



MP3 COG Board  
Wednesday, September 25, 2024  
6:00 PM  
Alsace Twp Municipal Bldg

**Members:** –J. Moore (Alsace Twp), L. Olsen (County), D. Pottiger (Lower Alsace), L. Kelleher (Reading) – in person and J. Baez, Jr. (Reading) - virtually

**Members absent:** K. Barnhardt (County), A. Sellers (Lower Alsace), K. Mallatratt (Alsace) B. Petrov (Mt. Penn), T. Goodman (Mt. Penn)

**Others attending** – D. Anspach (City Capital Projects Mgr), J. Oswald, K. Bradley - in person and L. Kissinger and R. Rock - virtually

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Olsen called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Olsen opened the floor for public comment.

Ms. Bradley, an Alsace Twp resident, stated that she resides on Oak Lane within Alsace Twp, near the border with Lower Alsace Twp. She stated that from her home she witnesses the constant speeding down the Oak Lane hill. She stated that the cars start speeding on Skyline Drive, speed down the Oak Lane hill and blow through the stop sign at Richmond Street creating public safety hazards for other vehicles and pedestrians. She stated that she made several requests to both townships to have 25 mph speed limit signs installed. To date signs have not been installed. She stated that she also often hears gunshots in this same area.

Mr. Moore stated that he will look into these matters.

There was no other public comment offered and the public comment period was closed.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES & AGENDA**

Mr. Olsen noted the need to consider the minutes from the May 2024 meeting and the agenda for this meeting.

**Mr. Moore moved, seconded by Mr. Olsen, to approve the May minutes. The motion was approved unanimously.**

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Moore presented the Treasurer's Report - the MP3 bank account has a balance of \$47,659.30 after disbursements totaling \$6,200 (concert expenses) and deposits totaling \$2842.50 (concert proceeds). He asked those present to consider ratifying the following concert bills:

- i. \$1620 for the Rock & Roll HOF event
- ii. \$96.04 for the purchase of 500 postcards the Aug 25<sup>th</sup> concert
- iii. Danny Paisley & The Southern Grass, check to Danny Paisley: \$1850
- iv. The Mountain Folk Band, check to David Kline: \$1850
- v. The Oley Rollers, check to Serafina Salvaterra: \$250
- vi. The Martha Spencer Band, check to Martha Spencer: \$1050
- vii. SANCO Sound & Lights, check to Mike Santerelli: \$1200
- viii. SANCO Sound & Lights c/o Mike Santerelli: \$1200 for Sept 22<sup>nd</sup> concert
- ix. BCRRHOF c/o Dave Kline: \$1800
- x. Flowers for stage c/o Dieter Wolter

**Ms. Kelleher moved, seconded by Mr. Moore, to ratify the expenses listed above and approve the Treasurer's Report. The motion was approved unanimously.**

Mr. Olsen called the board's attention to the Marketing Committee's request to purchase 4x6 cards to advertise the upcoming Blues Fest Concert. He explained how this works to effectively get the word out at a very low cost when considering the cost of other paid advertising outlets.

**Ms. Kelleher moved, seconded by Mr. Pottiger, to authorize the Marketing Committee to spend \$80 to purchase 200 4x6 cards to advertise the Blues Fest concert. The motion was approved unanimously.**

## MP3 COG REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS

### A. Natural Lands Stewardship Plan and Trails Feasibility Study

Ms. Kelleher explained why the presentation of the final plan was delayed, noting that the final presentation is scheduled for Tuesday, October 29<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm in Council Chambers, at Reading City Hall.

### B,C & D. Closure of Skyline – Duryea Dr to List Road, Guiderail Project & Security Cameras – D. Anspach, City Capital Project Manager

Mr. Anspach stated that the City received a denial letter for the multi-modal grant submitted for the **Guiderail project**, to separate the bike lane from the traffic lane from the Pagoda to McKnight's Gap. The guiderail would prevent cars from accessing the overlooks, block people from dumping over the stone walls and create a more park-like atmosphere rather than a through-way.

Mr. Anspach stated that while that portion of the plan isn't moving forward at this time, the installation of the gating to **close Skyline from Shearer and Duryea to List Road** will begin in early October. Also, under the sustainability plan, Schneider Electric will be installing solar LED lighting on Skyline Drive. He noted that he is unsure of the location of the lights.

