

New Castle City Playground Committee Meeting Minutes  
October 16, 2023 – 5:30 p.m.  
1 Municipal Boulevard, New Castle, DE

Members Present: Suzanne Swift, Chair  
Brian Mattaway  
Judy Guttenplan

Absent: Nermin Zubaca  
Andre Jerry

Ms. Swift called the Playground Committee meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Roll call followed and a quorum to conduct business was declared.

### **Minutes**

A motion to approve the June 19, 2023, Minutes and the July 17, 2023 Minutes as presented was made, seconded and unanimously carried.

### **Playground Equipment Update**

Playground Ribbon Cutting – The Battery Park Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony was attended by City and State Officials, as well as DNREC and many residents. DNREC offered support in having the Committee apply for another grant for up to \$125,000.

Equipment Signage – The decal signage for the Zip Line was promptly peeled off and while waiting for more permanent signage from Kompan, a resident contacted the City Administrator because her 4-year old child fell off the Zip Line ramp, which is designed for ages 5-12. Ms. Swift was assured by Kompan that the playground is in compliance with ASTM requirements for elevated platforms under Section 7.5.5.1 and for elevated wheelchair accessible platforms under Sections 7.5.5.2 and 7.5.6.3. It was confirmed by Councilperson Souder that the platform is 36” above the mulch. In addition, the guardrails are ASTM compliant under Section 7.5.5.3. Kompan is overnighting metal signage and has forwarded an email to the Committee stating that the playground is in compliance. Ms. Swift will be writing a Letter to the Editor regarding this matter encouraging parents to have very young children use age appropriate equipment. In the meantime, the Zip Line has been fenced off and will be unavailable for use until the City Solicitor confirms that the equipment is in compliance with all applicable regulations.

Playground Surface – It was decided to use mulch for the surface of the playground because of cost and drainage, but mulch is not as ADA compliant as a rubberized surface. Ms. Swift suggested that the Committee consider migrating to a rubberized, more wheelchair friendly surface if there is grant funding available and if Kompan approves installing a new surface after-the-fact. Phase 2 of the project will have an ADA compliant ramp. Ms. Guttenplan noted that New Castle County Head Start is installing rubberized surfaces and will reach out to them regarding potential funding as well.

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Playground Walkway – In response to a question from Mr. Mattaway regarding the walkway, Ms. Swift stated that she met with Messrs. Bergstrom and Delgado, and she will follow-up to find out when the work will begin.

New Committee Members – Two residents have expressed interest in helping with the neighborhood parks project.

City Council Liaison – Ms. Swift will reach out to determine if City Council will assign a Council Liaison to the Committee.

Ms. Guttenplan commended Mr. Delgado and his staff for their work on the playground, noting that they were very efficient and responsive. Ms. Swift concurred.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The motion was unanimously carried, and the meeting adjourned at 5:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen R. Weirich  
City Stenographer