



Minutes  
City of Coatesville  
Regular Meeting  
Monday June 28, 2021

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Council Present: President Lavender-Norris; Mrs. C Arvilla Hunt, Ms. Khadijah Al Amin, Council Person Nydea Graves, Councilman Donald Folks, Councilman Edward Simpson  
Council Absent: Vice President Carmen Green  
Staff Present James Logan, City Manager; Anthony Verwey, Solicitor; Chief Jack Laufer, Police Department; Richard Troutman, Finance Director

President Lavender-Norris announced Council held and Executive Session earlier to discuss personal real estate legal matters.

President Lavender-Norris announced Vice President Green would not be in attendance.

### **Approved Minutes**

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to approve the June 14, 2021 meeting minutes; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0

### **Approval of Accounts Payables**

Mr. Folks made a motion to approve the accounts payables; Ms. Al Amin seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

### **Additions, Deletions or Modifications to the Agenda**

Councilperson Graves made a motion to add discussion item 2) Discuss days of approval for special events. Motion failed due to lack of second

Mr. Folks made a motion to add action item 3) Receive and consider Ash Park Concept with added water feature; Ms. Al Amin seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

### **Presentations**

1. AA – Carnival  
Not in attendance for presentation.
2. CTDI  
Not in attendance for presentation.

3. Natural Lands Trust

Ms. Clancy stated it is wonderful to be here. I am here today to present the master plan for Ash park. We've already been both public at Ash park on April 17 and also the lobby, the two different concept plans and based on our reactions, and public input from those alternate concept plans, as well as a public survey for which there were over 115 responses online, which is great, we were able to come up with a final master plan, which I'll be presenting today. Today I just want to talk about these items. Basically, we will start with the background scope schedule and then move onto the recommendations. We have some special focus on conservation items, specifically storm water management, which I think you all may be keyed into these days from the events of June 8th and 9th.

Then I have phasing recommendations as well as cost estimates, potential funding opportunities. And then we'll talk about what you will be getting in terms of the final report for this, as well as an update on the DCED grant. And that leads into James's addition of the water feature in the park. We basically know that the background of this Ash Park was a plan that we did in 2016, that was looking at Parks and Recreation across the City. Out of that plan, it was determined that Palmer Park and Ash Park would be looked at, and that it was important to have Master Plans for those in order to have leverage for state funding. If you have a Master Plan, you are more legitimate, you have approval from the City and getting access to funding is much easier. We wanted to continue helping Coatesville increase its Parks and Recreation, the scope of this Master Plan, which is funded by DCED. We came up with a plan based on public opinion and input and would produce something with your phasing and associated costs for future fundraising. You will be getting a site development drawing, which I'll show you as well as a narrative report, which describes all aspects of the work. We just need to state this for DCED and our requirements. The schedule of this entire project, which we began in September, 2019 meeting with the Advisory Group and the duration in 22 months. We will be completed with this plan in July of this year, pending your approval of the final document.

Here is the final plan. This will look very familiar to you because it is a hybrid of what is downstairs. Right now, we had concept which was more bare bones. It was based on just increasing the social aspects of the park improvements to picnic areas, some improvements to existing things in the park. Then there was concept B, which was recreation, and that was all the bells and whistles. We had a new playground. We had improvements to the basketball court area. We have a sledding hill, a public amphitheater area for older kids to play and based on reality, as well as public feedback, we came up with this plan. Starting at the upper left, we're talking about a removal of the pool. The pool usability study showed that the pool was not realistic moving forward in terms of maintenance and operation. We are removing the pool and that area will be from the Plaza area. The existing building will be demolished, but if you see in the upper left, there's still a small blue structure there that is hopefully using a portion of that building that is already restrooms to have public restrooms in the Park. There will be a relocated playground area with potentially a splash pad. There is additional basketball facilities. We have another court, we have bleachers seating, there's benches, there's lighting. And the pavilion that's between the playground and the basketball court on that pavilion. We are suggesting holding stations. These are literally misters, this is something that's becoming more and more common, especially in the Southern states for cooling for the summer heat, it's a way to just be more comfortable in the park and it can easily be used by adults and children. The horseshoe court stays the same. We did reduce it in scale. Currently it was just tennis courts that were there and kind of revamped. But now we're talking about scaling them and redesigning that a bit, moving along the east side of the park, it is just landscape area, and then you come to the public amphitheater, which is built into the existing slope. This is a natural amphitheater. It is grass, it is stone. And this could be for just outdoor events. There is a stage that you can see, with potentially just stones screenings. This is not a high-tech thing, but it is something that's very usable and being incorporated into parks more and more. There is a ramp that we use up to the upper level of the park, which is a more passive area now. We have sloping of the existing area that is underutilized. There is an open lawn to kind of overlook the park. There're benches, there's landscaping. There is a curved pathway. Entrances to the park and then moving around, you come to the picnic area, that's existing that we are renovating with an addition pavilion because it's heavily used and why not make it better if this is where people want to be. And it's in the shady area of the

