

The regular meeting of Council was called to order by President Steffey at 7:01 p.m. in the Municipal Centers, 925 Old Clairton Road. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Councilman Bentz, Vice President Budd, Councilman Lynch, Councilwoman Mares, Councilman Montgomery, Councilman Polick, President Steffey, and Mayor McCaffrey answered to roll call. Solicitor McPeak Cromer, Chief Dziezgowski, Engineer and Acting Borough Manager Glistner, and Public Works Director Volpe were also present. Borough Manager Stinner, Consulting Engineer Minsterman, and Finance Director Haberstock were absent.

President Steffey stated please bow your heads for a moment of silence. I would like to remember our former Mayor and former Councilwoman, Jan Cmar. She was a tremendous woman, very kind, giving woman and above all, loved her community, and would do anything for it. On behalf of Borough Council and staff, we would like to extend our gratitude to her family and friends as well.

REPORT FROM BOROUGH BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

None

BOROUGH RESIDENT/TAXPAYER COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

PRESENTATION

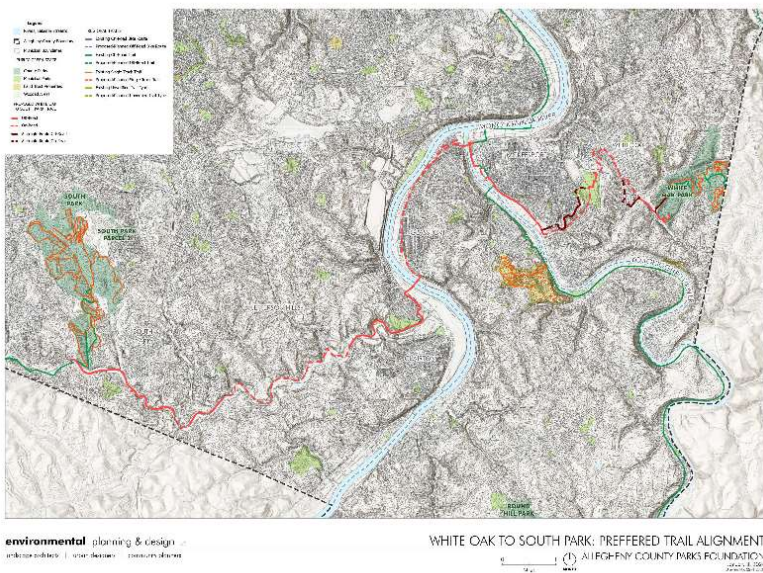
Presentation by Environmental Planning & Design on behalf of the Allegheny County Parks Foundation regarding the South Park to White Oak Trail Connectivity Project

Mr. A. J. Schwartz, Environmental Planning and Design landscape architect and community planner, stated I appreciate you giving me a few minutes to be able to give you an overview of what the Park Foundation and the communities within this proposed trail corridor have been up to. We just had a public meeting as a capstone. I will walk you through in terms of the detail and in terms of the plan itself and then let you guys ask any questions you may have.

The Park Foundation, several years ago, developed a plan that they call the Allegheny Green Web. This was a trail project of expanding or enhancing connectivity throughout all of Allegheny County. It was looking at everything from what we would call community connections to existing trails like the Three Rivers Heritage Trail to making connections that didn't exist, gaps that were in the system, so to speak, places where there could be potential connectivity but for some reason a trail corridor never was connected. Trail, in this case, could be anything from a multimodal connection, a sidewalk connection that allowed both walking and biking to an off-road separated type of trail, a limestone trail, one that you would be familiar with would be Montour Trail. It was a fairly all-inclusive or a fairly wide view of those trail connections. Another important piece of that effort was establishing trail connections into places where communities had been isolated in the past. Any of you who are familiar with the section of the Ohio River, basically Bellevue, Avalon, Ben Avon in that section, that is what we would call a desert in terms of connectivity. The physical terrain there, any of you familiar on being on the Ohio River, you basically

have the river, the railroad, and then a really steep bluff to get up to what would be the 65 corridor. It's difficult for people to actually get to the end of the Three Rivers Heritage Trail. So that project was really also trying to figure out how to get better access to places that previously had not had access. Another example, over in the City of Duquesne, the Allegheny Passage comes through where we know RIDC is but there is no physical connection to get across 885. Trying to make those improvements was what this was about.

