

# PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

City of Findlay  
February 20, 2024

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## MINUTES

### **ATTENDANCE**

Members Present: Rob Martin, Chair, Chris Aldrich, Matt Cordonnier, Dennis Doolittle, Holly Frische, Jeremy Kalb, Kyle Lockmiller, Greg Meyers, Josh Palmer, Gary Pruitt, Jim Seebald.

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

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion to accept minutes of the December 18, 2023, meeting, by Councilman Palmer, second by Kalb. Motion passed 7-0.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Downtown Recreation Area: Mayor Muryn gave an update on the Downtown Recreation Area (DRA). Flood mitigation is the priority. Delay in the flood mitigation efforts give us a little additional time. The delay we experienced with signing the contract with Strand, it was going to be tight for the City to coordinate between Strand and Stantec on the different elements and layout of the DRA so that we are not moving dirt twice. Will give the City time to work on the community engagement elements that we had planned. The DRA project cost of \$40 million is not accurate. As we work through engineering there may be elements that we need to work through the hydraulics and materials that will work in the particular area of the DRA, that is what we need to work through. The project cost for lower end materials and a 30% contingency will be about \$15 million. Mayor Muryn is expecting the cost to be closer to the \$20 million and no more than \$30 million price range. She has submitted a request for an allocation in the State's capital budget as well as its Strategic Investment dollars. She has spoken with both Senator Rob McColley and Representative Jon Cross regarding this request.

Next step there will be two main elements happening in the next year. We need to go out to the public to start polling on prioritizing the elements within the project, such as a splash pad, peace garden area, etc. That way if we have to start eliminating items, the City knows what the community wants to see. Then we plan to have design concepts for each of the elements, and go out into focus groups and get feedback.

Mayor Muryn stated that the engineering designs don't expire. We can phase in elements. There are private donors who are interested in funding certain elements. We first need to know that cost looks like for the elements. That's why we need to go through the refining process. Late Q2 or early Q3 is the timeframe to get started with that process.

### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

Recreation Department Report: Mansfield reported that they are getting to the end of ice season. Year-to-date had 29 Public Skate sessions with 4479 total participants, average of 155 per Public Skate. During the day 14 school groups came in including Hancock Gifted doing STEM activities with lunch and ice skating as part of the activities, with 101 students participating. On March 17, Gliding Stars has their show, and March 22-24 Silver Blades has their shows. Items were purchased with a grant from the U.S. Conference of Mayors to set up a sensory room for special needs to help accommodate skaters from Gliding Stars while not participating in the show. We are looking for feedback from them to get additional items with ARPA funding that Blanchard Valley School has available. Working with Blanchard Valley Center (BVC) for an adult changing table that is portable that will be able to be used during different activities, but can be removed during Public Skate to prevent vandalism of the table. Also working with BVC to put in a wheelchair accessible seating area in the arena to see over the hockey boards. Funding is available through a grant that BVC has available. Working on field maintenance, The University of Findlay softball team has been using the field, batting

cages are going up. Working with a collegiate summer team to use the Diamonds field as their home field. Great Lakes Summer Collegiate League, same league as Lima's team, working with The University of Findlay utilizing their interns for marketing and social media. Merchandising will be through KanDu Group. Will have 25-30 games, with half of them being home games. Will make sure that there are no conflicts with other user groups. Will need to do some updates to the seating. Mansfield visited Lima's field for comparison to make sure we are doing what we need to. Will need to add bleachers to accommodate 300 seating capacity. Kalb stated that there is money in the capital budget this year for concrete work in the seating area at minimum for the baseball field and if enough funds left over do the remaining fields.

Parks Maintenance Department Report: Honse reported they are doing maintenance and painting restrooms at Emory Adams Park and Swale Park. Boards came in for the pedestrian bridge at Emory Adams Park so will be replacing them. Will be overseeing at Emory Adams Park weather permitting. Doing maintenance on mowers, trash cans, and picnic tables. Kalb stated that we are working through contracts for the restroom replacements at Rawson and Swale Parks. The City was awarded Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to fund 100% of the restroom replacements. Swale Park will be an additional restroom. The current restroom will remain.

## **OTHER REPORTS**

Hancock Park District Report: Pruitt reported that signs will be replaced at the disc golf course at Riverbend Park and will be adding signs to the pro tees. Falls in the overarching goal of upgrading aging items and standardizing the Hancock Park District (HPD) brand. In partnership with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) working on a mindfulness walk. There are 11 displays similar to story walk in Riverside Park. They will be installed around the 1.2 mile Loop Trail. NAMI will insert the wellness messages. Clarified information reported from last meeting about anticipating of the acquisition of the Cooper Pond. The expectation was to get it transferred the first quarter of this year. One of the comments was there will be no public entrance from the road. That is not accurate. Once acquired and able to get on the property, and work on a master plan, what would like to do is provide pedestrian access from the road and to also see the feasibility of having parking spaces for vehicles with a placard for disability for disabled drivers. There may be room for one or two spaces to do whatever we can do to improve accessibility. The trail around the pond will probably be a hard surface at some point. Pruitt stated he attended the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association Conference and sat in on a couple sessions with Lisa Mansfield. The common theme was how strong the association is. We are fortunate to be part of it.

Mayor Muryn asked for direction on putting together a map of all the trails and parks to promote the amenities in the City and County. Mayor Muryn has asked Jaclynn Hohman to reach out to the University of Findlay to see if they could assist in developing.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board is scheduled for March 18, 2024, 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