

**Meeting Minutes
State College Borough Council
Regular Meeting
Monday, March 18, 2019**

The State College Borough Council met in a regular meeting on Monday, March 18, 2019, in the Municipal Building, 243 South Allen Street, State College, PA, 16801. Mayor Hahn called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Present: Donald M. Hahn, Mayor
Evan Myers, Council President
Jesse L. Barlow
David J. Brown
Catherine G. Dauler
Janet P. Engeman
Theresa D. Lafer
Dan Murphy

Also Present: Terry J. Williams, Borough Solicitor; Roger A. Dunlap, Assistant Borough Manager; Deborah A.S. Hoag, Director of Public Works; John A. Gardner, Chief of Police; Dwight Miller, Finance Director; Douglas Shontz, Communications Specialist; P. Rick Ward, Parking Manager; Tom Dougherty, Student Representative; Alan Sam, Arborist/Environmental Coordinator; Sharon K. Ergler, Assistant Borough Secretary; Borough residents and members of the media.

ABC Reports

Tree Commission – Lynn Herman, Chairman of the Tree Commission and resident of East McCormick Avenue, provided Council with an annual update on the Commission’s activities for 2018. He said that the Commission will continue to review the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and areas for new parks or improvements for current parks. Lastly, he discussed the issue of invasive species of insects that threaten trees in the Borough including the Emerald Ash Borer and the Spotted Lantern Fly.

Design Review Board – Laird Jones, Chairman of the Design Review Board, updated Council on the Board’s annual activities for 2018. Mr. Laird stated that board membership and charges changed for the DHRB and the HARB. In 2018, the DHRB reviewed fourteen plans for commercial structures, seven signs including five needing replacements, a driveway extension plan, four historic properties, reviewed the HARB guidelines, worked on the Holtzman award, and some additional projects.

Ms. Lafer commented that she was impressed by the number of things that went over the DHRB’s table and got done.

Items of Information from Council Members

Mr. Barlow said he was working on a resolution on climate change that updated Resolution 944 from August 2007 after the Kyoto Accords in 2000. He stated the resolution looked at the next stage including recent reports on climate change that covered issues like greenhouse gasses and renewable energy from now until 2050 for the Ready for 100 City. He said that it was based off models from the Sierra Club’s Ready for 100 Movement and the Sunrise Movement. He noted it will be proposed in April and will be like the one passed in Ferguson Township in 2017.

Mr. Myers said he wanted to speak about two items. He said there was a copy of the Green New Deal resolution introduced into Congress online. He noted that some folks felt the resolution is radical but might be what the Borough needed. He stated that the main tenets were to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emission, create high wage jobs, ensure prosperity and economic security, clean air and water, healthy food access to nature, and a sustainable environment among others. He urged Council members to review the resolution because the issue will come before Council in April.

For the second item, Mr. Myers discussed the attack on a synagogue in Pittsburgh in last November when people across the country and the rest of the world came together and condemned the attack as an act of terror, white nationalism, and hatred. He mentioned that a similar attack occurred last week in New Zealand under the guise of the same hatred. He said that the New Zealand Prime Minister stated that the people who caused the attack might have been born in New Zealand but were not us. He said that those who were attacked were refugees and people seeking escape from fear. He mentioned that in last November in State College, the congregation of Brit Shalom held a community service in reaction to the synagogue in Pittsburgh. He said there were more people there in that synagogue than in history including different faith groups, Council members and county officials. He acknowledged that even though many groups including immigrants, refugees, people of color, and people from the LGBTQA+ community were scared, the response from the State College community provided comfort and hope. It sent a clear message to those who espouse hatred, xenophobia, violence and prejudice, and will not be accepted by the community. He discussed a recently passed resolution by the U.S. House of Representatives that condemned hatred for multiple groups and minorities. He stated that he was proud of this local government's long history of standing against hate and discrimination through different ordinances and actions to make State College an open, welcome, inclusive and diverse community. He acknowledged that local government may need to do more to protect its citizens and that the community will need to do more too through welcoming people who do not look like us, do not speak like us, do not worship like us, and immigrated in a different way than we did. He quoted Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by stating that hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that, and that the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice. Finally, he encouraged citizens to support the local Muslim community.