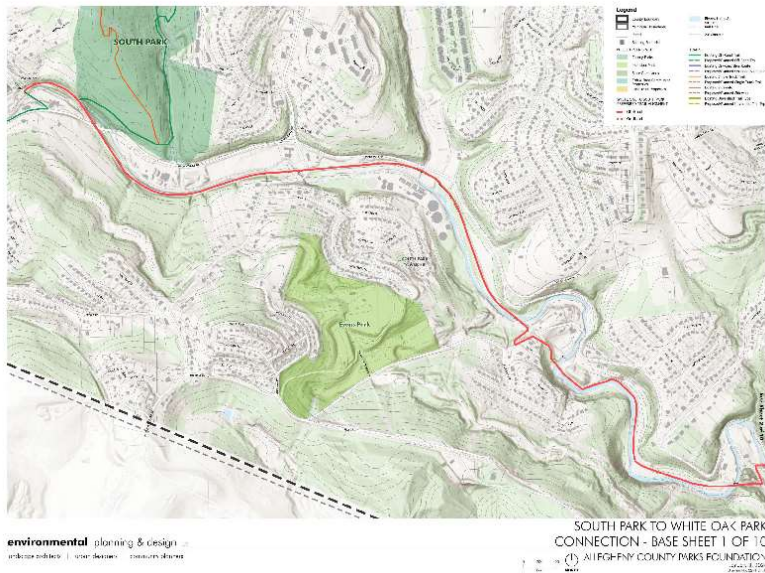
One of the key goals that came out of that was to interconnect the nine county parks. The first section that the Green Web had settled on, something that they thought could be achievable in the next 15 to 20 years, was really the South Park to White Oak Park connection, hence why I'm here. The reason they had looked at it as having potential of possibly being implemented in the next 15 years was we had large sections of the Montour Trail that already existed. On the other side of the Mon River, in terms of Glassport and the Steel Valley Trail and then we had portions of the Great Allegheny Passage coming up the Yough Trail. There were existing assets or facilities that currently were in place. We needed to fill the gaps.



The map shows South Park here to give you a point of reference. White Oak Park is right here. This connection would start where the trail comes down out of South Park and hits the Montour Trail itself. Follows along the corridor, comes into Clairton, crosses the Glassport Bridge, relocation of the Steel Valley Trail, crosses the Yough, comes along a portion of the Allegheny Passage, comes up Eden Park into Renze as we know it, comes into White Oak, and makes its way to White Oak Park. That's about 22 miles of trail corridor. It is a mixture of on-road as well as off-road. As you know, some sections of the Great Allegheny Passage are off-road, large sections of the Montour Trail are off-road. In the case of Peters Creek Road, we would be on-road. That is one of those missing sections.

What this effort was trying to do was figure out where we had existing assets, where we had the gaps, and then how to best fill the gaps. We've been working with all the communities, as well as assortment of other entities to try to sort through how to best do that. We have discussions with PennDOT pending. We have cost estimates put together. The whole idea is that through this planning effort, we would have a better sense of how much it would cost section by section to implement improvements. In your neck of the woods, because a lot of the Montour Trail exists, more focus had been placed on making

improvements in terms of trailheads where additional comfort stations, restroom facilities potentially could be developed, those types of things, parking areas, to better accommodate potential users, walkers, bikers. In the case of Clairton, when we come into Clairton, there is a major gap. At the end of the Montour Trail, as we know it today, is at the trailhead, and then we have the Steel Valley on the other side of the bridge. There is nothing that gets us across the bridge. Nothing gets us along State Street or from the bridge to the Montour Trailhead. This effort took time going through that.