park, there's additional tables and grills and pavilion areas. And then we have the boardwalk and Beto area of the park. So this is something, it is key right now for Ash. Ash Park was I'd by Cedarville Engineering in your MS4 plans as a potential place for storm water mitigation in the City. We know that Ash Park floods and we know based on geo technical analysis of the park and just visual that things are going to bacteria. When it rains, the playground is underwater. There are kids splashing around in six inches of water. So that seems to be the natural kind of low point of the Park. So move the playground to where it makes more sense and then make that natural kind of wetlands storm water retention area. Now I know that sounds a little bit scary. People think wetland, think of mosquitoes. They think just kind of back to the areas. If you look at the pool now, there is an actual wetland living there. On this plan, this is actually very beautiful and filled with native plants, dragonflies, other things you already had that going on in the park. So why not make it more of a feature that people can interact with? There'll be even boardwalk across it. It could be an educational opportunity as well as something that is allowing the rest of the park to instead of flooding muddy, um, new grass, that type of thing. This is the overall plan.

We need to talk about conservation recommendations. When I say this, I'm talking about storm water management in the park and the potential for it. We have stormwater management addressed throughout this entire plan. There are three key recommendations. A suggestion is tree trenches on the Southern portion of the Park. This is where a lot of storm water is flowing down from above the sidewalk and then entering the park. They were the stormwater engineering firm that was part of the team said, why don't we start dealing with the storm water from its source? So, tree trenches are suggested, no tree trenches are simply tree-planting where the storm water doesn't go over them. The storm water goes into the tree. Trenches feeds the trees and dealt with there as opposed to completely being bored and hopping the sidewalk and going into the park and they don't look any different. It can be porous pavement. It can be regular pavement. And instead you have curb cuts where the storm water is going into the tree trenches. So that is one major recommendation for this plan. Then we have the entire park it's difficult on this slide to see the color is a little lashed out, but you can see that there two different colors of the landscape areas. So a slightly darker yellow is intended to be native meadow type grasses, not mowed as often. The lighter pale yellow is the turf grass. That's the short lawn for playing fields for people, sitting picnicking, playing ball, whatever they need to do. We definitely still have to turf areas in the park major turf areas, but we're suggesting that some of the other horse slope areas of the park be transitioned to this metal plantings for lower maintenance. And the fact that that type of grass absorbs the storm water, the roots go down into the soil. Whereas with turf grass, it's just running over the surface. Turf grass is almost as bad as asphalt in terms of storm water management. I wanted to give some images of what that could look like because it doesn't have to be messy. These are two great examples of paths, trails that still looked very maintained and actually very longer grass could add to the aesthetics of the Park. This would be the boardwalk, which is where the current playground. Just to give you an idea of what that could look like that it could be kind of anesthetic educational and recreational amenity to the park, as opposed to just kind of a wet area that's not being checked. And the intention also is not that it's only wet when it rains for the next 24-48 hours. Those were the conservation recommendations for the park. Now the entire master plan, which I don't know how I skipped the silver when you were looking at it, but we were else are talking about new sidewalks, both outside. And we made in the park that loop around the center area is one fifth of a mile. So, people can go walking around the track, running around the track, whatever they wanted, lighting throughout the park, and landscaping throughout the park. We are talking about a

place that people can go and do their own thing. They can be alone and they want to on a bench under a tree, or they can be in the area where they can be in the playground area. It is kind of a park that's allowing for as many people to enjoy the space as possible.

When we were coming up with the cost estimates for this, I tried to look at it in manageable chunks, making chunk isn't the best word, but manageable areas that made sense, um, for estimating and for construction. Area A, you see that it's \$1.2 million seems like a lot, but the reality is that involves all of the demo of structure and it is the new splash pad. It's a new pavilion break ground. It's new paving, it's a new park entrance. There is significant work here with these cost estimates. They are based on current pricing, which I don't know how many of you were in the construction industry, but those are pretty elevated right now.

The costs may go down and the reality is this the same master plan. So not every aspect of Area A needs to be built. In the final report, we will have these broken down into line items. I just didn't want to give you too much detail tonight. Area B is more in kind of the recreation area, of about \$500,000 and all of this includes site prep to deal with that storm water in the park Areas C is that center field and the wet and Metro area. It's a significant area of the park. It also includes the trail that's going around. And a lot of that outside perimeter sidewalk, which is why it is so expensive. This is the true storm water management in this department. And that is also where most of the money for funding opportunities could come from. Area D is the picnic area for improvements there. This is the upper section of the park, including those tree trench kind of stormwater solutions up there. And then finally the outdoor amphitheater, these are initial estimates. I want to give a very real outlook. It's kind of the worst-case scenario. Just to keep in mind what things could potentially cost.

As I said in the final report, there will be more detailed itemized aspects, but this includes everything. There is nothing left out here it's including the contractor, 15% contingency, a kind of additional percentage for the fact that you're taking into consideration phasing. So we're not leaving anything out with these processes.

Now moving from the scary, cost assessments to funding opportunities, there are many these and this is not all of them, but I just wanted to lay out quite a few. We've got American Recovery act. We had a few ideas as to what those, if you're receiving them for, in terms of Parks and Recreation, we can talk further about this DCED and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, multiple programs that could be utilized in this park, DCED funding for Park Rehab and development projects. The DCED has funding for Urban Area Runoff Mitigation, which is this article that's where storm management, that is, what this funding would go towards. Then there's funding to address water quality issues as well as Chester County. My understanding from Chester County is that based on the recent flooding is focus right now, there's an understanding that this is an area that is in need of a mitigation for that we can move on.