Public Hour – Hearing of Citizens

Terran Sumal, a resident of 2432 Pinehurst Drive, discussed the importance of climate policy and action. He urged people to look at the Green New Deal. He stated that young people, especially low-income people of color in diverse communities, will experience the drastic events of climate change the most. He stated that the Sunrise Movement and the Sierra Club support the federal Green New Deal, local initiatives and programs like the Ready for 100. He urged Council to continue pushing for further climate change resolutions like Resolution 944.

Roshni Raag, a resident of 160 McCann Drive in State College Borough, discussed the urgency to mobilize in response to the climate crisis and to build political will in local governments to support the federal Green New Deal. She said that the federal Green New Deal outlined a plan to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, to invest in poverty-stricken communities, and to guarantee jobs in support of the plan. She urged Council to pass the resolution in support of the Green New Deal to show that this was what the people want, particularly for youth.

Jasmine Tau, a resident of 2365 Longfellow Court, discussed the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which found that the rising global temperatures over 2 degrees Celsius will lead to a massive economic crisis, migrations, a doubling of wildfires, a loss of coral reefs, and immense damages to health. She stated these impacts will disproportionately impact low-income and marginalized communities who live at the frontlines, but do not have the resources to mitigate the effects of climate change. She said that to reduce these effects, we must reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 40 percent by 2030 through investing in renewable energy, building smart power grids, upgrading building efficiency, overhauling transportation systems, and focusing on equality and creating high-wage jobs. She urged Council to listen to the many stories of young people who will face the impacts of climate change and to act.

Mayor Hahn acknowledged that the matter of climate change will be on a future Council agenda and advertised to allow the public to make comments about potential action. He stated there were two ways for an issue to get onto the Council agenda: 1) the manager can put it on the agenda, and 2) the citizens can collect a petition (2 percent of the voters in the last municipal election or 90 signatures) to put it on the agenda.

Mr. Myers stated that Mr. Barlow already brought the issue of climate change forward and that it will be discussed on the Council agenda in April. He said he did not have a specific date, but the proposed resolution will be publicized prior to the meeting.

Mayor Hahn noted that regular meetings were scheduled for April 1 and April 15 and the work session was scheduled for April 8.

Matt Vidic, the President of the Centre Soccer Association and resident of 114 West Whitehall Road, expressed concern with the Planning Commission's decision for the use agreement for the lighting at the State College Area School District's South Track Field. The agreement removed community groups like the Centre Soccer Association (CSA) from the ability to use the field with lights. He stated that CSA wanted inclusion in the use agreement, and that the school district's last presentation included community group use as part of the use for the new facilities. He acknowledged the lack of turf fields in the area and that barring community groups from using the field was a waste of resources. He stated that he prepared a list of how CSA planned to use the field. He stated there was no disruption to the neighborhood from the group's use of the field.

Mayor Hahn asked if the rezoning was on the calendar and Ms. Lafer stated that the lighting agreement will be an item of discussion for April with background information and a draft ordinance available to review and consider.

Mr. Sumal asked a question regarding the 2 percent petition and whether the petition signers needed to be aged 18 or older. Mr. Williams answered Mr. Sumal's question that the individuals must be registered voters and residents of the Borough of State College.

Consent Items

Ms. Lafer made a motion to approve the following Consent Items. Ms. Engeman and Ms. Dauler seconded the motion.

