

Meeting Minutes
State College Borough Council
State College School Board
Work Session
January 6, 2011

The State College Borough Council met with the State College Area School Board on Thursday, January 6, 2011, in the State College Municipal Building, 243 South Allen Street, Room 304, State College, PA. Council President Filippelli called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Council: Elizabeth A. Goreham, Mayor
Ronald L. Filippelli, President of Council
Thomas E. Daubert
Donald M. Hahn
Theresa D. Lafer
Peter Morris
James L. Rosenberger
Silvi Lawrence

SCASD: Ann McGlaughlin, President
Rich Bartnik
Penni Fishbaine
David Hutchinson
James Leous
James Pawelczyk
Gowen Roper

Absent: Chris Small
Dorothea Stahl

Also present: Thomas J. Fountaine, II, Borough Manager; Amy R. Miller, Recording Secretary; Roger Dunlap, Assistant Borough Manager; Mark Whitfield, Public Works Director; Charles DeBow, Parking Manager; Amy Story, Borough Engineer; Ed Poprik and Jeff Ammerman from the State College School District; members of the media; and other interested observers.

Stacy Jones, Tom Skibinski and David Yeosock, consultants from the firm of Palumbo Skibinski & Crawford, presented two design options for renovations to the State College School District's Memorial Field.

1. Mr. Jones began with a general overview of the study process for the Memorial Field master plan and the charette process.
2. Mr. Skibinski next talked about the problems and solutions with the retaining walls and said the retaining walls should be considered with the design scheme.
3. Mr. Yeosock finished with stormwater management of the field.

Two design schemes were presented. The first option would create a 5,670 seat stadium and demolish the adjacent school administration building. Option two would create a 4,800 seat stadium and convert the administrative building into an athletic facility. Construction is set to possibly begin the summer of 2012 in time for the opening 2012 football season. Total costs would be between \$12.9 and \$15 million.

The majority of Council members preferred the second option.

Ms. Lawrence asked if the district considered building a new stadium outside of town. Mr. Poprik said a new site would not be feasible as there is no space available at the current campus location. He added that if the District were to buy land it would be more costly because everything would have to be built from scratch.

Council also raised concern about the geology of the ground upon which the stadium sits. Council said a modern drainage system in an historic field is an excellent idea.

Mr. Pawelzyk questioned the possible installation of a security fence around the Parklet for the safety of the students. The consultants replied that the park had not been considered because the park does not belong to the school district.

Ms. Lafer said parents should be responsible for their children's whereabouts during a football game or the School should have more control over allowing students to go in and out of the games freely. Mr. Morris added that he would be opposed to closing a public park as a solution to a stadium problem. However, Council members Rosenberger and Hahn said the Parklet should be considered further.

Ms. McGlaughlin summarized Council's comments. Mr. Hahn said that Ms. McGlaughlin may have mistaken opposition for concern. He does not believe that Council is opposed to the renovations, but are concerned with the costs involved.

Mr. Morris pointed out that the Parklet is now referred to as Friedman Park.

There being no further discussions, the meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon K. Ergler
Assistant Borough Secretary

Prepared by Amy R. Miller