

PRESENT: Chairman Podany, Commission Members DePace, Koch, Schwachenwald and Commission Secretary Bohdan.

ALSO PRESENT: Director of Public Service Patten, Asst. Law Director Schneider, City Engineer Neff and City Engineer Onyak.

ABSENT: Commissioner Khalid

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Podany at 5:30 p.m.

Commissioner DePace motioned seconded by Commissioner Koch to approve the February 4, 2019 Planning Commission meeting minutes.

Aye: Koch, Podany, Schwachenwald and DePace
Nay: None

APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 4, 2019 PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES.

Commissioner DePace motioned seconded by Commissioner Koch to close the Planning Commission meeting and open the Public Hearing for the Nathan Hale Stormwater Basin Project.

Aye: Koch, Podany, Schwachenwald and DePace
Nay: None

PLANNING COMMISSION CLOSED AND PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE NATHAN HALE STORMWATER BASIN PROJECT OPENED.

Engineer Neff explained this is part of a grant that the City received from Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District for mil. The City will use part of their Community Cost-Share account for \$350,000 to cover the rest of the project. The project will develop a stormwater basin at Nathan Hale Park. We will lose the John Litton ballfield, soccer fields and the old concession building.

Engineer Onyak explained the current layout of Nathan Hale Park. The project has a 600' x 300' basin built on the property. The basin will remain dry when it is not raining but during rain events, it will be designed to hold water for one to two days. A large amount of dirt will be taken out to create the basin that will be approximately 9' deep. With the dirt a stockpile mound will be created that will be 25' to 30' high. The cost to remove the dirt offsite would be \$1.3 mil, which is why the City is trying to find a place onsite.

Commissioner Koch asked what we are going to do with all the dirt. Engineer Onyak replied they have discussed a few options to use the materials elsewhere in the City to build up fields and other parks. Engineer Onyak stated that contractors sometime are looking for materials, but this is a large amount. The area will be re-vegetated. Engineer Onyak explained that the basin and the mound would be inside a fenced area for safety reasons. Some of the material will be used to raise the fields about 3' to 4' which would use about 9,000 yards of material.

THE CITY OF PARMA HEIGHTS
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 4, 2019

Engineer Onyak explained that this basin would benefit the entire downstream drainage area, from Maplewood over to York and up to Big Creek Parkway. This basin will be capturing water from about 250 acres that the storm sewers downstream will then have less water in them.

Engineer Neff explained the pond is fed from the existing drainage ditch that runs along the back of the lots, the water will back up, then fill into this basin area, fill all the way up, and slowly discharge out back into the storm sewer system that feeds out that way. The basin will hold up to 11 million gallons of water. Engineer Neff explained that a consultant was hired to do flow analysis, which was needed for the grant application. The consultant company just gave a report to the City regarding other areas throughout the City that has drainage issues.

Chairman Podany asked if the feeder going into the basin is open. Engineer Onyak explained that behind Meadowbrook there is a channel that goes into a structure at the south end of Orchard. A channel will be cut into the structure and built up so the water is backed up and forced to come into the basin and back through a pipe the same way.

Commissioner Koch asked if Meadowbrook would be impacted in any negative way. Engineer Onyak stated it would be much better for those residents. Commissioner Koch asked about Orchard. Engineer Neff stated it would greatly decrease flooding in that area. The consultant suggested the basin hold 6-7 million gallons of water and we will be storing close to 12 million gallons of water so that we decrease the load downstream. Engineer Neff the bigger the basin is the better it is for the City. Engineer Neff also stated where it is wooded now, it will remain wooded. Engineer Onyak explained that the basin has been wedged in between existing woods, wetlands and a sewer and have kept the basin 15' to 20' inside the existing trees.

Chairman Podany asked what is the size of the outlet. Engineer Onyak replied that there is a 24" pipe out of the structure but a 30" pipe that heads north on Orchard and a 48" pipe that comes out to Parma Park. It is all in pipes once it hits the southern end of Orchard. Engineer Onyak stated the water would be throttled by the rebuilt structure that will have smaller openings.

Chairman Podany asked, per the documentation, it states there is a culvert under Beverly. He wanted to verify that statement. Engineer Onyak replied that there are large culverts under Beverly. Engineer Neff stated there is a big box culvert under Beverly that runs out to Big Creek and dumps out behind St. John Bosco. Engineer Neff stated that the box culvert is in good condition. Engineer Neff commented that the goal for this project is to help relieve the pressure on the systems heading towards Pearl Road and in turn, what that does is the less storm that goes in the less opportunity for sanitary sewer back up because of infiltration.

Chairman Podany asked if this basin would pick up water coming from Parma and Engineer Neff replied it would.

Engineer Neff explained that Council referred this plan to the Planning Commission because of the change in the park and he is asking for Planning to make a recommendation back to Council. He also asked that Planning recommend that another ballfield be named after John Litten. Engineer Neff has spoken to John's son, Bill, and he would prefer a field at Stroud Park.