- Approve *with conditions* the use of various Borough sidewalks on Sunday, October 13, 2019, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., for the annual CROP Walk to raise funds to alleviate hunger both locally and worldwide.
- Approve the use of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Plaza, from 4:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., on April 5, May 3, June 7, July 5, August 2, September 6, October 4, November 1, and December 6, 2019, for the Downtown State College Improvement District's First Friday activities.
- Approve *with conditions* the use of Sidney Friedman Park, on Saturday, April 13, 2019, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., for the annual Renaissance Faire, which is sponsored by the Pennsylvania State University Renaissance Club.
- Approve the use of various Borough sidewalks, on Sunday, April 14, 2019, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., for the 4th annual Palm Sunday Peace Walk.
- Approve *with conditions* the use of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Plaza, on Wednesday, April 17, 2019, from 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., for a RAW Tools Blacksmith Demonstration, which is being sponsored by the University Mennonite Church and 3rd Way Collective.
- Approve *with conditions* the partial closure of East Park Avenue, between Bigler Road and University Drive, on Friday, April 26, 2019, from 1 p.m. to 11:30 p.m., for the PSU-sponsored 2019 Movin' On Concert.

- Approve the use of Locust Lane, from East College Avenue to Wilson Alley, for the Tuesday Farmers' Market, to be held every week beginning April 30 through November 5, 2019, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Approve *with conditions* the use of Locust Lane, from East College Avenue to Wilson Alley, for the Friday Farmers' Market, to be held every week beginning May 3 through November 22, 2019, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Note: There will be no market on July 12 (Central PA Arts Festival) and August 23 (PSU student move-in weekend).
- Approve the closure of Calder Way, between Locust Lane and McAllister Street, for St. Paul's United Methodist Church Vacation Bible School, from June 17 through 21 (Monday-Friday), 2019, each evening between 5:45 p.m. and 8:15 p.m.
- Approve Payroll and Accounts Payable vouchers for the month ended February 28, 2019 totaling \$3,005,601.09.
- Approve the minutes from the meetings held in November, December, January and February.

November 5, 2018	Regular Meeting
November 13, 2018	Work Session
November 19, 2018	Regular Meeting/Work Session
November 20, 2018	Work Session
December 3, 2018	Regular Meeting
December 10, 2018	Work Session
December 17, 2018	Regular Meeting
January 14, 2019	Regular Meeting
February 4, 2019	Regular Meeting
February 11, 2019	Regular Meeting/Work Session

- Award the contract for six- and eight-cubic-yard refuse containers to Valley Can Custom Container, in the amount of \$33,585.00.

General Policy and Administration

Race, Equity, and Leadership (REAL) Overview and Update

Mr. Dunlap reported that in September 2017, the Borough began participating in the National League of Cities' Race, Equity and Leadership (REAL) initiative. REAL was created in the wake of the 2014 unrest in Ferguson, Missouri to strengthen local leaders' knowledge and capacity to eliminate racial disparities, heal racial division, and build more equitable communities. REAL offered tools and resources designed to help local elected leaders build safe places where people from all racial, ethnic and cultural backgrounds thrive socially, economically, academically, and physically. He stated that the Borough's REAL Team consists of Councilwoman Dauler, Mayor Hahn, former Mayor Goreham, Lydia Abdullah, Tom Fountaine, Tom King and Kevin Kassab. He reminded Council this was an item of information only and no action of Council was required.

Ms. Dauler said she was pleased to give an update on the efforts of REAL in State College and as one of the thirty communities around the country participating in REAL. She stated she felt optimistic about making change in the community. She said the first thing the National League of Cities did was complete a baseline survey in addition to bi-monthly learning calls and bi-monthly webinars to focus on identifying new efforts to advance racial equity and racial healing. She stated the goal was to combat institutionalized racism in city government through results-based racial equity. She said that during several bi-monthly webinars, there were several cities that had moved ahead in addressing racial inequity. First steps included starting with facts and creating safe spaces for every point of view for people to be heard and understood. She said the Borough needed to emphasize that today's racial inequities did

