

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

October 21, 2014

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

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

Others Present: Michael Andrako, Brodie Rockenbaugh, Laura Michalak, Steve Prothero and Eric Herzog.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from September 16, 2014 were approved as submitted. Mr. Rausch made a motion to approve the minutes as written, Mr. Amrine seconded. Ms. Milroy stated accepted.

Report of Public Service Director:

Mike Andrako introduced Laura Mihalak, the City's new Recreation/Events Coordinator to the Parks & Recreation Commission members.

Parks & Grounds Superintendent Brodie Rockenbaugh reported the following:

The hanging baskets Uptown have been removed, planting has occurred at the Police & Court facility and at City Hall.

Two Memorial Trees were planted along the Jim Simmons Trail, one at Greenwood Park and one at Eljer Park.

Six loads of soil were hauled to Bunsold Middle School in an effort to help students with a rain garden project.

Work continues on the Dog Park. Tunnels have been incorporated and trees have been removed.

Landscaping and irrigation is currently being installed at Partners Park.

A memorial garden donation at the Municipal Pool was made and are currently performing landscape renovations onsite, and also winterizing is taking place.

A quote was obtained for the new swing set.

The City provided assistance/logistical support to the YMCA for their track and trail event held on October 11th at Mill Creek Park and Jim Simmons Trail.

The dug outs at Mill Valley South have been repaired due to erosion problems.

Spruce trees at Lewis Park have been cleaned up on the south end as well as the pine trees on the North end, allowing better sight lines.

Still investigating the malfunctioning lights at Lewis Park.

Sand volleyball courts at Eljer Park are closed for the season; crack sealing was performed by our streets department at Eljer. Ten black locust trees were planted to replace those that were removed in the soccer field area.

Oakdale Cemetery- 5 burials, 2 cremations' this month.

Leaf collection is currently taking place.

City Arborist Chad Morse and Parks and Grounds Maintenance Worker Heath McKenzie attended Central Ohio Urban Forestry Conference in Westerville.

Public Service Clerk, Carolyn Steepe attended an Ohio Cemetery Conference training session in Woodland Cemetery located in Dayton, Ohio.

Mr. Rockenbaugh and Ron Shilling also attended an Ohio Cemetery Conference training session at Lakeview Cemetery located in Cleveland, Ohio.

Upcoming projects:

- Continuation of leaf pick up and winterization of our irrigation systems and the plumbing and restrooms in the parks
- Aerating and over seeding athletic fields
- Repairing fencing around athletic fields and winterizing fields as well
- Jump start on bed maintenance so we are ahead of the curve before spring

Mr. Rausch asked when the park restrooms will be closed for winter. Mr. Rockenbaugh said it will likely be in the first two weeks of November. Signs will be posted at the locations and information will be posted/sent out by Anna Krutowskis.

Mike Andrako said dirt has been moved at the Dog Park. Money will not be spent until 2015. In January/February the fence will be installed (estimated \$30,000), the path will be paved (estimated \$20,000). We are currently working on getting sponsors for park benches. Also will purchase a drinking fountain (est. \$5,000.00) and an informational kiosk. Mr. Andrako said he's aiming to have the project complete by Memorial Day, depending on how fast the grass grows.

Mr. Rausch inquired about the water fountain. Will ours have a hose hook up? Mr. Andrako said he's not sure if the hose will be a separate installation. The fountains that he has researched either have a hose or a dog bowl; not both. Mr. Andrako prefers the dog bowl, but he will try to

figure out a way for the park to have both. Mr. Andrako said, “The park is a great example of our two divisions (Parks and Streets) working closely together to make this happen.” Mr. Andrako offered to provide a tour to anyone who would like to see the park.

Our Public Service Department has been selected as the recipient of the 2014 *Friends of Master Gardener Award* by the Union County Master Gardeners due to the support we have provided them in various projects such as the McCloud Park Demonstration Garden, Adopt-a-Pot and the Project Grow garden at the Central Ohio Youth Center.

Mr. Andrako and Streets Superintendent Joe Tracey were recognized at the Ohio Master Gardener Awards Banquet held on October 17th.