In terms of next steps, the final report is taking into consideration all of the analysis interviews, public, that we've been doing for the past two years with the City. And I kind of laid out the chapters. There will be more of the background talking more about what we, what I presented at the beginning, including an explanation of the same inventory and analysis chapter entirely to that, that is very clear. Chapter three is kind of talking about the design and what went into what the designs all without, including those capital cost estimates. And then finally chapter four would be maintenance and operations. You're talking

about what the expectations and anticipated maintenance and operations parking for the City. The next slide, um, is now talking about immediate funding opportunities. I'm not sure if you're all aware of how MCDC transferred their grant for the pool of \$200,000 to the City. It was not nearly enough to bring it up to current standards of what the pool needs to be. DCED was very open to refocusing the moneys for that water feature. They said that it could be very open-ended, it just needed to be related to water. We do have potential projects that master plan that I've already covered. Splash pad could be something, the cooling misting stations either stand alone or part of a pavilion or implementation for storm water management. There are a variety of options. And then the last slide, I also wanted to just give you a very brief update on, I know that this ongoing for a very long time, we find when he has a big package approved DCNR, and we'd go out to bid on this within the next few weeks, and we see an ARDS approval in which case there would be the completed, that would be additional landscaping, playground surfacing for the playground there. Most importantly, I think pavilion double the size of the current pavilion. [inaudible]. Wow. And like, yes. Lighting.

Mr. Folks asked with the 4.5 million how much do you think you could get with the Grant money. Ms. Clancy replied I think with patience, most of it. We need to be realistic, which all of it needs to be from grant funding or private foundation donations. I think it, it's more a question of how long it maybe be five years. It could be 10 years to get all of those pieces. And that's why we broke it down. They don't need to be done in the order that I sent them out. If a funding opportunity arose for the amphitheater section, for instance build the amphitheater, if a storm water funding opportunity arose, you work on the storm water. Mr. Folks stated so your saying we could put in the Splash pad tomorrow because we have the money. Ms. Clancy replied yes, if that is what we're wanting to move forward with this Splash Pad. The Splash Pad could go in as soon as it's approved as the different scope, which is part of the resolution being added tonight. Ms. Al Amin asked if the splash pad would be similar to West End, would it be different, what is the actual design? Ms. Clancy explained the City has \$200,00 right now and it would be designed around that. It would be a simple Splash Pad. Mr. Folks stated simple wouldn't do it. There's a giant splash pad in Lancaster. It's almost like a splash pad, wading pool. It's beautiful. I guess we should start looking at big splash pads, more than a sprinkler. Mr. Logan added that one of the things that we all have to keep in mind plans in these concepts, the splash pads, we have two of them in the community now, not only do they take up space, but they also have a maintenance costs that are associated with them. So, you know, the bigger, the splash pad, the bigger the maintenance cost to the City. And I don't know if you're just using the term simple, but you know, splash pads today. Aren't simple. I think there are certain, you know, additions, you can add to it in terms of, you know, the number of squirts and holes and things like that. But, but this, this particular plan, I feel that we are going to have something in there that, you know, the community is going to embrace and, and this is a big park. So, and we're looking at adding a lot of items to this park. So keep in mind that, you know, there's, there's a number of features in the park. That's going to bring people in and, and again, not to lower the expectations here, but I do think that we have to look at, what's realistic for the community as well. And, and certainly with all of the grant opportunities that you did see listed, you know, we are going to give it our best shot to go after that money. And I think, you know, Natural Lands has a track record to attract donors. They have been part of this community for a number of years now, and they know what needs are in the community, but we're not going to shortchange the community with. Mr. Folks stated that is what he was talking about, when she said simple, that told me like the one on 30 and that's simple. We just don't want to just

put anything in there to say, Hey, you did this. You know, we want to do it, do it right the first time, instead of keep going back and back.

Ms. Clancy said I think that this is a good conversation because this is about the \$200,000 we currently have so we can provide a scope but not a specific scope right now. But an idea when you're talking about all of the bells and whistles. We are doing a splash pad.

