



MP3 COG Board
Wednesday, September 24, 2025
6:00 PM
Alsace Twp. Municipal Bldg

Members: –L. Olsen (County), L. Kelleher (Reading), D. Pottiger (Lower Alsace Twp), S. Dieroff (Alsace Twp), K. Bradley (Alsace Twp) – in person and A. Sellers (Lower Alsace Twp), J. Baez, Jr. (Reading) - virtually

Members absent: K. Barnhardt (County), R. Maurer (Mt Penn), M. Kindlick (Mt. Penn)

Others attending – K. Lerch – in person and B. Moyer and L. Kissinger - virtually

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Olsen called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm, noting that Mr. Barnhardt had a work conflict and was unable to attend. He announced that a quorum is present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Olsen opened the floor for public comment.

Mr. Lerch, representing Pagoda Skyline and Pagoda Foundation, stated that the Pagoda rehabilitation project is running smoothly. He stated that video updates can be found on the Pagoda Foundation Facebook and website. He inquired if he could provide comment on the ADG presentation at the conclusion of the presentation.

No one objected to the request.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES & AGENDA

Mr. Olsen asked the board to consider the minutes from the July meeting and the agenda for this meeting.

There was no objection to the contents of the meeting minutes or the agenda and they were approved by acclamation after a motion by Mr. Dierolf and a second by Mr. Sellers.

Mr. Baez stated that he is present virtually and can lead the meeting as the Vice Chair.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Olsen, Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's Report - the MP3 bank account has a balance of \$55,962.68 There are no expenses or bills to pay. He stated that the Berks County Community Fund has a balance of \$10,144.86. He noted that this is an interest-bearing account.

The report was approved by acclamation after a motion by Ms. Kelleher and a second by Mr. Dierolf.

PRESENTATION – Mr. Moyer explained that he is not employed by ADG MountainSlides; however, he has been in contact with them. He explained that the impetus for this feature on Mt. Penn began when he was running for State Rep around 2020 and he crafted a platform to increase tourism in Berks County. He stated that as he still believes in the value of this project, he decided to reach out to schedule a presentation. He stated that in his tourism campaign he named the project Pagoda Plunge, a destination attraction for Mt. Penn. He explained that the slide will start near the Pagoda and will sweep back and forth across Mt Penn without damaging trees and there will be a gravity lift from the end point back to the Pagoda.

In response to a question from Mr. Dierolf, Mr. Moyer stated that if additional parking is required a new lot can be added at the ground level of the Pagoda. He noted that he had not considered having a parking area available at the gravity lift area.

Mr. Moyer stated that there is a 300-foot grade drop and the slide will have a maximum speed of 27 mph (the rider has full control of the speed) and the slide can cover 4100 feet in seven minutes at maximum speed.

Mr. Moyer stated that the cost of the slide is \$4.5M and the installation can be done in seven months. He suggested charging \$15-20 per ride and he suggested charging \$30-40 for non-Berks residents. He noted that the manufacturer predicts incoming revenue at \$1.5M annually, based on the revenue generation at other municipalities. He expressed the belief that a combination of sponsorships and grants can cover the installation cost.

In response to questions from Ms. Sellers, Mr. Moyer stated that he has not explored the need for easements and liability insurance and he expressed the belief that the slide tracks will blend with the landscape.

Ms. Bradley stated that she has used similar facilities in other communities. She suggested shifting the slide toward the Fire Tower. Ms. Kelleher suggested shifting towards Mineral Spring Park.

Ms. Sellers expressed the belief that the slide could conflict with those who cherish the Pagoda in its natural setting.

Mr. Kissinger inquired if Mr. Moyer reviewed the Forest and Trail Study prior to considering this installation.

In response to a question from Mr. Baez, Mr. Moyer stated that he would assist the MP3 and City in attracting sponsors.

Mr. Baez stated that he is open to considering next steps.

Mr. Olsen noted the need for a feasibility and marketing study as the next steps prior to beginning the planning process.

Mr. Lerch stated that Mr. Moyer presented at a Pagoda Skyline meeting and Pagoda Skyline referred him to the MP3. He added that Pagoda Skyline expressed the belief that this project would create a tourism destination but as the aesthetics may conflict with the Pagoda, they suggested finding a different location such as the eastern side of Mt. Penn.

MP3 COG REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS

A. Review Amendment to MP3 COG Agreement re membership

Ms. Kelleher stated that Mr. Pottiger provided an executed ordinance before the start of tonight's meeting.

Mr. Dierolf stated that he will remind their manager.

B. Lighting Skyline and Guardrail Project Update

Lighting: *The Skyline Drive portion of the GESA project is currently in redesign. Due to changes in the Skyline Dr plan (originally called for no gates and a guide rail), the solar lighting system is being redesigned to add poles at the gates only late summer/early fall. There are safety concerns about installing the lights without the guiderail, and with the installation of the gates restricting access to Skyline Drive during overnight hours, the full lighting isn't needed. The budget for Skyline Drive solar lighting is being reallocated to additional sports field lights at Schlegel Park (both lower fields and the upper field including dog park and pavilion walkway) and to 3rd & Spruce baseball field at minimum.*

Live Camera Feed: *Central Berks now has access*

C. Disc Golf in partnership with Liederkrantz – In summary:

- The MP3 was approached by the Liederkrantz leadership about partnering to develop a disc golf course on Mt. Penn to further the MP3's goal to make Mt. Penn a destination and expand the Liederkrantz's mission to offer an additional sport and attract people to the club and to Mt. Penn. The partnership is working to have the course open at the beginning of May 2026.
- The course will run from Egelman's to Mineral Spring Park, with parking available at the Liederkrantz and Mineral Spring Park. The City's managing director agreed to this plan and asked the MP3 to work with the Rec Commission Executive Director as the Rec Commission installed a disc golf course on the Angelica Park property. The Rec Commission will manage the course after the installation is completed.
- The partnership got connected with Amber Dempsey, a disc golf player and a course designer and she, members of the Berks Disc Golf Club and the Liederkrantz President Jon Linton are working to design the course. The design process for the course is different than the normal planning process. With the pricing estimates provided by Ms. Klahr, the partnership decided on an 18-hole course and due to the terrain this will be one of the only courses in Berks County with an intermediate challenge rating.

- The City Arborist is working to schedule a walkthrough of the course to determine if there are any problems. When the design work is completed the Public Works Director and Arborist will do a final walk through and they make modifications to the design. Following the City's approval of the follow design a public meeting with those impacted will be scheduled by the Liederkrantz to address any remaining questions or problems.

COMMITTEE REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS – submission in written form only

- Finance & Capital - none
- Promotions & Marketing - none
- Public Safety & Public Services - none
- Environmental & Land Use Committees – none

WRITTEN REPORTS FROM PRESERVE STAKEHOLDERS

None received.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public present.

The next MP3 meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 3rd at 6 pm at the Lower Alsace Twp municipal building. However, due to a joint meeting of Lower Alsace and Mt. Penn officials on December 3rd an alternative will need to occur.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:40 pm on motion of Mr. Dierolf and Mr. Olsen.

Respectfully submitted by Linda A. Kelleher, Secretary

Action Items:

1. Ms. Kelleher to follow up with Alsace Twp, County & Mt Penn regarding the amendment to the MP3 COG agreement.