An 8th Grade Science class from Bunsold Middle School is in the process of constructing a new bioretention garden on the south side of the Bunsold School Building. The class has been involved in the design and construction of the garden which has also had participation from Union Soil and Water Conservation District, MEVSD, retired teacher and principal Noel Underwood and the City’s Parks & Grounds Staff. Suzi Clarridge, the Science teacher who is organizing the project, wrote a letter thanking the City for their involvement in the project and complementing Brodie Rockenbaugh and Kaylee Port for their helpfulness and knowledge in the subject of bioretention and rain gardens.

Recreation: Recreation & Events Coordinator Laura Michalak reported:

Ms. Michalak introduced herself to the commission members. She is excited to work for the City of Marysville as the Recreation and Events Coordinator.

Ms. Michalak stated a sponsorship luncheon was held a few weeks ago, in appreciation of the sponsors of our recreation/city events.

Co-Rec Volleyball has wrapped up for the season; we had another successful year.

NSX Nite was a success. There was approximately 500 attendees and over 75 cars.

Ms. Michalak has met with the pool managers twice recently. Discussions were made about potential salary increases for them. We are also looking to adjust prices for pool membership passes.

The pavilion is going to become a big focus. Mr. Andrako and Ms. Michalak will be meeting with the Mayor and Mr. Emery in a few weeks to discuss utilization of Partners Park.

Commissioner's Reports on Individual Parks:

Mill Valley Central:

Mr. Rausch said the grounds look great and it’s good to see all of the youth sports taking place in the parks.

Mill Valley South:

The urinal has been repaired and the hand dryer was delivered today.

Eljer Park:

Ms. Milroy asked if the ply wood that is damaged on the skate ramps has been ordered. Mr. Rockenbaugh stated that bulk panels were ordered, but there is a concern with the difficulty in getting the boards/holes to line up correctly. Mr. Rockenbaugh did some research and found a company that has access to the parts and supplies specialized for each skate ramp. They have the panels that are pre-cut and pre-drilled.

Mr. Rockenbaugh said the straight rail has been installed and he is getting prices on a curved rail. He has also been talking to skateboarders at the park and they recommend a grinding box (rather than a curved rail), or something that is a little more elevated off of the ground. This would create a more diverse skatepark.

McCarthy Park:

Ms. Milroy said a panel in one of the shelters is coming loose. Mr. Rockenbaugh said he will take a look.

Ms. Milroy stated that she noticed the step issue was addressed. Mr. Rockenbaugh said there is a limitation for the length of the run of the slope and how long it can be before a resting/landing zone is required. He believes we can use some existing land form. Mr. Rockenbaugh plans to see if he can get Boy Scout troops to volunteer to help remove the vegetation that is covering the bridge. Removing vegetation (honeysuckle) will allow visibility of the playground from the shelter. Mr. Rockenbaugh said when the shelter is addressed in the future, we main want to consider moving it a bit closer to the turf area due to erosion on the bank behind the shelter.

Mr. Andrako stated if the decision is made to move the shelter, the price of replacing the shelter may increase. Mr. Rockenbaugh mentioned the possibility of seeking out grant funds to help offset some of the cost.

Lewis Park:

Ms. Brewer stated she noticed the brush was gone from the memorial; it really looks nice.

McCloud Park:

Ms. Brewer said the perennials and annuals have been cleaned up making things look nice.

Mr. Rockenbaugh said he was able to contact the father of the female that the memorial tree was dedicated to. Mr. Rockenbaugh discussed replacing the tree with him and he was open to replacing the tree and moving the location.

Mr. Rockenbaugh said he would also like to see a rededication of the flag pole.

Ms. Brewer asked if the water fountain will be turned off at McCloud Park. Mr. Rockenbaugh stated yes, it will be winterized and shut off.

Aldersgate Park:

Mr. Amrine stated Aldersgate Park looks as good as it ever has. He mentioned that the lights in the fountain closest to the gazebo are not working. Mr. Rockenbaugh stated there is a shortage in the control panel and it has been sent out for repair.

Schwartzkoph Park:

Mr. Berbee noticed the fence is out and grass has been reseeded.

Mill Creek:

Mr. Berbee said he noticed the parking lot was striped and looks good. There is a bike rack that appears beaten up and needs looked at.

Greenwood Park, Trinity Park and Butterfly Park:

Ms. Romine stated all three parks look great.