Ms. Al Amin asked if the \$200,000 all that you have for a splash pad. Ms. Clancy replied the \$200,000 is all that the City has right now. Ms. Al Amin stated it was money that was grant money that came from Senator Dinniman. I know where the money came from, what I'm asking you is as far as an, I know that that's designated that it has to be used for a water feature, because that was originally money that he committed to go towards the pool. When I'm asking you, is, is that all that there is for the splash pad, like in the redoing of this park and it's entirely will nothing else be added to that? Ms. Clancy replied no, it absolutely could be. We haven't started raising any money because we do not have the Master Plan. Once completed, that's when we started going out. So, I believe that if, if the \$200,000 is not enough and you are wanting the Splash Pad and we need something more and then you have to start raising additional funds for right now. Ms. Al Amin asked like how do you approve? Maybe you can help me understand how do you approve a plan that isn't fully written. When I asked you, and when Mr. Folks asked a question about the splash pad, you're simply saying, it will be a simple splash pad, but they're like, you don't, you're not showing us pictures of what it'll look like. If it will be something like the water feature in Palmer Park, or if it would be like the splash pad in the West End, I, I don't even know what I'm approving, because I can't see it before me. Ms. Clancy stated I see what you're saying, but at a master plan level, I can't get to that type of detail. I can say that this part of the park people have expressed an interest in a playground that kind of appeals to bigger children. It has benches for people to sit in an area that's always under water after it rains. We can, we can say that in the Master Plan it has a playground, picnic area, basketball courts, water features. Ms. Al Amin asked what are you actually asking approval for? Ms. Clancy stated we are asking approval specifically tonight for a Resolution to add a water feature to the Ash Park Master Plan.

Mrs. Hunt explained this is the same way we did for Palmer park. She presented to us what their ideas were for the park. And then as it progresses, then we get together and we set up all the different design features as they will go in. But what basically what she's, from what I'm gathering, she's doing the same thing that she did with Palmer Park. She's telling us tonight that there's going to be a new pavilion. That's going to house two pavilions, rather than one, there's going to be a splash pad area. That's going to be a nature walk area. There's going to be an amphitheater in the park. They're going to redo the horseshoe area. So all of those features from what I'm gathering that you're saying are going to be in the park. So that's what you're asking us for tonight to give you the go ahead, so that you can start doing the overall, just like we did for Palmer park. She comes back, remember she came back to us and then we had all the input. Well, yeah, in the splash pad, we would like to see some shooting water or in the pavilions, we would like to see extra lighting, things like that. But I think tonight she's asking us for approval to go ahead and get things in motion. That's what I'm gathering. Right? I don't think it just for a water feature. Councilperson stated it is going to be extremely disappointing, not to have a pool. You know, people have been talking about the pool for a long time. And so I don't think that the \$200,000 splash pad is going to cut it. Do we have like a time limit of when we have to have a plan for the \$200,000, or do we have more time to raise money or do we need to use it on a different water feature than the splash

pad? That's the first question. And then the second question is I, the photo is far away and I know that we're at like the masterplan level. It looks like the less than four courts than there are now. Is that true? Ms. Clancy stated there is an additional full court basketball. Councilperson Graves replied okay, because I was concerned about that. So an additional full court is going to be on the basketball court and the horse, the horse shoes I got do people use those? Ms. Al Amin explained the only thing we are approving today is for them to add a water feature to the Master Plan.

Ms. Clancy explained that tonight she is presenting it for discussion just because this is the first time that those two alternative plans were brought into one. I wanted you all to see it. We are in the process of writing the final report, which is truly what needs to be improved. We need review that report if they're feasible. And then PCR says you're done with this plan because they were funding. So right now, there's nothing official that you can give me today other than your comments, the fact that you've seen all this and you're aware of what you're going to be sending you, there's much more in the plan.

President Lavender-Norris stated I want to say with regard to disappointment, I think we're all disappointed that we can't afford a pool. We're all disappointed. No question, no doubt. However, reality checks into view and says, you can't afford a pool. That's the bottom line. The City cannot afford a pool. So, because we can't afford a pool, Natural Lands, steps up and says, let me help you out. I know you can't afford a pool. How about if we put a splash pad, they know, and we know it's not a pool. And so, do the children that would be there to entertain themselves. However, it's still a water feature for them and it isn't costing the City anything. So, I feel you, and I understand the frustration of not having a pool, but we have to be realistic too. And not only do we have to be realistic, we have to be thankful that Natural Lands was willing to step up and help us out. Give us what we don't have. Like if you want to do a fundraiser and, and raise the money for a pool by all means do so, but it's not an easy job you see that occurred before. And now the money is in our coffers from that, from the state through, Senator Dinniman. But if you ask the homeowners, do they want to pool, that's going to cause taxes to go up. I personally am not in line waiting for a tax, increase me personally. And the majority of the homeowners that I've entertained in conversation are not in line for it either. Right? Ms. Clancy explained the response to the online survey was almost inherently about the reaction was there was no interest in paying daily membership fee or raising taxes. So, there was between that and then operation. And we had our pool consultant come out and take a look at these facilities and tell us exactly what we need to be up to current standards. President Lavender-Norris explained this has been entertained and worked on for how long it's been years. It's literally been years. It's like, you're going through this deep dark tunnel and you get halfway through and you're being drawn back again. We can't afford to go back. We have to keep moving forward. If the splash pads there and you feel like it's not enough, okay, the next piece, the next phase we'll have some more entertainment. You know what I'm saying? It'll be more opportunities and activities. We, we just can't do it all at once bottom line.

Mrs. Hunt stated it's more than just putting the pool in. If you were going to put a pool in, then you have the daily maintenance of the pool. We have the insurance to go along with the pool.