I have an enlarged map that gives you a better sense of the detail. This section is starting at South Park and now coming to along Peters Creek to basically Route 51, which you guys have been working on. You have a plan to get across at grade in terms of 51. That's something that Mr. Glister is hoping to implement in the upcoming year in terms of 2024. We've gone through each one of these maps and have priced everything out. On the case of Peters Creek Road, we are on-road, so we're going to be recommending sharrows. Those are the little bike person that is painted on the roadway. We've basically have done an estimate for all those. So, as a community sees an opportunity to work with the Park Foundation or Allegheny County to implement things, they have a good sense of what those numbers are. That's looking everything from permitting all the way through inspection. In some cases, as any of you that have dealt with a PennDOT type of project, you have to anticipate those types of costs. This is in the very beginning, all-inclusive in terms of that section.

As we move through the corridor and get over into McKeesport and White Oak, their circumstance is very different. I didn't bring any board specifically because I didn't think you probably wanted to focus on those. If you have any questions on any specific sections, I brought the other ones. I just put this one up as a quick example. Again, 22 miles for this whole section, there is almost 40% is actually in place. Quite a bit of it exists. The vast majority of new improvements are really in the east section. There's a bit in central for the small 2 miles that does have some challenges. No pun intended, there is a pathway for reasonable implementation on that one.

Mr. Glister stated thank you for coming here and, giving this presentation. This is part of the community outreach that they have been working on. So, with them having their public meeting in the

community room tonight, I figured it would be a good idea just have them come over and talk a little bit more.

For the project he referenced for Jefferson Hills to implement sometime in 2024, the Borough has been working with Montour Trail for making improvements to the section of the trail coming out of the park and ride to get across Clark Testing, Slater Funeral Home, and across 51 onto the other side of 51 by Old Clairton and Oak Road. That is a project we have funding in place for. We were unable to get it to that stage in 2023, but we are hoping to get that going in 2024. We will have more information on that later in the year but just to fill the gap on what that reference was.

Mr. Schwartz stated we're having a series of public meetings in each of the corridor sections. There will be three public meetings and potentially a fourth. The next set of meetings is next week on Tuesday and Wednesday night. The first one in Clairton and then the second one in White Oak. We also, through the summertime, had outreach, going to different community events in each of the communities. Had a tent up or at least a table where we were able to talk to people. We did a community survey, got a lot of good feedback in terms of what people's wants and desires for a trail like this or a connection like this. Again, nothing surprising. You guys are going through a comprehensive planning effort. The first thing you see on anything related to parks and recreation is everybody wants bathrooms, and they want them clean. They want to make sure there's ample parking. Same thing happened in terms of the survey. Those are all things that we've been trying to work through best, trying to deal with and address.

Vice President Budd asked where can we find the info on any of the survey results or to look at those maps a little closer?

Mr. Schwartz responded I can share them with Mr. Glistler, and he can give it out to Council.

Mr. Bentz asked did you say the funding has already been acquired for this?

Mr. Glistler responded it is a small portion in Jefferson Hills just to get across 51 in front of Slater and Clark Testing over to the park and ride. We have funding.

Mr. Bentz stated our side has already been taken care of.

Mr. Glistler responded yes, and we can get the information of all these maps. We can talk a little further about making this available online to residents too.

AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Lynch moved to approve the monthly bills that have been paid, seconded by Mr. Bentz, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Bentz moved to approve the monthly payroll, seconded by Vice President Budd, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Montgomery moved to approve minutes of agenda meeting December 6, 2023, seconded by Mr. Polick, and carried unanimously.

Vice President Budd moved to approve minutes of regular meeting December 11, 2023, seconded by Mr. Bentz, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Mares moved to approve minutes of special meeting December 28, 2023, seconded by Mr. Bentz, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Lynch moved to accept the resignation of Tyler Fisher from the Borough of Jefferson Hills Public Works Department as of January 15, 2024, seconded by Mr. Montgomery, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Montgomery moved to advertise for the Parks Laborer position in the Borough of Jefferson Hills Public Works Department to fill the position declined by Ryan Gillespie, seconded by Mr. Polick, and carried unanimously.

Vice President Budd moved to authorize Gaitens, Tucceri, and Nicholas, PC to take over all existing and future litigation for the Borough of Jefferson Hills that was previously handled by J. Deron Gabriel, seconded by Mr. Lynch, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Lynch moved to appoint John Kaufman III to one (1) seat on the Borough of Jefferson Hills Civil Service Commission as an alternate for a term expiring December 31, 2026, seconded by Vice President Budd, and carried unanimously.

