

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

August 19, 2014

The meeting was called to order by: Carrie Milroy, at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: J.R. Rausch, Bob Berbee- excused, Emma Romine-absent, Betty Brewer, Larry Amrine and Carrie Milroy.

Others Present: Amanda Morris, Michael Andrako, Brodie Rockenbaugh

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from July 15, 2014 were approved as submitted. J.R. Rausch made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, Mrs. Brewer seconded. Ms. Milroy stated accepted.

Report of Public Service Director: Mike Andrako reported:

The paving on Lewis Park South Parking Lot and the Jim Simmons Trail is complete.

Mr. Andrako introduced Brodie Rockenbaugh. Mr. Andrako said he has been responding to a lot of the items that were brought up in the meeting with an email that brings everyone up to date so we do not have to readdress those items during the meeting. He did not do that this month because Mr. Rockenbaugh was out last week. He will start responding to these items by email. The idea is to wait until we have most of the answers and then he will respond.

Mr. Rockenbaugh stated he is very happy to be a part of the City as he is a life long resident. He worked with Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks for about 15 years and then Innis Wood Metro Gardens. His background includes landscape design and build. He gave everyone a print-out of the items that were brought up at the last meeting. They have accomplished several of the items. The restrooms and facilities at the parks are critical to the park user. We have addressed the sign at Trinity, and the water fountain at Mill Valley South was taken care of today. The straight rail arrived and was taken out. Mulch was delivered to different parks around the playgrounds that were in need, like Schwartzkopf Park. Several trees were removed from the south side of the soccer fields at Eljer Park and also removed some of the trash cans that were old and falling apart and replaced them with our regular mesh baskets. He is going to work with Engineering and Public Service for the ADA access and removing those railroad tie steps in McCarthy Park so it is a little easier to access. In Lewis Park the crabgrass has been sprayed. Some of the crabapple trees are showing distress signs from summer. Aldersgate will be a great project for the ORW women to complete.

Mr. Andrako said the ORW program was on hold. They were great about helping us out. Right now they are doing some background checks on who can manage the workers. Mr. Rockenbaugh stated that our pitching mound needs some more work at Mill Creek.

Recreation:

Mrs. Morris stated that we wrapped up our last Uptown Friday Night in August, great crowd and weather. Dive-in movie had about 400 guest signed in. Thank you to Richwood Bank for their support. With regards to the pool, just on our daily attendance we have surpassed what we did last year, we recorded over 15,000 visitors in total for the season. This year as of August 15, we are at 18,046. Tuesday, September 2nd will be the dog swim. Next year, there are some maintenance issues we are looking at; concrete issue that we are being preventative on, requesting adding into the budget getting the pool painted either in the spring if the weather permits or if not, we will do it the following fall. That would be having a company come in and power wash it and repaint the lap lanes.

Second session of sand volleyball is going on right now. There are 17 teams for the second session. Basketball is finishing up next Tuesday; there were not that many teams this year. We will hopefully have the addition of corn hole. This Sunday is our last concert in the park; Haiden Sayers will be performing from 5:00pm-7:00pm at the American Legion Park.

Mrs. Milroy asked whether the maintenance on the pool is out of the General fund or the Parks and Rec fund? Mrs. Morris stated that is out of the Capital improvement. She got a price quote for a shelter area, for birthday parties etc at the pool.

Mrs. Milroy asked whether we are considering concerts in the park for next year? Mrs. Morris replied she is not sure where Administration stands on that, and see how Partners Park turns out and what will be the best use of funding. We will definitely keep our day in the park because it seems to grow each year. Explore-A-Truck was an amazing turnout, Mrs. Richardson also attended. Mrs. Morris stated that we went through over 200 hotdogs and bottles of water, as well as construction hats that we passed out. We actually ran out within the first two hours. Fire Department passed out over 500 hats.

Mr. Amrine asked whether the high dive was a plus this year? Mrs. Morris replied yes.

Commissioner's report on Individual Parks:

J.R. Rausch- Mill Valley Central looks great. Mill Valley South- the men's urinal is not flushing, and the blow dryer still not working but they are working on them, and everything else looks great.

Carrie Milroy- Eljer Park: Is the curved rail is that still out there? It was going to be removed because it couldn't be welded. It was still there on Sunday, and they actually had one of the ramps laying across the curve rail. Mr. Rockenbaugh replied that instructions have been given to bring it back to the shop because there is nothing that can be done with it, and we will replace it with a new one. Mrs. Milroy questioned if the board was placed at the top Mr. Rockenbaugh stated he will check into that. Mr. Andrako stated we

have the supplies to fix it and are making sure they can get it done right. Mrs. Milroy asked if they are still planning on moving it Mr. Andrako answered yes, but we might wait until next summer to move after we get it paved. Mrs. Milroy asked if the batting cage nets are going to be removed for the winter Mr. Rockenbaugh stated that when they start to winterize the pond they will also to take those down, around late October. Mrs. Milroy stated that on the backstop at Eljer one of the rings at the top that holds it up was off, it just needs hooked back. Mr. Rockenbaugh said he will be there tomorrow to look at it and fix it.