You have the safety features that have to go along with the pool. Then you need another shower house and all of that. So, I think even now in most of the areas like, Mr. Folks was speaking of the area in Lancaster, I don't know if you guys had a chance to see that that's a

beautiful, it's more now people are looking towards a water feature park, right? Not so much just a pool, you know, for safety reasons. So, um, I mean, I applaud, I applaud what Natural Lands Trust is bringing to us, and I'm just anxious to see the next step. So we can begin to see what all is under the added. Because if you remember when you first brought Palmer Park, we couldn't really see it at first. Right. But then when he got down there and they started adding the features and adding the features, it makes it makes it a proud place. I do have a question though, with the amphitheater, are we no longer looking at an amphitheater for gateway park? We're just going to put it in the Ash park area. Is that right? Mr. Logan explained that by a consensus by Council we are just going to have one at Ash Park. Mrs. Hunt stated when you think about the embankment that's there, it does set the atmosphere for amphitheatres. Mr. Simpson asked when the discussion was held regarding not having the Amphitheatre in Gateway. I thought the discussion was whether he was going to come back and do it or not. President Lavender-Norris stated she is not sure where it stands.

Ms. Al Amin questioned the whole project could take anywhere from five to five years. Right? Ms. Clancy stated the worst-case scenario is it could never come. The grant monies are not guaranteed, but there will be effort into acquiring all the grant monies. We will be in the position to go out an request the monies.

President Lavender-Norris explained the last time that our pool was open, the City brought in from the pool \$1,200, but the City put out for the pool \$80,000. That speaks to the pool wasn't even being utilized because \$500 of that \$1200 was from a camp that wanted to use the pool. Right. So, if we look at it, realistically, we paid \$80,000 to earn \$700.

Mrs. Hunt stated as long as we have water features, we are alright. We have, I think when you, when you added the operative words, simple that just sent everything out. That's when this conversation went backwards. There will not be anything simple. President Lavender-Norris asked how far would \$200,000 take us into a water feature? Similar to the one I'm in Downingtown, long, the bypass at the park there. Ms. Clancy said she would have to look at it. Councilperson Graves asked if we need to use the \$200,000, because we have a time limit and we need to decide like what we need to use it on. Is there a possibility for us to continue to go after grants that can pay for a better and you know, bigger, more elaborate splash pad and use the \$200,000 for something like the cooling misters or the infrastructure or storm water management, and say, we can't afford the splash pad that this community deserves right now? We need to go after the grants and get them and use the \$200,000 for a different water feature because there's three water features on the thing. Is that like a possibility? Ms. Clancy replied yes, the monies could be used toward the mister, stormwater infrastructure and the splash pad. Councilperson Graves stated and then otherwise I know that we talked about like infrastructure and just basically like the infrastructure of Coatesville leads, fifth, fourth, sixth to offer flood during a storm and with increasing climate, there's going to be more, you know, storms in general because a lot of creeks in the warming. I think it makes sense for us to do all the infrastructure and storm water management. That part is like super important to keep people's houses from flooding and also to just manage storm water. So, I'm like, I very much appreciate that. Ms. Clancy explained we were designing the park and I think those are going to be like one of the most important features just for keeping everybody safe and healthy, mitigating the conduct.

## **Discussion Items**

### **1. Meeting Minutes**

There was no discussion on meeting minutes.

### **Citizens Hearings – Regular Action Items Only (3 Minutes)**

There were no citizens comments at this time.

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to close citizens hearings on regular action items only; Mr. Folks seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

### **Regular Action Items**

1. Receive and consider a Train Station Bids

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to accept the bid from L.J. Paoella Construction Inc. in the amount of \$102,557.00 for the Train Station Exterior projects; Mr. Folks seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Verwey announced the City only two bids were submitted. One from L.J. Paoella Construction and once from Jones Masonry Restoration Corporation. The bids were combination total four-piece bid and add alternatives. The ultimately the decision on the amount to be spent was based upon funds available to the city on the below. The most responsible bid was submitted by L.J. Paoella Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$102,557.00.

Mr. Logan explained the amount includes the mobilization and demobilization of the crews; scraping and painting of window and door frames with the exterior of the Train Station and the installation of secure Becker coverings with printed graphics and door and window openings around the entire old train station boiling.

2. Receive and consider Resolution adding new bank account for the Federal Rescue Funds and authorize the City Manager, President and Vice President at signers for said account.

Mrs. Hunt made a motion to approve a Resolution adding a new bank account for the Federal Rescue Funds and authorize the City Manager, President and Vice President at signers for said account: Mr. Folks seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Troutman explained the account is being set up with this specific dedicated purpose of handling Federal Rescue money.

3. Receive and consider Ash Park Concept Plan to add a water feature

Mr. Simpson made a motion to approve the Natural Lands Trust design concept to add a water feature to the Ash Park Concept Plan; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to close action items; Mr. Folks seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

### **Reports**

1. Solicitor

Mr. Verwey announced he worked with city administration on zoning enforcement and appellate issues. I have been working on certain bidding issues related to tonight's bidding regarding a train station; and worked on matters related to the termination of the governor's

emergency order and how that impacts the city, both for meetings and other enforcement issues.