Citizens Comments Non-Agenda Items: None

Old Business: None

Agenda Items:**Master Park Plan Review:**

Ms. Milroy stated that she wanted to touch base with the commission members, to go over the key items and recommendations in the Master Plan.

1. Improve the Trail System

Ms. Milroy said we have completed all of the paving as far as expanding the paths. She asked Mr. Berbee to inform the commission members what information regarding trail connectivity is discussed at the next Greenway Trail Project meeting, scheduled for October 31st.

2. Recreational Facility for Residents

Ms. Milroy said she knows there is nothing currently in the commission's plans, but asked if this is something the City would be interested in implementing in the future.

Mr. Rausch said as of right now, it has not been a topic of discussion.

3. Improving Existing Pool and Provide Additional Waterpark Opportunities

Ms. Milroy said we continue to make improvements and enhance the pool. Examples include the new lounge chairs, new fencing and bringing the high dive back.

Mr. Andrako said a "shade structure" (approximately 20ft., 10 ft.) that has been incorporated in the 2015 budget. We have also looked at prices for a slide at the pool, however we need to find a sponsor. Mr. Andrako stated the pool may also be painted in the spring.

4. Expand Recreational Programs

Ms. Milroy said the co-rec sand volley ball leagues and 3 on 3 basketball leagues have expanded the City's recreational programs. Mr. Andrako said in the future, we plan to look at implementing a water volleyball tournament and also a cornhole league. The cornhole league would take place at Schwartzkoph Park.

Mr. Rausch said in other communities, the city runs the recreational events, but Marysville has several organizations such as the YMCA that takes care of recreational/sports events.

5. Investigate Additional Sled Riding Opportunities

Mr. Andrako said sled riding will be allowed at the Upground Reservoir. Mr. Rausch said the hill along Amrine-Mill Road is also a great area to sled.

6. Increase Naturalized Areas

Mr. Rockenbaugh said we spend a lot of time and fuel on mowing. It is his belief that some of that can be reduced by converting certain areas into warm seasoned grasses, naturalized/wildlife areas. This would prevent mowing once a week to twice a year, we are doing succession mowing, introducing more wildlife. Mr. Rockenbaugh stated this would free up City employees that are mowing and allow them to focus on the cemetery and athletic fields that need to be maintained. Mr. Amrine said he really likes the idea. Mr. Rockenbaugh thanked Mr. Amrine and said paths to travel through these areas can also be implemented.

Ms. Milroy asked if the paths at McCarthy Park can be maintained or closed. Mr. Rockenbaugh stated this would be a great project for a volunteer group to prune the honeysuckle which will allow better accessibility and a safer environment.

7. Optimize Use of Existing Fields and Pursue Development of Additional Fields

Mr. Andrako said he would like to point out that the Joint-Rec Facility recently expanded their fields. The City does provide funding for the Joint Rec and we should start making use of those fields.

Mr. Andrako said installing lights at Eljer Park has been brought up in the past, and we will research the idea further. Having lights at Eljer would enable sport schedules to be expanded.

Mr. Rausch said it's time to do a survey regarding youth sports; what needs they currently have and what they foresee needing in the future.

Mr. Rockenbaugh said as former president of MBJFSA, he spent many hours trying to find field space. If we could get lights at Eljer Park, we would have 6-10 more opportunities to have softball/baseball games per week.

Mr. Amrine said lighting at Eljer Park would be great.

8. Investigating Mosquito Control Options

Mr. Andrako said the City currently fogs the parks and trails every so many weeks. Mr. Andrako mentioned that he contacted the Union County Health Department and asked why they do not fog like many county health departments do. Mr. Andrako feels that the health department doesn't see this as a huge priority at this point.

9. Pursue Opportunities for the Creation of an Off-Lease Dog Area

Ms. Milroy stated this item can be checked off; we are all looking forward to the Dog Park.

Ms. Milroy stated the rest of the items do not need to be reviewed at this time. We will need to start thinking about the 5 Year Capital Plan before we know it.

Comments of Citizens: None

Comments of Individual Commissioners:

Ms. Milroy thanked Mr. Amrine for his service on the Commission. We appreciate your years of service and your commitment to making our Parks better.

Mr. Berbee said the Dog Park progress is looking nice and he's looking forward to it.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Parks & Recreation Commission, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.