not depend on intentional racism and required countering stereotypes and biases through exploring contradictions and educating leaders. She said that it was the job of everyone to understand and build racial equity. She stated that the outcomes of REAL involved developing a racial equity statement, a racial equity plan, training for government staff, disaggregated and analyzing data, and using a racial equity lens for hiring, legislation, policy and procurement. The Borough of State College worked on racial equity through holding town hall forums, establishing the Human Relations Commission in 2008, antidiscrimination ordinances, an anti-discrimination employment ordinance, fair housing ordinance, passing resolutions in December 2016 about commitment equity and inclusion, a January 2017 resolution on immigration enforcement, the opening of MLK Plaza in August 2017, mayoral proclamations of the National Day of Racial Healing in January 2018/2019 and Immigrant Heritage Month in June 2018. Other items include the Community and Campus in Unity, a Taskforce on Policing and Communities of Color, a Taser Advisory Committee, biased-based policy, a LGBTQ+ Advisory Committee, and the Community Diversity Group Conference (CDG) held annually.

Public Works

East Fairmount Avenue Park

Mr. Dunlap stated Landscape Architect, Dan Jones, was present to give an overview that described the proposed improvements to the East Fairmount Avenue Park. He said Mr. Jones was hired to work with staff and residents to develop a Master Plan for the Park in anticipation of applying for a Pennsylvania Department and Conservation and Natural Resources Grant (DCNR). He said that Council was asked to review the proposed park improvements and adopt a resolution authorizing the officers of the Borough to sign the DCNR Grant application.

Mr. Shontz announced there were technical difficulties and would make the presentation available on all the social media channels. Mr. Myers suggested moving to the next section of Council's agenda and come back to the presentation.

After discussion of the Regional Liaison Reports, the discussion resumed about East Fairmount Avenue Park. Mr. Dunlap stated that after much trial and error that the presentation was available online and through social media. He said there were hard copies of the presentation available too.

Mr. Jones said he appreciated the opportunity to work on numerous parks and spaces over for the years for the Borough and for Centre Region Parks. He said East Fairmount Park was another collaborative effort opportunity for the Borough. The Park's location was very a strategic location when it was purchased in 1970s. Since then, it evolved into a natural and social space, but there was never a master plan for the Park. He said it was a good time to consider the improvement of the Park's facilities. He stated the goals involved preparing a comprehensive vision based on community input; accommodating preferred activities; enhancing natural features; organizing pedestrian circulation; creating a beautiful and dignified neighborhood space; improving accessibility, and finally, meeting the requirements of the DCNR grant. The process already involved citizens, particularly the neighborhood who said they liked the proposed concepts back in the fall, He said the neighborhood wanted more shade, more walking paths, more seating, better playground equipment, more nature and more choices for all ages. He said he agreed with the things the neighborhood wanted. He stated that no one came up and said during the evaluation process that they just loved this park because it was so beautiful; rather that they liked it, but that the Park was not beautiful. He stated the preliminary objectives of the park were to maintain existing good qualities; improve identify and character; enhance the park for use by people of all ages; improve accessibility for those with disabilities; improve natural diversity; and create a neighborhood defining space. He said the first concept he presented involved a formal center, a big lawn, with nature around two sides, and it retained the play zone and introduced a picnic zone or shelter. There was seating along the pathway. For the second concept, he said it was a combination of formal and informal elements with a shelter as the focal point with a lawn, trees, pathways and benches. He stated the neighborhood liked both concepts. Mr. Jones suggested an alternative concept for a path because the neighborhood suggested something less rectangular. The third concept had an entrance on the side and maintained the zones – the play zone, picnic zone, walking zone, and trees or natural zones. He said the most recent

concept was similar with a formal lawn zone in a hockey rink shape and plantings along the alleyway. He said there was a handicap parking space and concrete curb to define the space. He anticipated the cost estimate to be \$165,000 from a variety of sources like CDBG money, CIP money, in-kind labor by the Borough and CRPR, and PA DCNR. He acknowledged that \$165,000 was a lot of money, but it would be an investment for the neighborhood, and he hoped for a resolution for plan refinement for DCNR.

Ms. Lafer moved to approve the request for the resolution for the grant. She acknowledged that it was not an expensive Park improvement compared to other parks in the community. She stated that because there was no name or sign in the park, she named it Sunrise Park because it was opposite from Sunset Park and you could see the sun come up over Mount Nittany. She expressed curiosity about the larger plantings and would wait to see for further information about the trees in the Park.