Mr. Anspach stated that City Council recently approved a project to **install a security camera system on Skyline Drive from Shearer and Duryea to List Road**. Poles will be installed in 11 locations and each will contain 5 cameras with 360 degree coverage – one camera on each pole will have pan/tilt/zoom ability. The feeds will go directly to the City’s VSU area of the Police Department for live monitoring. Staff in the VSU will be able to use the pan/tilt/zoom feature. Access to the feed has also been offered to Central Berks, as they have jurisdiction in the Fire Tower area of Skyline, which is located within Lower Alsace Twp., and they also have jurisdiction to enforce some of the City’s ordinances on Skyline. He explained the locations and feed transmission with display boards of the areas.

Ms. Kelleher stated that the Public Safety Committee identified the need for a security camera system 6 years ago, but the cost was unaffordable.

Mr. Anspach agreed, noting that 3 years ago, a camera system was explored again and the cost was still \$1M for two cameras. He noted that due to technological improvements, the cost for this complete system is only \$500K, a marked improvement. LTW will begin the installation in four weeks with a one- or two-month installation period.

Mr. Anspach stated that the cameras will be very similar to those installed on City streets. They will be outfitted to withstand the weather conditions on Skyline Drive. He noted that attempts to vandalize or shoot the cameras will be caught on film. He explained that these cameras will provide the police with the ability to view areas when complaints are called in, allowing them to determine how to respond. The cameras will also be used to disclose unreported accidents, dumping and signs of fire.

Mr. Anspach described the City’s investment to cleanup Mineral Spring Park. Mr. Olsen suggested considering the installation of a gravity rail line from Mineral Spring Park to the Pagoda. Mr. Anspach stated that the City is considering that line from the city-owned property at 14<sup>th</sup> and Walnut Streets.

Mr. Anspach noted that the waiver of the Responsible Contractor Ordinance (RCO) has enabled to MEP (mechanical, electrical and plumbing) project at the Pagoda to move forward. Several firms have attended the pre-bid meetings. The first phase will repair/replace damaged structural features such as rotted wood, etc. The estimated cost is \$3M for the MEP and \$7M for the retaining walls.

Mr. Olsen thanked Mr. Anspach for the update and his work to cure the problems on Skyline Drive.

#### **E. Frisbee Golf Project**

Ms. Kelleher stated that when planning the concert series, the Marketing Committee sought an initiative that could be linked to the concerts as fundraisers. The board discussed this with Mr. Anspach at their May meeting and voted in favor of raising funds for a Frisbee Golf Course at either Egleman’s or Mineral Spring Parks.

Mr. Anspach expressed the belief that this initiative is well-suited to either park property and it has a price point that can be achieved by the MP3 – approximately \$20K.

#### **F. COG Events**

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2024 - BERKS BLUES FEST

@ The Reading Liederkrantz up on the Mountain

Mr. Olsen reported that the last concert will open the Berks Arts BluesFest. He noted the benefit of the partnership with Berks Art. He stated that Ms. Adams will no longer be assisting with organizing the concerts. Her assistance will be sorely missed. He stressed the need to identify new partners to assist with organizing the concerts and identifying volunteers.

Mr. Olsen stated that the first two concerts did not do as well as anticipated due to some timing hiccups during the planning phases. He stated that he will provide a full report after the BluesFest concert.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS – submission in written form only**

- Finance & Capital - none
- Promotions & Marketing - attached to the agenda
- Public Safety & Public Services - none
- Environmental & Land Use Committees – attached to the agenda

#### **WRITTEN REPORTS FROM PRESERVE STAKEHOLDERS**

None received.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

None.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Bradley stated that there is a half-fallen tree threatening the Mt. Penn Preserve trail sign located in the Richmond St/Oak Lane area. Mr. Kissinger stated that he will check on that issue.

**The presentation of the Natural Lands Trails & Forest Stewardship Plan is scheduled for Tuesday, October 29<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm at Reading City Hall, Council Chambers.**

**The next MP3 meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm at Lower Alsace Municipal Building.**

**The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:00 pm on motion of Mr. Moore and Ms. Kelleher respectively.**

*Respectfully submitted by Linda A. Kelleher, Secretary*

**Action Items:**

1. Ms. Kelleher to follow-up on the letters seeking volunteers