

New Castle City Playground Committee Meeting Minutes
November 20, 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 October 16, 2023 Minutes as presented was made, seconded and unanimously carried.

Playground Equipment Update

Swings – Ms. Swift reported that the double swing had been damaged. The swings are under warranty and Kompan immediately came out to repair the swing, and it is back in working order.

Zip Line – The zip line was out of commission for one weekend in October. Permanent signage indicating the age-range for the zip line was installed (ages 5-12) and it has been available since then. The zip line is NOT appropriate for children under the age of 5.

Ms. Swift submitted a letter to the editor to explain why the zip line was taken out of commission for one weekend.

Equipment Warranty – Kompan sent the After-Product Document. This document includes the warranty and owner’s responsibilities; and is the road-map of how the equipment will be maintained.

Phase 2 – Ms. Swift has discussed Phase 2 with Kompan, and there have been suggestions to alter the zip line to allow people to line up behind the it instead of having only one person being able to stand on the zip line at a time. Kompan provided a suggestion of how this can be done and asked that \$8,000 be budgeted for the alteration. Some discounts will be applied. In response to a question from Mr. Mattaway, Ms. Swift stated that a slide cannot be added to the zip line, but slides will be installed during Phase 2.

Ms. Swift reported that a minimum of \$1M in grant funding should be sought to cover the cost of Phase 2 plus upgrades to neighborhood playgrounds.

Funding – The Trustees have advertised their grant funding. Applications must be submitted by December 31, 2023. Ms. Swift noted that ONCOR hopes to have a 501C3 in place by then and suggested that an application for the Trustees’ grant be submitted.

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Neighborhood Playgrounds – Matt Eide was appointed as the newest member of the Playground Committee. Mr. Eide resides in Bull Hill and will act as the liaison for that neighborhood.

Public Comment

Nicholas Brock

Mr. Brock commended Council and the Playground Committee for their efforts in providing an outlet for children to enjoy themselves outdoors.

Miscellaneous

Ms. Swift noted that Kompan suggested that committee members visit a playground in Media, Pennsylvania to inspect its ADA ramp. She and Ms. Guttenplan will arrange a visit in the near future. In response to a comment from Mr. Mattaway, Ms. Swift noted that the location of the ADA ramp planned for Phase 2 is critical.

Mr. Mattaway stated that he is thankful for the committee and the work that has been done over the past few years.

Ms. Guttenplan noted that she has observed the playground being enjoyed by many families. Ms. Swift and Mr. Mattaway concurred.

There being no further business to discuss, Ms. Swift called for a motion to adjourn.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The motion was unanimously carried, and the meeting adjourned at 5:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen R. Weirich
City Stenographer