Mr. Jones said that trees have not been specified yet. He stated that he was working with Mr. Sam about which trees to keep and that most of the vegetation will remain. He said there was one large tree that Mr. Sam felt was unsafe and will be removed. All the other trees will be large shade trees with diversified flowers, understory trees and shrubs along the edge.

Mr. Myers stated there was a motion on the floor to adopt the resolution of the DCNR application. Mr. Myers seconded the motion.

Mr. Barlow stated he was strongly in favor of the motion because the price looked like a bargain.

Eric White, a resident of 500 East Fairmount Avenue who lived in view of the park, stated that when his family moved in 1976, they bought their house because there was a park close by. In 1976, it was not a pretty park, but it was functional, and he sent his children to the park to play regularly. He stated he took his granddaughter to the park nowadays. He urged Council to approve the park improvements because he sensed that the park was neglected, and it was time to give the park more attention than in the past. He stated that the community does find the park to be valuable. He expressed that staff were fantastic, that the landscape architect listened to everything everyone said, and made changes in response to what the community wanted. He urged Council to vote for moving it forward.

Leif Jensen, a resident of 529 East Prospect Avenue who also lived in view of the park, stated that the residents of the East Highlands felt besieged and neglected, and that the improvements to the park would counteract those sentiments. He said he was strongly in favor, along with other neighbors. He stated he was impressed by the process and was proud of the Borough and County staff involved because the result looked nice.

Mr. Brown asked if COG, the Borough or CRPR maintained the park? Mr. Jones responded that CRPR maintained the park.

The motion to adopt the resolution passed unanimously.

Official Reports and Correspondence

Mayor's Report – Mayor Hahn stated he felt encouraged by the Council candidates he had seen in the audience and asked if they felt sure after seeing this meeting. He congratulated the State College High wrestling, swimming, diving teams, and girls'/boys' basketball and indoor track field and teams on their seasons. He stated that the swimming, diving, and boys' basketball teams won their respective district championships as did Cole Urbas in wrestling. He acknowledged that Jude Swisher and Cole Urbas won the Northwest Regional Championships. The boys' track and field team finished first at the Pennsylvania Track and Field Coaches Association Championship as did Stanley Hamilton in the triple jump. Cole Urbas also placed fourth at the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association Championships for wrestling, and Matt Brownstead won two gold medals in swimming at the PIAA for boys' 50-yard and boys' 100-yard freestyle. He noted that Wednesday, March 21, was Holi, the Hindu Festival of Colors. He encouraged everyone to also attend the Open House next Friday at the Islamic Society of Central Pennsylvania at 709 Ridge Avenue, at 5 PM to honor victims of the New Zealand shooting. He stated

there was also a candlelight vigil on Old Main Lawn. He encouraged greater unity and commitment behind justice. Lastly, he acknowledged that yesterday, March 17, was St. Patrick's Day, noting that the United States allowed unlimited immigration within regard for national origin at the time and of the Irish Potato Famine in the 1840's, causing many people to immigrate to the United States. There was an anti-Irish reaction because the United State was an overwhelmingly Protestant nation and many Irish were Catholic. However, Mayor Hahn stated that things worked out over time and we were a better place because of it.

President's Report – Mr. Myers reported that Council met in an Executive Session on February 28, 2019 to discuss personnel matters. He echoed the sentiments made by Mayor Hahn regarding immigration and urged folks to attend the events in solidarity.

Regional Liaison Reports

Executive – Mr. Myers stated the next meeting will happen tomorrow, March 19. He stated that Jim Steff, COG's Executive Director, asked on behalf of the Public Safety Committee if he would designate a representative to serve on a steering committee. The steering committee would be tasked with a scope of work for a consultant-guided study to identify a future service delivery model regional fire protection program. The goal of the proposed study would be to create an implementation plan to provide high quality services at a low cost for the next several years. Mr. Myers designed Mr. Murphy because Mr. Murphy already served on the Ad-Hoc Building Committee, which completed the work of the proposed steering committee.

