

Murrysville Star

Plan OK'd for 3-mile PV Park trail

Ben Moriarty
Staff Writer

Wednesday, September 14, 2005

At last week's council meeting, Murrysville officials unanimously approved a modified site plan for Pleasant Valley Park that will allow the construction of nearly three miles of multi-purpose trails.

Joe Galvin of the Westmoreland Conservancy said volunteers have completed a 20-car parking lot to provide public access and the trails would be the next step in developing the park.

"We're trying to open the park up," he said. "We want to get people into the heart of the park."

The proposed trails could be used for mountain biking, hiking and cross-country skiing.

The trails will be built in three stages by volunteers from the conservancy. Galvin didn't announce a time frame for the construction.

\$5,000 Grant

State Rep. John Pallone (D-54) stopped by last week's council meeting to present the municipality with a \$5,000 grant for development of the entrance sign area along Route 22 at the Monroeville border.

Candidates Night

Murrysville officials have created a subcommittee to explore the best possible way to handle the much debated candidates night issue prior to the local elections in November.

Per councilman Dennis Pavlik's request, officials discussed the municipal ordinance on using council chambers for a local candidate's night.

During the past few months, officials have had a number of discussions on public usage of council chambers -- specifically a candidate's forum.

Last week, council mulled over ways to make the event as unbiased as possible and considered using a live debate or question and answer session.

Council president Larry Keller said it's important for the municipality to hold a fair event.

"It's vital to the community and we should do it, but we need to do it in a very fair way," he said. "We have to keep the questions from being biased."

At councilman Robert Brooks' suggestion, officials decided to appoint a subcommittee to review the ordinance and return with a proposal in three weeks' time.

Brooks, Keller and Joan Kearns -- three members of council who aren't up for re-election -- were unanimously named to the subcommittee.

Hometown Streets

Council approved a request by Mayor Joyce Somers and the Murrysville Economic and Community Development Corp. to file for a beautification grant to pay for sidewalks, landscaping and lighting on Old William Penn Highway. It was approved in a 6-1 vote.

In the first step toward the "Hometown Streets" project, Glenn Engineering will perform basic work required in filing for the grant.

"If we proceed with the first stage, then we are committing to a second stage," said Somers.

The next step would be engineering surveys.

Councilman Dennis Pavlik opposed the request because he feels the sidewalk would have a detrimental effect on the parking for businesses located along Old William Penn Highway.

Council president Larry Keller said filing for the grant is only a preliminary step.

"We're not deciding anything here," he said. "We're just going to have someone tell us if it can be done or can't."