

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

City of Findlay
August 21, 2023

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Members Present: Rob Martin, Chair, Matt Cordonnier, Holly Frische, Jeremy Kalb, Greg Meyers, Josh Palmer, Gary Pruitt, Jim Seebald.

Staff Present: Dave Honse, Lisa Mansfield, and Kathy Launder.

Guests: Beth Warnecke, City Council.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to accept minutes of the April 17, 2023, meeting, by Councilman Palmer, second by Kalb. Motion passed 8-0.

Motion to accept minutes of the June 20, 2023, meeting, by Councilman Palmer, second by Kalb. Motion passed 8-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Greenway Trail Phase II Project Update: Kalb reported that construction is moving along. The boardwalk is set. They will install railings next. The pedestrian bridge is expected at the end of September, however this date is floating due to production issues. The final course of asphalt has been laid. Will grade and seed this year. Will regrade and reseed in spring. We are slowly removing rock as the piers are installed. Some rocks will remain to hold banks. These rocks do not raise the elevation of the river. Pruitt asked the status of an agreement to define maintenance responsibilities for this phase of the Greenway Trail. Questions include inspection of trails, standardized signage with contact information, snow removal, striping, etc. Kalb stated that he is working on that agreement with Public Works and will schedule a meeting with Pruitt to discuss.

Downtown Recreation Area Update: Director Martin stated that legislation for design was tabled by City Council. The legislation for transfer of property has also been tabled by City Council. City Council did approve legislation for funds to perform environmental studies.

NEW BUSINESS

Fort Findlay Playground Project: Kalb reported that the City is working with Human Nature to provide concepts of a replacement of the Fort Findlay Playground. Concepts included locating the playground near Sixth Street as well as in the middle of Emory Adams Park. All concepts took in to account the current uses of Emory Adams Park such as soccer and Flag City BalloonFest. The designs are required to maintain the Fort Findlay fort concept. Kalb stated that he prefers the concepts that keep the playground near Sixth Street. Reconfigure parking with art pavers for donors. All areas will be ADA compliant. Concepts include pickleball courts, basketball courts, natural play components, all inclusive play components, fort design components, ninja course, multi-age play areas. Entrance to the playground will have fort structures on either side of the walkway. Barriers will be placed around the playground which will either be fencing or natural barriers. Shade trees will be planted to create additional shaded areas. Sufficient lighting and cameras will be installed for security purposes.

Councilwoman Frische requested the fort structures be visible from the road. Cordonnier stated that the current playground has nooks and crannies to play tag and hide and seek that kids enjoy. Councilman Palmer, Cordonnier asked if a bridge connecting the two fort structures was a possibility. Councilman Palmer, Cordonnier and Kalb preferred the location near Sixth Street for visibility off of

Sixth Street rather than the middle of the park. Pruitt asked if we are still wanting to keep fort feel, do we need the fort structure? The concept drawing looks more like a shell of a fort. Can we reproduce the existing fort? It's a good start. Like the bigger footprint. Kalb stated that if the Board likes the direction of this initial concept, he will give the input received today to Human Nature to get more detail. Human Nature will be conducting community meetings at the schools to get input from community as well. Kalb stated that we want to have this as a community build.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Recreation Department Report: Mansfield reported that the summer tournament season is over. Were able to bring in more teams for tournaments with utilizing other parks. Performing maintenance on infields and park fields. Fast Pitch roster had 150 girls; Slow Pitch roster had 183 girls; Youth Baseball roster had 427 boys. Ice is out for the summer. Were able to have four dry floor shows. Held kick off to Hancock Adult Leadership and Hancock Youth Leadership. We coordinated activities that support leadership traits in classroom setting. Renegade Rumble MMA fight will be held on Saturday and Friends of Findlay will be held on Sunday at the Cube. The University of Findlay baseball and softball programs have started. Miracle League will be starting their season this weekend for a six-week season. October the ballfields will be shut down for field maintenance. There are three more Keep Active Keep Healthy programs for the year. A list of improvements/investments for the Cube and sports complex was distributed to the board for reference of investments in the last seven years.

Parks Maintenance Department Report: Honse reported that Riverside Pool closes this weekend. Shelter 15 is 99% complete, waiting for front doors. Submitted three projects for the application for Hancock Park District Foundation grant. Will be meeting with West Park residents tomorrow regarding requests for items at West Park. Honse stated that his team members take a lot of pride in maintaining our City parks. A lot of improvements have been made over the last several years in addition to daily maintenance as detailed on a list that was distributed to the board.

OTHER REPORTS

Hancock Park District Report: Pruitt reported that the new restroom at Riverbend was completed at the end of June with upgrades to electrical and reconstruction of the walkway. Litzenburg Memorial Woods improvements and Great Karg Well is scheduled to begin in September. Litzenburg will close in the Fall during this project.

OTHER BUSINESS

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board is scheduled for September 18, 2023, at 4:00pm in the Mayor's Conference Room of the Municipal Building.

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Launder
City Clerk