McCarthy Park: The roof of the restrooms has weeds coming out of it and branches on top of it. Mr. Rockenbaugh stated that it is in his notes. Mrs. Milroy stated there there is no post on the bridge. Mr. Rockenbaugh stated that is also in his notes. Mrs. Milroy mentioned the steps. Mr. Amrine stated that it is nice to have someone who is proactive.

Betty Brewer: Lewis Park: Blacktop is done and crabgrass under control, it looks nice. There is a tree at the north end. It is an ash tree that does not look so good.

McCloud Park: is in good condition, the railroad ties at the far end need to be replaced they are falling apart. Mr. Rockenbaugh asked if they are just borders holding in the flower beds Mr. Andrako stated he believes they are and Chad was looking at replacing them with stone or interlock wall.

Larry Amrine: Aldersgate Park: The painting will possibly begin in the fall. Also, there were 6-7 large buzzards on the sidewalk 10-15feet from the playhouse. Is that a problem? Mr. Rockenbaugh stated that it could be that they smell something from a raccoon getting into the trash.

Jim Simmons Trail repaving looks nice.

Citizen's Comments Non-Agenda Items: None

Old Business: None

Agenda Items:

Dog Park Update: Mr. Andrako stated that he is no longer proposing a separate parking lot. There is a paved path that will go through the dog park. He likes the mature trees on the site. He stated that it will be a lot of grading, fence and path costs. He will also try to keep it around the \$85,000 that we discussed. Mr. Amrine asked what do you do for water for the dogs? Mr. Andrako answered most dog park have a water line that runs to either a hydrant (pump hydrant) or a water fountain that is like a bowl. He prefers the hydrant so you can wash your dog off if it gets muddy. There is a concrete pad under the hydrant so it does not get muddy.

Mr. Rausch asked when they are in the fenced in areas are they off the leash? Mr. Andrako stated yes. Mr. Rausch asked how big the park would be? Mr. Andrako replied

between 2 -3 acres. It is very comparable to Spindler Dog Park in Hilliard. When you put the plans on our site it looks like the exact same area. Mr. Rausch asked the dog park got fast tracked because we thought it would be good to use this years paving quotes, "Would it make sense to slow down a little bit to do more research." Mr. Andrako said he would like to give our guys time help make it take form. Mr. Andrako said he is willing to go back to Finance Committee and discuss this and how they want to move forward, his thought was to get it ready to open next spring.

Mr. Amrine inquired about the plans on naming this park? Mr. Rausch stated that Deb Groat suggested Brad and Deloris Bills. Mr. Amrine suggested Connie Patterson? Mr. Rausch stated no, but we are working on renaming the beautification program after her. The Bill's have been pretty instrumental in bringing the dog park up, and they would like to name it Bark Park. Mrs. Morris said that we should not limit ourselves; we are also looking at trying to get sponsorships. Mr. Rausch stated that there is no formal naming process for this. Council would like the naming process to come from Parks & Rec. Mrs. Milroy asked if we are holding off with the park until next spring? Mr. Andrako stated that he would like to start grading it, and get some seeding done before winter starts. Mr. Rausch stated that the plans for the park should go back to Finance and to City Council.

Mrs. Morris made a motion to approve proposal, Mr. Amrine moved the motion and Mrs. Brewer seconded it. All were in favor.

Organization of Master Plan: Mrs. Morris stated that we talked a little bit on it at the beginning of the meeting. We would like to move forward with the AD HOC meeting on September 9, 2014 to discuss ordinance changes to Chapter 110 that will give a little more time for the three of us to go through the Master Plan and go through presentations. Once we have our proposals ready, we can move into the Master Plan and find out what surveys we would like to put together. Mrs. Milroy stated that as a commission that will help us when we start working on our five year plan to project where we need to go with our funds.

Comments of Citizens- Agenda Items: N/A

Comments of Individual Commissioners: Mr. Rausch stated we look at the same parks, maybe every 3-6 months we change it up. There are a couple of spots and 3-4 parks that have not been looked at. Mr. Amrine agrees. Mrs. Milroy stated that it might work on a rotating schedule.

Ms. Milroy asked that they have the minutes before the meeting, even if it is electronic. Mr. Andrako stated that they would have them prior to the meeting. Mrs. Morris stated that they might even start using Google docs.

Mr. Amrine has been asked by several people why we can't have one more uptown event in fall like October with a fall based theme. Mrs. Morris stated that next year maybe we could look at an Octoberfest. Mr. Rausch stated that he would like to see something on Saturday night in October, so we are not competing with football. Mr. Rausch stated that

he would like to have a tailgate for one of the 8:00pm Ohio State games and November 1st they are home against Illinois. Mrs. Morris stated that will depend on the park.

A resident was upset because the brick sidewalks are disappearing. Mr. Andrako stated that we give the homeowner the chance to fix the bricks and become ADA compliant, if they choose not to do that the City will replace the sidewalk.

Three years ago, the plow hit the curb on 8th and Mulberry, and it is getting worse, the curb needs fixed. Mr. Andrako stated that it is the homeowners who are responsible for fixing the curb. Mr. Amrine asked Mr. Andrako to please look at it and let him know what him to do.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the Parks & Recreation Commission, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.