property, there is a method to contact the company to get it removed.

PUBLIC SAFETY/FIRE/FIRE POLICE/EMS COMMITTEE REPORT - None

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Mr. Sample advised everyone that on their desk is a copy of the McKnight Road Corridor Study. He requested everyone review it and let him know if there are any questions.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS:

Commissioner Korbelt thanked the Berkeley Hills Civic Association for putting on their "fabulous summer picnic." He also thanked the Berkeley Hills Fire Department for bringing their truck and spraying the kids with water. He also stated that on August 26th in Sangree Park the movie Back to the Future will be shown. There will be a replica DeLorean that people can sit in and get their pictures taken.

Commissioner Stanko thanked the Ross Police for their participation in the Fishing Tournament. She mentioned an incident with a resident whose husband couldn't make it where Officer Immekus helped her bait her hook. She also thanked Commissioner Mazur for her efforts on the Fishing Tournament.



Although he couldn't make it, Commissioner Shaffer thanked everyone involved with the Fishing Tournament. He also thanked the Police Department for their continued efforts. He also commented on the fact that the township has a AA bond rating, which is higher than the State of Pennsylvania, City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County.

Commissioner Mikec expressed his disappointment in missing the Fishing Tournament, but he thanked Commissioner Mazur for all her efforts.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS:

Mr. Louis Sander, 153 Mayer Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15237, addressed the Board regarding the chicken issue. He stated there is concern that a chicken ordinance will "be rushed through by dark of night." Mr. Sander also stated he had no problems with the chickens on Mayer Drive.

Ms. Suzan Krauland, 100 Grove Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15229, addressed the Board regarding the chicken issue. She stated she has chickens and invited the Board to view her property. She indicated she sent information to Commissioner Avon regarding chickens.

Mrs. Melissa Northcote Green, 148 Mayer Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15237, addressed the Board regarding the chicken issue. She stated she was the resident taken to the magistrate. She indicated the reason she was taken to the magistrate was because she did not move her chicken coop in the allotted time frame and not because of any other issue. Mrs. Green indicated she hadn't moved it because she was trying to make amends with her neighbors that had the problem.

Mrs. Beth Ann Scarlatelli, 10 Sunsetview Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15229, addressed the Board regarding chickens. She stated they have chickens, and she described her situation to the Board in detail. She described the educational value of chickens. The matter of fertilization was discussed.

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Mrs. Irene Baker, 188 Baker Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15237,
stated she has a neighbor with chickens and that she is pro chickens.

**Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Korbelt and
seconded by Commissioner DeMarco.**

Motion passes – 8 to 0

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:20 P.M.

**Douglas Sample
Manager/Secretary**

**By: _____
Jeremy Shaffer, President
Ross Township Board of
Commissioners**

Minutes transcribed by *Deborah Ann Betzler, Court Reporter*