Vice President Budd moved to appoint Tracey Khalil to the Borough of Jefferson Hills Vacancy Board, seconded by Mr. Lynch, and carried unanimously.

Vice President Budd moved to appoint Tom Dugan and Tim Mulvihill to two (2) seats on the Borough of Jefferson Hills Recreation Board for a 4-year term expiring December 31, 2027, seconded by Mr. Lynch, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Polick moved to appoint Donald Housley Jr. to one (1) seat on the Borough of Jefferson Hills Planning Commission for a 4-year term expiring December 31, 2027, seconded by Mr. Lynch, and carried unanimously.

President Steffey called for a motion to appoint _____ to one (1) seat on the Borough of Jefferson Hills Zoning Hearing Board for a 5-year term expiring December 31, 2028.

Mr. Montgomery asked since we do not have an applicant. Can we approach the alternates to move up, and do we have to act on that? There are two alternates on the Zoning Hearing Board.

Solicitor McPeak Cromer responded you can motion to table this for now and talk to the alternates, and then vote next month.

Mr. Montgomery moved to table the motion to appoint _____ to one (1) seat on the Borough of Jefferson Hills Zoning Hearing Board for a 5-year term expiring December 31, 2028, seconded by Mr. Lynch, and carried unanimously.

President Steffey called for a motion to appoint _____, _____, and _____ to three (3) seats on the Borough of Jefferson Hills Environmental Advisory Council for a 3-year term expiring December 31, 2026.

Mr. Lynch stated we only had two applicants. Do we need to amend this, or can we just nominate?

Solicitor Cromer responded you can move to nominate two. You are just providing notice. That is perfectly fine if you have two.

Mr. Lynch moved motion to appoint David Graffam and Dr. Judith Kaufmann to two (2) seats on the Borough of Jefferson Hills Environmental Advisory Council for a 3-year term expiring December 31, 2026, seconded by Mr. Polick, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Lynch moved to appoint David Mares to one (1) seat on the Borough of Jefferson Hills Environmental Advisory Council for the remainder of the term expiring December 31, 2025, seconded by Vice President Budd. The vote was not unanimous, and a roll call vote was taken per Borough Code, which requires that the minutes show the actual votes by name, below are the votes of each Council Member.

Mr. Bentz	YES
Mrs. Budd	YES
Mr. Lynch	YES
Mrs. Mares	ABSTAIN
Mr. Montgomery	YES
Mr. Polick	YES
Mrs. Steffey	YES

Six members voted yes, and one member abstained, motion carried.

Vice President Budd moved to appoint Katie Snodgrass, Valerie Bailey, and Ernest Williams to three (3) seats on the Jefferson Hills Public Library Board of Directors for a 3-year term expiring December 31, 2026, seconded by Mr. Lynch, and carried unanimously.

Vice President Budd moved to ratify intervening in Case No GD-23-014728 regarding the City of Clairton vs. the Clairton Municipal Authority, seconded by Mr. Bentz, and carried unanimously.

President Steffey called for a motion to adopt Resolution No. 01-2024 adopting Rules of Decorum for public meetings.

Vice President Budd asked on page seven under Mayor, regarding oversight of the police department, I understand everything it means. Should there anything in there regarding what civil service's rule is over the police department regarding ranks and so on or am I reading that wrong? Because they have a part in promotion and reduction of rank, or any suspension possibly?

Solicitor McPeak Cromer responded do you want to table it for now and we can review it? It does not have to be advertised. We can review it and see if anything needs to be added.

Chief Dziezgowski stated I will take a look at it with the solicitor and make sure that all the language is above board.

