

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

City of Findlay

April 19, 2021

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Members Present: Mayor Christina Muryn, Chair, Matt Cordonnier, Dennis Doolittle, Colin Earl, Greg Myers, Josh Palmer, Grant Russel, Ben Taylor, Brian Thomas.

Staff Present: Fire Chief Josh Eberle, Matt Stoffel, Lisa Mansfield, Elicia Mitchell, and Kathy Launder.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to accept minutes of the January 19, 2021, meeting, by Cordonnier, second by Meyers. Motion passed 9-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Firefighter Memorial Relocation: Chief Eberle stated that the firefighter memorial monument honoring two Findlay firefighters who died while trying to rescue children who were caught in the dam is currently located on the south side of the Blanchard River near the dam. There is not a lot of visibility for the monument as well as the maintenance and upkeep of the area is a challenge. A request is being made to have the monument relocated to the north side of the river in Riverside Park near the dam. Chief Eberle stated that he has been in touch with some of the surviving members of the family and they are good with moving the monument. Public Works Department employees are able to perform the work or relocating the monument. Chief Eberle stated that he does not have a specific location yet, he was looking for approval from the Board prior to moving forward. Meyers and Cordonnier think it is a great idea to move the monument. Taylor stated that he is in favor of moving the monument. He further stated that this area might be a good opportunity to create an overlook to the dam. Councilman Russel stated to make sure that Hancock Park District is in favor of the move.

ODNR Nature Works Grant: Stoffel stated that the City is applying for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Nature Works grant in the amount of \$18,000 to go toward a project that benefits parks. (Stoffel dropped off the call.) Mitchell stated that the grant is a 75%/25% split. This is the first time that the City of Findlay has applied for the grant that is meant for park improvement. The designated project will be a new shelter at Swale Park. The City of Findlay also submitted a letter of support for Hancock Park District's (HPD) grant application for the same Nature Works grant. There is \$120,000 available to Hancock County. HPD's project is to make improvements the Great Karg Well Historical Site. The City's priority is to support HPD's application and project. If HPD is not awarded the grant, then at least we have a submission.

Motion to support the City of Findlay's application for the ODNR Nature Works grant, by Councilman Russel, second by Councilman Palmer. Motion passed 9-0.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Recreation Department Report: Mansfield reported that the Diamonds are getting busy: UF baseball and softball have their regular season; at the beginning of May the GMAC Conference Championship for softball. Regular season for Findlay Youth Baseball, slow pitch softball, and fast pitch softball are all gearing up normal seasons. Miracle League season will just be a 9-week summer season this year. Now through August every weekend is booked with tournaments at the Diamonds. A couple of the tournaments are utilizing multiple other ballfields. Some restrictions lifted for outdoor games. Inside capacity limits are 25%. Ice season went well. Individual user groups did a good job of monitoring their programs. FAHA had no issues. Silver Blades had their show this year with reduced capacity. Gliding Stars decided to cancel their show this year. Working with Mayor Muryn on the Spark 360 Fitness Challenge which is a fit challenge among different cities. To engage social media more, developed a program called Workout Wednesday where we engage with different gyms in the area, talk with the

owners about what they have to offer, and then they put together a short workout video that folks can follow along at home, have had great response.

Mayor Muryn elaborated on the Spark 360 Fit City Challenge. Program between Move with the Mayor and Spark 360 or Spark America. It is a free application, Spark 360, connects with all smart fitness devices. Can compete as individual or community. There are 10 other cities participating in the challenge. All citizens receive the app for free for at least the next year, but it may be permanently. Just another tool to help stay fit, they have coaching, recipes, fitness tracker, tips and tricks, and games. Just another program encourage fit and healthy lifestyles.

Parks Maintenance Department Report: Stoffel reported that the bandshell renovation is underway. The Green Waste Site is open and busy. Parks Maintenance employees have been mowing and performing ballfield maintenance. A new lift station was installed at the restroom at Fort Findlay Playground. This should eliminate a lot of the issues. Soccer season started. The City helped the YMCA with their mowers and fields. In the process of making repairs at the Skate Park. Next week will start the process of opening the pool.

OTHER BUSINESS

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board is scheduled for May 17, 2021, at 4:00pm in the third floor conference room of the Municipal Building.

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Launder
City Clerk