2. City Manager

Mr. Logan announced we are looking forward to Natural Lands Trust of course, you know, expanding their efforts. I want to thank Karen, for all of the hard work you've been doing with the City of Coatesville, not only for Palmer Park, but for Ash Park. And I know that we're moving forward with Abdala Park as well as Patton Park. So, thank you for all your hard work. We have put in for an extension for the monies provided from the grant from MCDC. As I said earlier, we definitely want to put a lot of effort into identifying the grants so that we can get the additional funding for Ash Park and hopefully it's not going to take 10 years. Hopefully we can do that inside of 10 years.

A couple of things that are coming up as you all know, September 18, we are once again, bringing back the Grand Prix, we're very excited about this event. In 2019, we had approximately 5,000 people that attended the event. This year, we have an opportunity to increase that significantly, and we're very excited about the team that we have on board. That's going to help us do that. Sponsorships are coming in, for those of you out there in the audience here, as well as the listening world, sponsorship packages are available. And, we hope a number of our past sponsors as well as new sponsors will certainly consider being part of our sponsorship family this year for the Grand Prix. In addition to that, we are going to be looking for a number of volunteers to help us out, Councilman Simpson and Councilman Folks, they've been part of the logistics team for a number of years now. The more hands on deck, the easier this event will be for a lot of us. If you happen to have any volunteers or are free that Saturday, which is September 18th, please feel free to give us a call here or send your information to [info@coatesville.org](mailto:info@coatesville.org). And we'd be more than happy to sign you up for a volunteer. There will be vending opportunities this year. We are going to try get as many of our local businesses involved with vending. The City of Coatesville handles a lot of merchandise for the event which includes t-shirts, posters from past and present and miscellaneous Grand Prix items. We are very excited about that, but the vendors, certainly will be open to come out and they'll be a part of this event as well. We are working with the Chamber this year for a beer garden, and we're also working with Rotary for the preview party, which will be held on Thursday night. Hopefully, it will fill up for the prixview party, which is always a nice event to get out and just kind of mingle with some friends and network before the Saturday event. On Friday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, we will have a cruise night, and basically that's just that inviting car owners from vintage cars to current to come out and just enjoy a night here in Coatesville. We are working with our local restaurants in the downtown area to make sure that they'll be part of this as well. We are very excited to have this opportunity to just kind of showcase, the City of Coatesville, the Friday evening before the big and the main event. Hopefully, we'll have a number of people that come out for Thursday and Friday night.

The last item I have is the Pop-Up and Shop. We didn't get a chance to kick it off this past Saturday. There was a couple of events that we were conflicting with. The first Pop-Up and Shop event will be on July 10<sup>th</sup>. Once again, these Pop-Up and Shops will run through November. They are a combination of participants that are currently in our Kutztown University and the City of Coatesville in SCORE. It's a program which there's a little promotional billboard there. We have 10 participants this year. We had a little bit more last year, but this year we get 10 small entrepreneurs from the City of Coatesville and they are

making their way through the program. This will begin their fourth week and we were very excited. One of the things that we like to do for them is to have them engage in a pop-up opportunity so they can actually sell some of the merchandise and products and services that they have been working on. So July 10th, it's going to be the first one and we're excited to have them be part of the City of Coatesville.

3. Assistant City Manager

Mr. Huston announced first thing I'm going to start off with is the usual report, because this might be one of our last full reports, because as we talked at the beginning of the meeting today, the state COVID restrictions were dropped as of today for masks. The Department of Health will no longer require unvaccinated people to wear masks in public. And so that does change things. Obviously, we're sitting here live and in person, the CDC has asked that we still continue to wear them on public transportation, airplanes, trains, and that type of thing. Fully vaccinated people are allowed to shed their masks in most Pennsylvania places like we've been doing. The Federal data shows, 75% of Pennsylvania residents aged 18 and over have received at least one dose with 60% of the adult population fully vaccinated. At this point in time, people are fully vaccinated once they are two weeks beyond the last required date. You need that two-week window to actually get the vaccination. Chester county effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, COVID information that we're so used to and familiar with online will no longer be updated. The data information is slowing down. They will do a weekly update, but the one will no longer be updated on a daily or every other day basis. They are saying Fridays will be the update. Chester County itself, more than 80% has at least one shot. As far as vaccine opportunities for anyone, Active Aging is now closed. Their last vaccine opportunity was a couple of days ago. Exton Mall, however will continue to operate until July 18th. If you are looking to get your shots, you can still get them at Exton Mall. In last two weeks, since we reported Coatesville has only seen seven new cases and no additional deaths that's according to the Chester County's most recent update. We have slowed down here in the city as well, only seven in the last two weeks, according to Chester county data from the public work standpoint.

As you know, two weeks ago, three weeks ago, we had the storm, we did file a report. They all hustled, Rich, myself, James and Julius from Public Works to put a report together. The damage we saw around the City, and we did file a report with the Federal and State agencies, County agencies, as well to see what there may be out there. We have not heard any response back from that report, we filed.