Vice President Budd moved to table the motion to adopt Resolution No. 01-2024 adopting Rules of Decorum for public meetings, seconded by Mr. Lynch, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Bentz moved to authorize the proper Borough officials to execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Police Services between West Jefferson Hills School District (WJHSD) and Jefferson Hills Borough Police Department, seconded by Mrs. Mares, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Bentz moved to ratify the Jefferson Hills Police Department to sign a 5-year contract with Axon Enterprises Inc., reference Quote #Q-536475-45274.576MB, in the amount of \$68,500.00 (\$13,700.00 annually) for the purchase of ten Taser 10 devices and accessories to replace current Tasers X26P devices that have reached their end-of-life cycle, seconded by Mr. Polick, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Lynch moved to add additional access control to Beedle Park from David Davis Communications Estimate #59647 for \$7,303.00, seconded by Mr. Montgomery, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Montgomery moved to approve Application for Payment No. 1 and Final from Robinson Pipe Cleaning Company in the amount of \$59,301.50 for work completed on the Joint Municipal SHACOG O&M CCTV – Year 13 Project, subject to the receipt of an invoice from SHACOG, seconded by Vice President Budd, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Montgomery moved to approve Work Authorization dated December 20, 2023, from Gateway Engineers, Inc. for General Planning assistance in 2024 in the amount not to exceed \$10,000.00, seconded by Mr. Polick, and carried unanimously.

BOROUGH RESIDENT/TAXPAYER COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Karen Bucy, 410 Deer Park West, owner of 1420 Gilmore Drive, stated I have two residences because in 2022 my husband and I purchased a residence on Gilmore Drive where my son resides, and he does a rent-to-buy from us. I wanted to clarify that for you. My goal in speaking to the Council this evening is to remind previous JH Council Members and inform the new JH Council Members regarding four blighted properties in the Borough. Their addresses are as follows, 102 Arch Street, 1412 Worthington Avenue, 1420 High Road, and 613 Cochran Mill Road. Several of these properties have been abandoned for over 10 years. All of them are in severe structural disarray and are compromised. Huge holes are in the roofs and windows and have broken glass surrounding them. I know this for a fact because I have walked around 1412 Worthington Avenue. That property's backyard abuts the property that I purchased in 2022. The Public Works Department has had to maintain the grass and hedges along all four of these properties, which is an additional cost to our taxpayers. There have been several grants that have been applied for by the JH Borough, but both the CBDG grants 48, 49, 50 and Act 150 have been denied. Private people live right next to most of these properties. They take great care in their homes. These properties have become public safety issues due to the vacant, dilapidated structures. Residents that reside next to these blighted properties have appeared before our council stating their concerns. They have also written letters that have been read at council meetings stating these concerns. These structures have the potential to attract vagrants and squatters and are devaluing these neighboring properties. Since the previous grants have been denied for multiple years, I am requesting, along with many of these other

fellow residents, that the JH Borough investigate the cost for demolishing these structures since you have opened the 2024 budget. We would like to see these properties demolished. I have the addresses and I urge all of you people that are sitting on council to go and view these properties and see what a potential public safety hazard they have become in our neighborhoods.

President Steffey stated Vice President Budd and I have a finance committee meeting tomorrow morning with Mr. Haberstock. He is going to be conference calling in. We will certainly take your suggestion under advisement. As we are working through the budget, we will see what the outcome will be.

REPORTS

Fire Chief

The JHFR written report is on file in the administrative office.

EMS

Not Present

Engineer

Mr. Glister had nothing further to add to the engineering report on file in the administrative office.

Consulting Engineer

The Gateway written report is on file in the administrative office.

Finance Officer/Treasurer

The Finance written report is on file in the administrative office.

Public Works Director

Mr. Volpe had nothing further to add to the written public works report on file in the administrative office.

Police Chief

The JHFR-COPS report is on file in the administrative office.

Chief Dziezgowski stated on behalf of the Jefferson Hills Police Department, our deepest sympathies to the Cmar family in the passing of former Mayor Jan Cmar. We are sorry and we are here for anything that you need during your time of grief.

Mayor

Mayor McCaffrey stated I would also like to pass on my sympathies and prayers to the family of Jan Cmar and friends.

