

Special Meeting May 30, 2025

Frick Park Hillside Project Plans

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by President Ruszkowski 2:30pm in Council Chambers at 1 Etze Avenue, Mount Pleasant, PA 15666. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. President Ruszkowski asked Borough Manager Lesko to take roll call. Councilpersons present included Barrick, Lasko, Davis, Barnes, and Phillabaum. President Ruszkowski, Mayor Bailey was present. Solicitor Mlakar were present. President Ruszkowski stated that a quorum is present.

Solicitor will now conduct the hearing.

Solicitor Mlakar stated the reason for this meeting is, to discuss Frick Park Hillside Project Plans. That is why we asked for this special meeting.

Mr. Dan Schmidt Engineer and Mr. Dominic Garofalo of Gibson Thomas Engineering and Dom who is handling the overall design. Mr. Schmidt stated the biggest concern is in regards to the grades pointed out previous submittals, we tried to tie into the existing concrete walkway on the right side with regards to the bathrooms, but in order to maintain that grade it resulted into a number of back and forth. Diagrams were passed out for council to view the current design.

Solicitor Mlakar asked “So, this is the path of least resistance?”

Mr. Garofalo stated in regards to previous designs some were not cost effective and steep slopes where people could fall off. The difference with this design is that we have slightly steeper incline. We recommend some sort of guard rail or sturdy structure be placed on the backside of the parking lot. So, when people back out they don’t topple over the hill.

Councilman Barrick asked “With the current grading situation that you have, are you able to manipulate the parking, that we could do angle parking?”

Mr. Garofalo commented “We did look into it. There is not enough material to have angle parking on both sides. Sixty feet is needed for both sides, we don’t have that, nor could we push the parking closer into the hill side making the grade slope steeper yet. Also, we have to meet ADA requirements.

Councilman Barrick commented about discussing internally moving the handicap parking area to the little paved area next to the borough building in the rear. There would be less concerns with worrying about the sidewalk, maintenance in the winter time and the expense of the rail. There are a couple of options This would provide a different route for ADA.

Mr. Garofalo asked “Are you talking about across the street?” The issue is if we are putting in a parking lot and calling it ADA we have to have access from that parking lot. Are you talking about getting rid of the ADA parking lot?

Councilman Barrick commented about moving the ADA parking to get rid of the ADA compliances.

Mr. Garofola stated “I am not positive on how the grant breakdown says that you need to get ADA to get into the park.

Solicitor Mlakar commented on the GIS site says the parking lot is owned by the school district. I started to investigate and turns out that there was a deed from the school district to the borough that was recorded so the borough owns the parking lot, so we don’t have to worry about trying to get permission from the school district., along with the basketball courts, library we own everything.

Mr. Schmidt commented It may require us if we had to expand the site plan to show in front of the borough building that we created ADA parking spaces and this is the ADA path to the municipal facility. Then we see if we changed the parking lot up here, and then just create another path down below.

Councilman Barrick stated there are two spaces back there and originally the entrance to the municipal building was in the back. That's why there is parking back there.

Council Barrick commented We own the parking lot now behind the building. So, on the back side of this building there is a parking lot that ties into Main Street. So, those we could make ADA spots there.

Councilwoman Barnes asked about the cosmetic look and eliminating the walkways.

Councilman Barrick raised the issues of having sidewalks and the upkeep during the winter to maintain the walkways by our maintenance crew. Walk in the parking lot, on the grass or you have a route that you would go down the street hit the sidewalk on the side of the building. Mr. Schmidt asked if he means putting no walkways in at all. Councilman Barrick said yes, no walkways at all. Councilman Barrick stated 95 % of the town does not have sidewalks. The only place that there are "regulated" sidewalks are Washington, Smithfield and Main Street. 95 % of towns does not have sidewalks.

Councilwoman Barnes brought up the question again of the cosmetic look.

Council continued individual conversation concerning the Hillside project plans for Frick Park.

Solicitor Mlakar asked how do you make a determination on actually how many handicap parking spaces you need? How do you make that determination?

Mr. Schmidt commented There might be something in the ADA code so many numbers per spaces. Scott from our office does our ADA requirements he knows the answer but was not available today. I will get the information.

Mr. Schmidt asked the parking lot out by the basketball court; do we call that the front or the back of building?

Solicitor Mlakar stated the front.

Mr. Schmidt confirmed, the front of the building. In the front of the building, we are going to be looking at the possibility of putting all our ADA spots in the front of the building. Then we could possibly use the parking lot on the back of the building for employees. Also, we would look at the possibility if the back of the building we could put some ADA spaces there, as long as we could find the route along side the building from the back to the front that is ADA accessible. The other thing we are going to look at appears to be sentiment among council to enlarge the parking lot here to have angel parking on both sides. What that would do is push the parking lot closer to the walking track. Plus, since we do not have an ADA ramp down there, we can make it steeper. We also heard that people are concerned about people walking down the grass without an ADA ramp, so we could put a set of steps in from the parking lot down. So, then you would have a hand rail, and you have steps that people can go down a regular way.

Solicitor Mlakar asked if there are any other comments? I think it would be appropriate for a motion to be made by someone to get the engineering firm to proceed to redesign the Frick Park project in accordance with the discussions as outlined by Mr. Schmidt and added on by Councilman Barrick.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Lasko for Gibson Thomas to proceed to redesign the Frick Park Project in accordance with the discussions that were outlined by Mr. Schmidt and Councilman Barrick with respect to the handicap guide lines. Motion seconded by Councilman Davis. Motion carried 6-0.

Mr. Schmidt stated they will come back with a new layout.

Mr. Garofalo stated that the Conservation District has started the E&S approval based on current design and it will take approximately another month with the changes for approval.

Councilman Barrick stated the grading isn't going to change.

Mr. Garofola stated E&S control will shift and require them to put together a different detail sheet.

Councilman Barrick stated at the last meeting there were discussions about putting lighting behind the Frick Park so it can be seen. Also, there is a rain garden below. We would to fix the rain garden with rock or shrubs.

Solicitor Mlakar stated to Mr. Schmidt this would always be subject to recommendations after seeing the updated plans.

Miscellaneous and Adjournment:

Council President Ruszkowski asked any other questions?

A Motion was made by Councilman Phillabaum to adjourn public hearing.
Motion 2nd by Councilwoman Lasko. Motion carried 6-0.

Meeting Adjourned 2:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Lesko
Borough Secretary

BOROUGH OF MOUNT PLEASANT

Susan Ruszkowski, Council President

Motions from Special Meeting of May 30, 2025

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