Palmer Park water feature is up and running. The splash pad over on Lincoln is not, we have a couple of mechanical issues. And then our chlorine provider had a fire at their manufacturing facility. The pad at Lincoln is a pelletize chlorine as opposed to a liquid in Palmer Park. We are a little behind on getting Lincoln up running. We'll get it up, hopefully within the next two weeks, according to Julius. James, gave you a couple of special events, calendar items. I'll give you a couple more Second Century Alliances having a block party on Saturday, July 17th, from five to nine, that'll be in the gazebo area. It'll be a couple of food trucks, but the idea is to promote downtown once a month. A business of the month will be announced that night, a 30-year anniversary for one of our local businesses in town. There'll be a family night in Abdala Park on July 24th, from seven to 11, we have the African-American Cultural Fair, which we'd hope we'd hear from tonight. That'll be the 27th through the 31st in July, along with on Saturday, the 31st Color Filled Village will also be there to an outdoor market. They will be in conjunction on that timeframe there. Then we have, later in

the summer, we have Sounds of Summer concerts. CYI is going to have a Resource Fair. The big one is going to be August 28th, a 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Washington Hose Company. And that will be a block party on Fourth Avenue, as well as fireworks being set off from the flats area. There's also a Jazz Festival. That is an update on the calendar.

4. Finance Department

Mr. Troutman announced the portio is at 41.7 for the year to date.

**Citizens Hearings Non-Agenda Items Only (3 Minutes)**

Tanya Woods

Ms. Woods stated I know y'all have process and procedures and things of that nature. The first thing is I come here and you tell me to file my complaint or whatever it is my issue with you guys isn't that I'm filing this complaint and get. No, I didn't come with a complaint issue should have been handled and handled properly because the world we live in today, you can take offense to that. You know, wouldn't be lies. That's not going to do follow plane, whether it two or three complaint is because the first complaint wasn't handled and I have to keep constantly calling them like a couple of weeks ago, I'm still waiting for him to call. No one has contacted me in three weeks now. We are going to work on this. You know what I mean about the tree being removed. I shouldn't have to, as a homeowner take care of my property and my neighbor's property, I don't make that much money. You know, taking care of somebody that don't even live there. And he's the landlord, homeowners should be responsible for their own property. That's my question. You know what I mean? He's making money off his property. This is going to be the second time that I have to take money out of my pocket to correct his issue. And it's not right. On the pool stuff, my only complaint is that she said something about the mosquitos, weeds and wetlands. My kids are grown. but I know I wouldn't have my grandkids, around with mosquitos and that, you know, and I know from I, no, they don't want their kids around that mess with you know, the dragonflies and all that stuff. I mean, come on. MS. Clancy explained what I was trying to say by bringing up the mosquitoes, that is what would not be designed for the park because currently the park experiences flooding issues, but what we'll be doing with the design is making the drainage and the park work better. So we'll collect storm water, but then it will drain quickly and be, whereas now in the pool, if you go by the pool right now, he is a floating wetland right now. But that would only be wet right after a rainfall. So instead of the entire park being kind of a muddy mess, like the field is now after a rainfall, it would be draining into a specific area and then going away. So that's what that design is. So those grasses are planted because they can handle that kind of water for a short period of time. So instead of the entire park, it's just in that area.

Mona Lisa McDougal

Ms. McDougal stated I don't know about parking on all the regular streets, it's like the neighbors, they have room houses, I guess there's so many cars. Each if I have four houses on my street, they have five cars. So when you come home, you don't even have anywhere to park at because three houses on the street, you had five cars. We don't have street cleaning on my street. That's Rosemont Avenue where I live that they don't do street cleaning. The problem is the parking, those houses aren't. I don't know if there's some kind of way they can give us parking permits or maybe send something out. So that was the first thing they say. If you come home, you want to be able to run in front of your house. Want to be able to pick your groceries in the house? I mean, I can be selfish. It's nothing for me to go to have my handicap sign up. The other thing I have is the park. The plans for a park on that Amphitheatre. Let's be realistic. What do the black kids want to do with that? That is going to be something that they aren't going to do with it. If anything, if they're not going to bring these kids, which they deserve, they can do make it, just make it better. Like even down with beautiful, what things we're going to do and equipment down there. It's not enough. It's not, what did

they have more? You know, it can make up for now. Like, I just don't want to get look like the tarp at the other park, which they didn't show. The tarp is dangerous for the children. You know, the part that they didn't show where they show all the millions of dollars that you spend on a park.

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to close citizens hearings on non-agenda items; Mr. Folks seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

### **Special Events**

There were no special events at this time.

### **Council Comments**

Mr. Simpson thanked everyone for attending. The Grand Prix is back. Now it's a working progress. By the time they get done doing what they are good at doing raising funds. So we are accepting sponsorships for the Grand Prix. If there's any corporate sponsors out there that may want to contribute to the grand Prix. Please feel free to go to [www.coatesvillegrandprix.com](http://www.coatesvillegrandprix.com). You would set up any and all large donations. We have our first sponsor for the Grand Prix from Mr. Verwey, and we want to say, thank you. It's going to be a good event.

Mr. Folks thanked everybody for attending. I want to thank everybody for my prayer for me. I received word today, there is nothing wrong with me. I'm healthy. So, maybe I can get back on my horse for the City and just keep doing what I'm doing now. Coatesville, there's been a lot of stuff happening the last three, four weeks, every weekend. There's something going on and people are talking there's parties, carnivals. There're families that are getting back together. It feels good today. Coatesville is a great place. We have great staff. I am so excited that we can move forward coming out of this pandemic. It is a weight off my soul that I can keep on doing for the city. Thank you and have a good night.

