

May 2021 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday | May 27, 2021 | 10AM

Home Economics Building

2050 Buffalo Drive

South Park, PA 15129

Hosted by Allegheny County



Municipal Attendees: Mary Ellen Ramage, Etna; Darla Cravotta, Allegheny County; Patty DeMarco, Forest Hills; Ben Estell, Dormont; Lindsay Powell, Pittsburgh; Krista Koller, Churchill; Andrew Flynn, Mt. Lebanon; Mark Sampogna, Green Tree; Connie Tinsley, Turtle Creek; Ron Borczyk, Ross; Deneen Underwood, Carnegie; Steve Beuter, Carnegie; Talia O'Brien, Etna; Jessica Semler, Etna; Rich Fitzgerald, Allegheny County

Other Attendees: Mark Tinsley, Caren Glotfelty, Allegheny County Parks Foundation; Marcos Bernal, PA One Call; Susan Hockenberry, University of Pittsburgh; Hunter Skroczyk, UPMC; Rachel Molinaro, UPMC; Ashley Harner, UPMC

GSPIA/CONNECT: Lydia Morin, Tess De Jong, JoEllen Marsh, Eric Raabe, Brett Stewart, Blair Mickles

Coffee and informal networking

- Attendees visited the Pitt Emergency Services info table

Presentation and Information about South Park

- Welcome and introduction to the Home Economics Building and South Park. Maps and brochures available to take.
- History of the Allegheny County Parks Foundation and parks system
- Updates on planned improvements, ecosystem and wildlife habitat restoration, and cultural asset restoration. Partnered with Western Pennsylvania Conservancy on Ecological Assessment and Action Plan
- Information about current parks programming and funding sources. Working to address issues of access and inequity.
- Let us know if you'd like access to the presentation slides
- acparksfoundation.org

Call to Order and welcome from CONNECT Chair

March 2021 Executive Committee Minutes

Motion to approve minutes – Andrew Flynn, Mt. Lebanon

Second – Mark Sampogna, Green Tree

Motion approved.

CONNECT Business and Updates from the Executive Director

- Comments on meeting together for the first time in 14 months. A slow adjustment as we are overcoming our feelings of being scared that other people could kill us!

- We added many new faces via Zoom in COVID and it's great to see some of you here today
- Overview of the next several months and talking through each [upcoming event](#)
 - [The Future of Fire Biweekly meeting](#)
 - [Materials Management subcommittee](#) – send your council and interested people to us!
 - [Marshall Plan x University of Pittsburgh x CONNECT alignment and mapping](#)
 - [Pre-Arrest Diversion Summit](#)
 - [Climate Action Plan Subcommittee](#). We're excited to work with the county, SPC, and others
 - [Infrastructure & Utilities Working Group](#). There are new opportunities to do things even better with the Climate Action Planning Process
 - Then we won't bother you for a month until the strategic planning and visioning session at the [July 22nd Executive Committee meeting](#)! The Strategic Network Training & Framing process with Institute for Conservation Leadership, this summer and fall - discussion of how CONNECT is more a network than organization. We will put together a cohort of about 40 people who want to be part of the planning for our network, our close nonprofit partners are joining us too
- A key ask: please refer people from your municipality to come to these meetings. More than one representative from a municipality can be involved. CONNECT is working on so much now and your colleagues can help us have greater impact

Welcome from Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald

- Allegheny County Parks Foundation is a great partnership, like CONNECT exemplifies partnerships with private, nonprofit, and corporate entities
- Discussion of sustainable initiatives in the county parks
- Our parks never had more usage than this last year. We were sure to keep them open as they were an outlet and piece of the community and enhanced quality of life in the pandemic. We are restarting programming this summer.

Formal Roundtable Introductions with Attendees

- How are you involved with CONNECT now, what initiatives is your municipality working on, and where can we form more connections?
- During the roundtable, members requested follow up information about [Dormont's zoning rewrite](#) and [recording of the PCRG summit panel about Transit Oriented Communities](#).

Motion to adjourn– Mary Ellen Ramage, Etna
 Second – Ron Borczyk, Ross
 Meeting adjourned 12:27pm.