

# PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

City of Findlay  
November 18, 2013

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## MINUTES

### **ATTENDANCE**

Members Present: Paul Schmelzer, Chair, Dennis McPheron, Greg Meyers, Bob Nichols, Gary Pruitt.

Staff Present: Mayor Lydia Mihalik, Matt Stoffel, and Kathy Launder.

Guests Present: Tom Sheldon. Brent Finley, Findlay YMCA.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes of the August 19, 2013, meeting was not approved for lack of a quorum.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

YMCA Operation of Pool for 2014: Brent Finley reported that the YMCA had a \$37,000 loss on the operation of the pool in 2013. Finley is pleased with the upkeep of the pool, just needs some maintenance in the bathhouse and some fresh paint on the doors. Schmelzer stated that continued partnership with the YMCA operating the pool makes sense.

Capital Improvement – swimming pool: Brent Finley stated that the YMCA was discussing what can be done to add value to and drive attendance up at Riverside Pool without having to spend a lot of money. The following are suggestions of value added items:

A twin flume water slide: \$55,000 installed

75 bather lounge style chairs: \$9000

New pool vacuum with telescopic poles: \$6500

Small picnic shelter 10x24 in the far southwest corner of the grass zone: \$17,000

No further discussion has been held on a new pool due to lack of funding available. If the City does build a new pool, it will cost more for people to get in. YMCA's suggested amenities will keep the cost of attendance at the same low price. Meyers stated that it makes sense that if a new pool doesn't get approved, then the pool needs to be kept attractive to people, we need to keep supporting. Finley stated the slides can be taken apart and moved if needed. Life of slide is 10-12 years and will cost \$55,000 for equipment and installation. Nichols stated that it is a good idea and should be presented to Council. Pruitt agrees that it will be a nice upgrade to the existing facility. Nichols wonders if the added attractions would draw more attendance even in bad weather years. Schmelzer stated that the subsidy will remain the same. Good attendance reduces the YMCA's loss. Paul does not know when a catastrophic failure of the pool will take place. The City can utilize and reuse all suggestions from YMCA if a new pool is built. Brandstetter Carroll has stated that the pool is not worth fixing if it has a significant failure.

Additional Ballfields at the Diamonds: Schmelzer stated that a softball group proposed to raise funds for 2 additional fields at the Diamonds complex along with a Miracle Field. Miracle Fields are built out of rubber for handicapped children to play on. Will build a handicapped accessible playground-can get around it in wheelchairs. Depending on the funding level, we would like to see developed. This would help in keeping more tournaments in Findlay. The City would need an easement on a private property driveway. A 100 space parking lot would be added. There would be a big draw for at least one tournament a year for the Miracle Field. Logistically it would be disconnected from other fields. Would add a small restroom building for these new fields. We have the infrastructure to support project. Like to see us capitalize and take advantage of what we have. Schmelzer stated that he would take a look at exploring the proposed project with non-profit groups. If the fields are paid for by non-profit fundraising, the City could pay to install the 100 space parking lot. The board is supportive of further exploring the project.

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

Recreation Department Report: Schmelzer stated that the Parks Maintenance Department has taken over the maintenance of the Diamonds fields and have heard nothing but good things regarding maintenance of fields. Capital expenditure-install security cameras outside and hallways; also looking to add cameras at concession stand and ice arena. Cost of the initial cameras is \$10,000. During Public skate, 80% of incidents occur outside. The system has a 30 day recording capability. Well worth the investment just for the exposure.

Parks Maintenance Department Report: Stoffel reported that they are cleaning up the parks and closing them down for the season. Busy getting snow equipment ready. The Green Waste Site has extended hours for leaf season. The Eagle Creek Skate Park is in poor shape and needs a lot of work. Visited Bowling Green's concrete skate park. Public Works employees can build one similar if wanted. The plywood is rotting in the current park. The City needs to invest in the park or shut it down. Bowling Green allows bikes, skateboards, skates in their skate park. City of Findlay allows skateboards only. The ideal place for a new skate park would be in Riverside Park near the pool if a new pool is constructed. Bowling Green has their pool and skate park next to each other and has a lot of use.

## **OTHER REPORTS**

Hancock Park District Report: Pruitt reported that this has been a busy year with three new parks. Administrative projects include a year-long agency self-assessment for ADA compliance at HPD facilities; working to put together a fee policy; and programmers are training to be certified interpreters.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board is scheduled for December 16, 2013, 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