Mrs. Hunt thanked everyone for attending the meeting. This is a good evening. It is good to see. Everybody is good together. Zoom is okay, but it's still good to see everybody in person, to be able to shake your hand, bump your shoulder. I'm just grateful for the great meeting that we had tonight, the encouraging reports that we received from Natural Lands Trust and from our staff. Thank you so much for all that you continue to do to make the city what it is. Just have a couple of things I wanted to bring up. One is, I continue to get a call from Mr. Foster at 403 East Chestnut. And Mr. Logan, I didn't get a chance to call you today, because I had an emergency. I had to go out, but his next-door neighbor, the trees are just growing over into his yard, on his fence. and I know last year he took time and had them cut down himself. But if we could just look into that for him, I would appreciate it. I did drive through the alley on my way here so I could see it for myself and it's bad. It's right on that corner of Fourth and Chestnut right there. If we could just go get it and again, I didn't get a chance to call you earlier. So I apologize for that. Also, there are trees down at Cliff Steel along Route 30, if we could convince them or, um, make them cut them trees so that they look better. I know there's construction going on downtown and it's torn up, but that side of the street can have much better if we just have them manage their area. Then there was a thing on Facebook. I think it was last week and I thought I saved it, but I didn't, there's a little park that they're talking about somewhere that needs attention. I'm not sure where it's at Sixth and Walnut. It's called Swing Park. I never heard of it. And I'm sorry, but they were making a big to do about that park, not being managed or maintained. Mr. Huston explained the park has been cleaned up. Mrs. Hunt replied awesome. Okay. Thank you so much. Other than that, I'm excited about the events that are going to take place this summer, the pop-up shops, the block parties and the Grand Prix. I'm excited that we're starting to get some action back in, Sounds of Summer, so we're ready. I'm excited about that. And again, I'm just

thank you guys for all that you do, and it's just great to be with my colleagues again, have a good night. Thank you.

Councilperson Graves, thanked everyone for being here. Thank you to the people who rewatch this on YouTube. Thank you, Tanya and Mona Lisa for your comments too. I'm just excited to be back in person and for all of the exciting summer events, it seems as though we are outside after a year of being locked in the house. So that is just wonderful. I want to bring attention that on July 9th at 6:00 PM, subject to approval at Abdala Park, I'm hosting a free Narcan, distribution and training. With so many people suffering from addiction disorder and dying from overdoses. We know that it's really important that friends, families, and community members are able to step in or pivotal moments, and help prevent overdose deaths. Wow. I'll look forward to seeing folks there. Like I said, location is Abdala Park, subject to approval, have a great everybody in there.

Ms. Al Amin thanked everyone for coming out. I look forward to continuing to work with the investors, my colleagues, and administration on building Coatesville back better. Sue, I'm waiting for your grand opening. Lieutenant Ollis, thank you so much for coming to double Dutch with us last Thursday, you did a wonderful job. We're looking to see you this Thursday, Chief, and thank you for sending the other two officers for first time. They did a wonderful job kickball. So now we want to see you double dutch and to Mr. Logan, Mr. Folks is coming. Chief hope to see you there. Mr. Logan, if we to try to contact DEPG and clean up the corner of first and 82. The grass is high. I received a lot of calls about the grass and weeds. Thank you everybody, have a good night and let's keep moving. Thank you.

President Lavender-Norris echoed her colleagues, when I say thank you to all, and we appreciate you. I just wanted to highlight that I went to the forum at New Life. It was called LOVE. It was an acronym and I was, I don't know what to call it. I guess I just settled in where one of the comments that came out with was you hate me because you don't know me. Hmm, no, you hate me because you fear me. You fear me because you don't know me and you don't know me because you don't communicate. We have to learn to communicate, not argue and bicker and fuss communicate. Nobody is right all the time, but we're always in a right position to learn all the time. So, let's take our time with one another and be as earnestly aggressive to forgive people as we are, to be mad at them and one them to forgive us, like, let's take this opportunity where back in person, no longer on film, let's take this opportunity to come together and move forward. That acronym, it said, I'm like, okay. I was thinking little religious, you know, that mushy kind of love thing, but it was actually, I know that L was for learning. What is learning of people? I don't remember what the O was, but I know that the V was volunteer and the E was empowering one another. Right. So we got to do LOVE it. It was, to me it was profound, but so simple. That's all it takes. O, was for open. Learn of open to volunteer for and empower all. How about that? Like if we considered and did that, we could get so much accomplished. With that being said, I thank everybody for coming out. I'm excited to be able to come out and then come out. Listen. I'm good with it. I know the game probably started at nine. Um, so I'm just going to tell y'all I love y'all. I hope whatever team you root before wins. God bless you all. God bless you. Have a safe night. Just make somebody smile.

### **Adjournment**

Ms. Al Amin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 pm; Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

\*This meeting was conducted in person (LIVE) and accessible the following day via City of Coatesville's YouTube channel.

