

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

City of Findlay
June 20, 2023

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Members Present: Rob Martin, Chair, Greg Meyers.

Staff Present: Dave Honse and Kathy Launder.

Guests: Randy Greeno, City Council; Jim Staschiak II, City Auditor; Haydee Sadler.

OLD BUSINESS

Greenway Trail Phase II Project Update: Director Martin reported the base asphalt pavement is complete, the helical piers are being drilled for the boardwalk, drilled caissons are being installed for the bridge-last one is being poured today. It is on schedule to be completed by the end of 2023. There have been temporary lane closures for safety on State Route 568. There will be couple dates that State Route 568 will have to be completely closed for bridge placement.

Mayor Muryn stated that the Greenway Trail is not open yet, but we have had people going around the cones and using the path already in the construction zone. We continue to work to identify how we can create connectivity among our various paths and trails. Discussing timeline of getting the Greenway Trail all the way to Riverbend Park and then continue to extend west to Litzenburg Park. Long term as we look, how does Hancock County fit into the whole northwest Ohio region. Talked with folks regarding the State trail map there is a lot of connectivity across the State and then you look at northwest Ohio is not very connected. This is a long term strategic item of getting the connectivity and helping make Findlay the hub as people are out riding and running, etc.

Downtown Recreation Area Update: Mayor Muryn reported the Appropriations Committee met to discuss. A couple of the items the Committee requested before making any funding decision for the engineering portion was documentation of the property being able to be transferred from the County as well as the funding plan. In the concepts that Strand has provided, looking at all the items proposed and suggested, they estimated the cost of the park from \$10 million to \$40 million. They said the City needs to refine it. But in order to work through the process and refine it, the City needs to go through the engineering process so we can start determining what specific materials, which things do we really want, etc. Need to have this engineering process completed before design process can begin. The link for the Downtown Recreation Area is on the home screen of the City's website. All the presentations regarding the Downtown Recreation Area are on the website. Mayor Muryn has requested the Appropriations Committee meet the week of June 26 to follow up on the to dos to see how we can move the project forward. One of the big components the Board wanted us to do is a more iconic bridge which will be a significant expense. We need to let the engineering firm that is doing the benching work know sooner rather than later what that preliminarily looks like and where it will be located because that will impact their dirt movement. To be able to go out and solicit grants or any donations, we need to have a design in hand and a more refined cost. It doesn't have to be the final plans, but it is necessary to have a better understanding of what we want to move forward with.

Auditor Staschiak asked if any of the environmental reports had been shared with the Parks and Recreation Board. Mayor Muryn stated that the reports have not been discussed with the Parks and Recreation Board because as she discussed with Auditor Staschiak multiple times previously the environmental risk, we are not going to build a park on an area that has any contamination issues that are not going to be appropriately addressed. Some of the issues that have been previously identified with underground storage tanks or debris, just like at Swale Park, are being addressed during the benching project. Any work the City would be doing in this area would be after that. Mayor Muryn stated that she does not have any environmental concerns but certainly as we move forward with the discussion at the Council level, would be happy to keep the Parks and Recreation Board abreast of that. Mayor Muryn stated that the Ranik property is the largest area of concern. The building has been

removed and the Hancock County Commissioners in conjunction with the City of Findlay has already submitted and received a grant for the State brownfield remediation program. That property will be remediated prior to the benching occurring. Then there will further clearing out in that area. A significant amount of dirt is being removed. Mayor Muryn stated that the work that has been done to remove underground storage tanks, and other potential hazards will be appropriately addressed. We are not going to put a bunch of work into this area, if we didn't feel that it was a safe environment for everybody.

Mayor Muryn stated as we work through the Appropriations Committee, we will come back to the parks and Recreation Board to address the concerns. All of the members of this Board recognize the importance of investing in parks and recreation and the benefit that the work we are doing provides to the community as a whole and the Downtown Recreation Area is a huge opportunity that you all have been very supportive of. May lean on the members to share the message and the details of the process and the benefit it will provide.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Recreation Department Report: Martin reported on behalf of Lisa Mansfield: The Diamonds are extremely busy with summer baseball and softball and tournaments. Tournaments are booked every weekend through the first week of August. Special Olympics will be using several dates in August. Miracle League just wrapped up their Spring season; their fall season begins in August. Summer Ice is in until mid-July, Silver Blades is hosting a test session, minimal summer use for Silver Blades and FAHA, there is an adult hockey league running, hockey camp coming up. The attendance for Keep Active Keep Healthy continues to increase. Assisted with Camp 9-1-1. Provided kids activities for the Flag City 5K. Will be at the XT Fitness for Family Fitness Fair. Hosted Learn To Skate camp, the first one since COVID, with 19 participants. Working through implementing Executime. Can now accept credit card payments at The Cube.

Parks Maintenance Department Report: Honse reported the pool house has been completed with tuck points and mortar joints. Pool is open. Completed the stamped concrete at the entrance of the pool before it opened. Met with the Hancock Park District last week to show them how we used the grant funding they provided and what we have planned in the future. The projects we are considering for this year's grant application are 1. Fix mortar on the main restroom and office building, 2. Extending the stage at the Bandshell. Days of Caring put in mulch at playgrounds. West Park neighborhood requested items be added to West Park. They are going to be bringing back suggestions in August.

OTHER REPORTS

Hancock Park District Report: Gary Pruitt was not able to attend the meeting. Mayor Muryn stated that she has seen quite a few folks out with kayaks and canoes. This weekend a lot of people were using the Eastpointe Landing kayak launch. That addition last year has been well received and is a much safer option. She said it was great to see folks out being active.

OTHER BUSINESS

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board is scheduled for July 17, 2023, 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