

Mine Falls Park Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes – June 2, 2025

Attendees: Bryan Conant, Paula Lochhead, Natlalie Iucci, Andrew Iucci, Matthew Roscoe, Laura Santer, Dave Silva, Dick Gillespie, Walter Davis

Guests: Kimberly Gyslik, Peter Shaefer (members of public)

Call to Order – 7:00 PM

Approval of May Meeting Minutes:

Dave motioned to approve the May Meeting Minutes. Dick seconded this motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Encampment Remediation

Ongoing concerns about increased encounters with homeless individuals within the park were raised. Some who use the park feel increasingly unsafe due to the number of homeless encampments and the ongoing encounters with individuals who present as agitated or unwell. Of particular concern is the fact that multiple new “roads” have been created by the city in order to access encampments within the park’s interior which disturbs the park’s natural state. Dave stressed that the purpose of the park is for all members of the public to access comfortably. Given the limited power of this committee to reach a solution, it is incumbent on the city to reach an equitable and compassionate resolution with the homeless population. Dave will relay these concerns and observations at the upcoming City Hall Meeting (June 12th) and report back any new information to MFPAC.

Misc. Concerns for DPW

- Trees will be planted around the high school bridge (white oak and red maple).
- Regrading around the gatehouse was requested.
- DPW will investigate erosion under the highway underpass and determine next steps, if necessary.

Gate House Grant Money Update

Pamela Davies has submitted a request for grant funding and has additional documentation to support this request. The committee hopes to be informed of a decision by June 30, 2025.

It remains unclear whether the city plans to match this grant funding and whether that matching of funds would be drawn from the MFPAC’s existing budget (cell tower money). Paula will write to the Mayor and inquire.

Feedback on May Trail Day

We were pleasantly overwhelmed with volunteers at last month's Trail Day. Being unable to paint due to the weather forecast, this created a bit of disorganization and a poverty of trash-picking supplies. It was requested that additional members of MFPAC arrive at future Trail Days by 8:15 AM to help prepare projects and organize volunteers. In addition, Paula will come directly to the Lincoln Park entrance (rather than the Gate House) to help organize volunteers.

June Trail Day Projects:

- Painting over graffiti on rocks near/below the dam
- Painting at Whipple St.
- Use grappling hooks to remove debris from weirs and brush/sweep debris from bridges
- Clean trash from two locations: (1) near ice rink and along the far side of the mill pond and (2) around the gate house

Future Trail Day Projects:

- Build stairs for kayak launch (plans are complete but permit may be required—Bryan will confirm)
- Paint Whipple St. bridge (if possible)

Adjournment – 8:12 PM