Good Afternoon Directors,

Please find below the minutes from the meeting held with the Borough Engineers on Friday, October 4, 2024. In attendance was Patty, Phil, and I, along with Shawn Wingrove, and Jess Brett, LSSE EIT, to discuss:

1. A rain garden at the entrance of Pennsylvania Avenue. Shawn gave us best management practices to install the garden. We talked about the type of soil blend that will be needed, we need to develop a maintenance plan that could be easily maintained by the park crew, putting rip rap up stream to control the flow of water, putting a catch basin on Thirteenth Street to redirect to the rain garden. The area where the current rip rap is located, it will be replaced with a rain garden. The rain garden will be designed to limit sediment build up.

2. Grants:
    a. There is a LSA grant https://dced.pa.gov/programs/local-share-account-lsa-statewide/ , which is due November 30, 2024. We can use the funds from this grant for recreation improvements, infrastructure, equipment. The grant has a large scope for a lot of the work that needs to be completed. No match is required. See link for details.
    b. The GEDTF grant https://www.alleghenycounty.us/Projects-and-Initiatives/Economic-Development/Authorities/Redevelopment-Authority-RAAC/Gaming-Economic-Development-Tourism-Fund is a grant that the borough applied for $190,000 and received $30,000. Joe McAndrew was instrumental in helping the borough receive this grant. We can continue to apply for more funding and the funds are used for stormwater infrastructure repairs.
    c. The DCNR grant https://apps.dcnr.pa.gov/grants/CRM365/CRMHelp.aspx?Tag=Opportunities.CWF , we applied for this grant in the spring and the award should be announced soon. This grant is for riparian buffer repairs. This grant requires a 50% match and if awarded, the borough's portion of the match is $49,775. This grant will also offset costs associated with park salary, equipment, in-kind activities.
    d. The DCED grant, I could not find a good link for this grant, but we applied for this grant in the amount of $109,321, which the borough match is $28,575, to be used for stormwater remediation from the Fairways properties. This award is given in January.
    e. Senator Costa referred the DHW Committee for a $100,000 pollinator garden grant for the installation of a pollinator garden in the meadow. The Borough of Oakmont is going to memorialize the meadow as the official name of the 'leaf pile park'. Although this area is not a part of DHW, there is a lot of activities going on in the meadow.
    f. LSSE is going to do a GIS overlay of DHW to give the longitude and latitude coordinates. Ryan was going to work on this project, but the engineers have the necessary tools to complete this task with ease.

3. The retaining Wall: if we want to work on the retaining wall, we should go after a LSA grant. The project would be framed as sitewide improvements and we could ask for up to a million dollars. To fix the wall, it would need to be soil nailed, which would anchor the wall to the hillside and put a plate on the outside of the wall to hold it in place. But first, we are going to fix the stormwater issue and monitor the wall. At this point the wall is serious but not urgent per Shawn. The sequence of events should be restore the wall then re-establish the hillside. The hillside will probably take 10 years to establish. Shawn said we should not ask for everything and see what we would get, but rather balance our ask to get the maximum amount of funding from the LSA grant.

4. At the last meeting, Phil found that the DCNR grant is the first in a series of a total of five grants. Because the landscape architect that worked on this grant resigned from LSSE, Shawn will investigate and get back to us but his best guess would be to start working on Plum Creek remediation to stabilize the banks of the creek next.

5. In House Projects: The parks department can do work close to the turnpike on an outlet at the end of the Fairways. Shawn will sketch plans and determine what materials are needed and how best to mitigate the issue. That conversation led to the Fairways is dumping a lot of water into the woods and the borough needs to determine if they are dumping swimming pool water into the woods.

Recap:
We should be able to start planting in the fall of 2024, and the summer of 2025,
The retaining wall in 2026, with a finish date of 2027.
We need to speak with the Audubon Society about variety of plants and research no mow grass to place on the hill on top of the retaining wall at the Pennsylvania Avenue entrance section of the woods.
We plan to meet with Shawn again on Friday, October 25, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.

Also attached is a letter that requires your attention, as your input is needed for Shawn's presentation to council at November's work session.