I would like to talk for a minute to the residents to make them aware of a scholarship fund that has been started on GoFundMe. It is called the Hoppy Heart Scholarship Fund for the TJ Softball Boosters. Hoppy Mitruski was a teacher and coach at Thomas Jefferson High School for over 35 years. As important, he was a mentor, friend, and family man. As much as Hoppy wanted to win, he wanted to teach players a game that he was passionate about. He wanted them to understand and enjoy winning as much as he wanted them to understand how to grow and thrive with adversity and failure. You can accomplish anything on the field and in life if you play with heart and give 100% effort. The Hoppy Heart Scholarship will be awarded each year to qualified TJ High School senior softball players that demonstrates Hoppy's motto. "You can't coach heart and effort. Heart, effort, kindness, and willingness to help without question and an overall passion for life." Please donate to support the TJ High School Softball Boosters and continuing Hoppy's legacy throughout this scholarship from years to come.

Acting Manager

Mr. Glister had nothing further to add to the written report on file in the administrative office.

Solicitor

Solicitor McPeak Cromer stated for the record an executive session was held on Thursday, January 4th, in regard to the Clairton Municipal Authority litigation. We will be adjourning to executive session to discuss the same litigation matter following the meeting.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Mr. Lynch stated my thoughts and sympathies to the friends and family of our former Mayor Jan Cmar. I know that Jan had poured her heart out for this community for 20-plus years. She definitely left a lasting impact and a great legacy. She definitely will be missed.

I wanted to remind all the residents that the Geo Mack Veterans Foundation Care Bag Drive is still going on until January 29th. If you need any more information, you can check out their Facebook page at Geo Mack Veterans Foundation. You can go on our Borough social media outlets. Again, any payment arrangement you got, whether it is cash, check, Venmo, or PayPal, it is only \$5.00. Great cause.

I also want to welcome the new member to the EAC, Dave Mares, honored to be working with you. Definitely also want to welcome back Dave Graffam and Dr. Kaufmann. Lots to look forward to. To remind the residents that we still have one spot open on the EAC. So, please send your letter of interest to our Borough Manager. We definitely need you. We got a lot coming up this year.

Vice President Budd stated I want to express my condolences and sympathy to the family of Jan Cmar. I thank her and her family for all her years of service because I know they were with her every step of the way as she served this community.

Please check out Jefferson Hills Library's website and social media or even better, stop by in person to see some of the events that they have planned coming up soon and this coming year. Get a library card while you are there if you do not have one.

Just a note on garbage since we have not talked about it in a while. The transition to County Hauling for our garbage and recycling pickup has been underway for just over a week now. Every day, the route manager sends in a list of exceptions to the Borough staff. These are pickups the drivers know they missed, and they have been pretty minimal. They give a reason why they did not pick up garbage, such as it was not out, or it was not placed at the curb properly. Most of the reasons were that it was not out. Borough staff reports some calls for varying reasons but along with the exception reports these misses seem to be due to the holiday delay, the start of this new contract, and the drivers getting used to their new territory along with residents getting used to the new company. There are some growing pains that were anticipated, but relatively speaking complaints have been minimal. If you need to review the letter sent out from the garbage company or the Borough, it is posted on the Borough website. The pickup calendar is also posted on County Hauling's website, along with the link to report a missed pickup. I just ask for your continued patience as we all adjust to this new service.

Mr. Polick stated thoughts and prayers to the Cmar family. As Councilman Lynch was saying, please look out for the EAC with the open spot on there. We do have a lot going on with that committee and we need your help.

Mr. Montgomery stated to echo what everybody else said, thank you for the service, Jan Cmar. She had 24 years of continuous service here, which is phenomenal. I would like to ask for prayers for Denny, Michael, and Nikki. We were friends for a long time, it is going to be tough going down to Slater's. I urge everybody to go and support them.

On a lighter note, thanks to what Sherry Trbovich did for us, the Allegheny County Sheriff's Department will have the concealed carry event here on April 6th. We had the record for last year, 1,119 permits. We are going to try to beat that.

President Steffey stated for those that would like to pay their visit to the Cmar family, the visitation will be held at Stephen D. Slater Funeral Home on Wednesday, January 10th, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and then 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. On Thursday, January 11th, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and then 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Then Friday, January 12th at 9.15 a.m. there will be a prayer service at the funeral home, and then mass followed at Holy Triumph starting at 10:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

President Steffey adjourned the meeting at 7:41 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Bentz, seconded by Mr. Lynch, and carried unanimously.

Michael Glister, PE
Acting Secretary/Borough Manager