Finance – Mr. Myers stated that the Finance Committee met last week.

Finance and Public Service Environmental Joint Session – Mr. Myers stated there was a joint session last month at a recommendation made during the February 19, 2019 COG Executive Committee meeting. The session authorized a regional discussion of a joint solar power purchase, which fulfills Council's green goals of sustainability and it might save the Borough some money. He said the SCASD voted on participating in the effort, potentially resulting in a new type of intergovernmental partnership. The Borough Manager felt this was an administrative task and he agreed that the Borough would participate.

Human Resources – Mr. Murphy attended the March 6 meeting on behalf of Mr. Brown. The committee continued working on a personnel policy regarding two issues: the grievance resolution committee and anti-harassment committee. The committee decided to continue the anti-harassment committee as a safe place for staff to report harassment issues and eliminate the grievance resolution committee due to the concern of role of elected officials, employees, and the COG. The committee also reviewed meeting etiquette guidelines for public comment, which would be made available soon.

Parks Capital – Ms. Engeman stated the committee did not meet.

Public Safety – Mr. Brown attended the meeting on behalf of Ms. Dauler. He stated there were two things of importance. First, the Public Safety Committee, on behalf of COG, recommended a consulting firm be hired to select a new software package to assist Codes and all municipalities to permitting licenses, zoning and other land use. He stated the current software package was a disaster, and the committee would award a contract for a consultant to identify a better package. Second, he discussed the report on the steering committee, which focused on fire needs for the next 10 years. The report discussed the crisis in awareness in the Centre Region and the decrease of volunteerism. He stated that the Centre Region would soon face a critical tipping point of whether it could continue to operate fire and safety under the current system. He said they wanted to establish a broad county-wide study committee consisting of the police chief, technical members of different townships, Penn State employees and elected officials.

Public Services – Mr. Barlow said that the Public Services Committee did not meet and will meet on April 4.

Transportation and Land Use/MPO – Ms. Lafer stated it was a busy month because the committee worked on the 2040 plans and started the plans to cover 2050. She said they reevaluated and reorganized all options for transportation: roads, bridges, water and other infrastructure that might need to be covered for both COG and the MPO. She said every community spoke to PennDOT and COG about what we need and how we might obtain it. There are two or three very large projects including getting over the top of the mountain at Potters' Mills; step-by-step changes to the exit off I-80 West for a direct exit onto I-99; taking down things that block people's vision and adding new lights. She said the committee was working on local bridges on two county roads. She advised that in anyone in the largest

PennDOT region could bring them to the committee's attention. There were continued disruptions from the State College Borough Water Authority and Verizon, bringing spring traffic woes on Atherton Street early. PennDOT would be finished digging and resurfacing the next section of Atherton Street. She said that State College was not alone regarding infrastructure problems and that there was better than average movement towards repair compared to other states.

Ad-Hoc Facilities – Tom Brown attended the meeting on behalf of Mr. Murphy on March 12. Due to multiple absences, there was not a lot of business conducted. He said the committee reviewed space study RPFs to move forward sometime later in April at the General Forum. He said that the committee discussed the possibility of a facility manager, and that he would continue to share his opinion as conversations continued.

Centre Area Cable Consortium – Ms. Dauler said the Cable Consortium did not meet.

Manager's/Staff Reports – Mr. Dunlap said there was no report.

Student Representative Report – Mr. Dougherty stated there was a UPUA meeting of the 13th Assembly later that week on Wednesday, March 20. The UPUA meeting would be voting on UPUA funding and funding towards \$12,000 to expansion of Zagster downtown. He stated he set up a survey to go up on Engage State College for community members to fill out and to gauge interest. He stated that April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. He suggested a town and gown teal ribbon tying event where every single light post downtown tied with a ribbon has a resource card on it with both local and national hotlines. He hoped that the Borough will engage in the major issue.

Adjournment

There being no additional business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon K. Ergler
Assistant Borough Secretary

Prepared by: Melissa J. Krug, Administrative Assistant