THE CITY OF PARMA HEIGHTS
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 4, 2019

Commissioner Schwachenwald asked who came to the City with this idea. Engineer Neff replied he did, the Commissioner asked how he was compensating the City for the loss of the City's park. Engineer Neff replied he is helping the City. Director Patten responded that this would take away a lot of flooding in the City. Engineer Onyak commented just in this area there were over 400 homes that reported flooding and they believe not all homeowners reported the flooding. Commissioner Schwachenwald feels that this is a huge loss. Engineer Neff stated that the soccer fields would remain at Nathan Hale and he is reviewing other parks to add more baseball fields, as well as working with the school district.

Engineer Neff explained that the start date for the project would be later in May so the entire spring soccer program finishes. The park will not be ready for fall soccer because it will have to be planted and allow time for it to mature. The soccer fields won't be ready until next spring season. Engineer Neff reiterated that they are looking at other areas where soccer can be played during this down time.

Commissioner Schwachenwald asked that from Maplewood to York Road the engineers are guaranteeing no flooding. Engineer Neff replied "no". Commissioner Schwachenwald stated this is a gamble and we are giving up a park. Engineer Neff stated that this is part of a large study that has been performed. The need is here and it had to be presented to the NEORS for them to award the grant.

Commissioner Schwachenwald asked since the study was performed, do the engineers have an idea of how many inches/hour of rain will make the basin back up and basements start to flood. Engineer Onyak explained that the City couldn't handle the two year storms, Commissioner Schwachenwald responded that happened downstream and asked why that wasn't being corrected and why do we have to fix it upstream.

Engineer Neff explained that the basin was designed larger than what the consultant had suggested so we could control more and let out less. He said that he feels that this is the best benefit downstream. It has been analyzed from the one-year storm through the 100-year storm. The basin will start to fill after the 25-year storm and as it gets closer to the 50 and 100-year storm, it will be completely full. He continued to explain that once it gets to the 100-year point, it starts to discharge and will bring a lot of water downstream but meanwhile during the major part of that event we have stopped most of that water from going in there. The goal is to let it out slow. Engineer Neff stated he couldn't guarantee there will be no flooding but this will help a lot of the problems within this area of the City. The sewers are design to handle less than an inch of rain an hour. Engineer Onyak explained that the City would need two basins to completely alleviate the problem in that quadrant.

Engineer Onyak explained the other option would be to replace storm sewers and that would have to be throughout the whole City and on all of the streets and there would not be funding for that kind of project because you would be making it worse for everyone downstream.

Commissioner Schwachenwald asked if they were going to lift the south side of the park, Engineer Onyak said they were. He explained that there will be room for five soccer fields and raised between 2' and 4'. The Commissioner asked if it would affect the residents around the park, Engineer Onyak said no because there are swales around the fields now and they will still drain to the same storm sewers which will still drain into the basin.

Engineer Onyak explained that the report from the consultant recommended the two basins, Nathan Hale and the Cornerstone property. With those two basins combined, this quadrant of the City would function the way it is supposed to. Engineer Neff stated that there is an underground chamber on the Cornerstone property but the recommendation is a basin on the property. He continued to say that he started discussion with the NEORSR because they are willing, if it is a regional issue, to acquire land.

Engineer Neff explained that when this referred back to Council, there will be another Public Hearing and the Mayor is going to do a neighborhood meeting to discuss this plan. There were 411 homeowners in the downstream streets between Pearl Road and Nathan Hale that reported flooding but we know there are more based on debris for rubbish pick up after a storm.

Engineer Neff stated that his office has received calls from the neighboring residents to Nathan Hale complaining about what will happen to the park and he explains to them that this is better for the City.

Chairman Podany motioned seconded by Commissioner Koch to reconvene the Planning Commission meeting.

Aye: Podany, Schwachenwald, DePace and Koch
Nay: None

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING RECONVENED.

Chairman Podany motioned seconded by Commissioner Koch to refer the project back to City Council for review, which would include the demolition of the old concession building as well as re-name another ballfield within the City as the John Litten Ballfield.

Aye: Schwachenwald, DePace, Koch and Podany
Nay: None

NATHAN HALE STORMWATER BASIN PROJECT WITH DEMOLITION OF THE OLD CONCESSION BUILDING AND THE RE-NAMING OF ANOTHER BALLFIELD WITHIN THE CITY AS THE JOHN LITTEN BALLFIELD.

Chairman Podany motioned seconded by Commissioner Schwachenwald to adjourn the meeting.

Aye: DePace, Koch, Podany and Schwachenwald
Nay: None

Meeting Adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Florence A. Bohdan
Planning Commission Secretary

Mark Podany
Chairman, Planning Commission