

# PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

City of Findlay  
March 17, 2014

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## MINUTES

### **ATTENDANCE**

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

Staff Present: Lu Draper, Matt Stoffel, Barb Wilhelm, and Kathy Launder.

Guests Present: John Kairys, Findlay Youth Football; Denny Erford and Roger Zorn, District 19 Umpire Association; Kathy Lawrence and Brooke Coleman, Relay for Life; Lisa Ragland, Church Softball League; Tim Manley, Silver Blades; Scott Humm, Kona Ice.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion to accept minutes of the February 18, 2014, meeting, by Pruitt, second by Nichols. Motion passed 7-0.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Review of Policy and Procedures and Rate Schedule: The Board was asked to review the Policy and Procedures and Rate Schedule for City parks and recreation facilities and be ready to adopt at the next meeting.

Fitness Zone: Barb Wilhelm stated that in 2011 a Community Health Assessment was conducted. It was found that there are a high percentage of adults that are overweight and obese in our community and that the leading cause of death is heart disease and diabetes. We need to provide an increased opportunity for low cost or no cost fitness availability. Trust for Public Land in cooperation with GT Fit-Game Time provides that opportunity through the Fitness Zone Program. The Fitness Zone Program provides for stationary and movable exercise equipment in public parks. The equipment is accessible for persons of adult size, can be used by senior citizens, and is ADA accessible. The typical Fitness Zone is 6-8 pieces of equipment. Wilhelm suggested Emory Adams Park or Riverside Park as possible locations for the Fitness Zone in Findlay. The City would be responsible for 25% of the cost of the project. The Trust for Public Land provides fundraising for the project. The average cost of a Fitness Zone is \$100,000. The Trust for Public Land reaches out to health care organizations in the community for fundraising support. If the Trust for Public Land is not able to raise the full 75% of the project cost that they are responsible for raising, the project will be cancelled, and the City will not be not responsible for any cost. The Trust for Public Land coordinates the entire project from architects to permits to construction. Once the project is complete, ownership is turned over to the City. Director Schmelzer stated that we can request the 25% City share of the project through Capital Improvements budget.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Donation of Rawson Field and Cooper Field: Denny Erford stated that last year they ran a non profit tournament called the Bill Ammon Memorial Tournament. They are holding the tournament again this year and ask that the fee for use of the field be waived. Proceeds from the tournament are planned to be used to replace the storage building at Rawson Park. Fees for the field were partially waived in 2013. The request is for two fields (Rawson Park and Cooper Field) for one day, and they will come back to the Board with a report.

Motion to approve waiving the fees for use of the fields at Rawson Park and Cooper Field for a one day tournament, by Councilman Nichols, second by Myers. Motion passed 7-0.

Donation of Rawson Field and/or Cooper Field: Kathy Lawrence, on behalf of Relay for Life, stated that they would like to start an annual softball tournament to raise funds for Relay for Life to benefit the American Cancer Society. They would like to hold the one-day tournament at Rawson Field or Cooper Field and are requesting that the fee be waived for use of the field. Director Schmelzer stated that in the past organizations have been given half off the field rental fee (non profit rental rate) for the first year of an event. Normal fee is \$125.00. Motion to approve charging the non profit rental rate for one field for one day and Director Schmelzer donating the balance of the field rate of \$62.50 for the tournament, by Director Schmelzer, second by Slough. Motion passed 7-0.

Request to waive field rental fees for season: Lisa Ragland of the Church Softball League requested that the field rental fees be waived for the full season. Director Schmelzer stated that there is a \$100 Administrative Fee as well as the \$600 non league field rental fee. The Church Softball League uses Cooper Field and Rawson Field on Saturdays from 9am-2pm throughout May to July.

Motion to follow past practice with regard to this league and look at policy for next season, by McPheron, second by Director Schmelzer. Motion passed 7-0.

Request donation of ice and facility: Tim Manley of Silver Blades stated that there is a clinic with the guest skaters for the Ice Classics event on Saturday morning. Manley is requesting that the fees be waived for ice time and use of the Cube during this clinic. Guest skaters charge participants of the clinic a fee.

Motion to charge Silver Blades \$50.00 to cover staffing expenses to open the Cube in the morning for the clinic, by Director Schmelzer, second by Myers. Motion passed 6-0. (Matt Cordonnier left the meeting)

Concession Agreement for Emory Adams Park for Soccer and Swale Park for Young Miss Softball for the season:

Scott Humm, Kona Ice concessionaire, requests to be able to sell concessions at the Hancock Soccer Association games at Emory Adams Park and at the Young Miss Softball games at Swale Park. The City contracts with the user group, i.e. Hancock Soccer Association and Young Miss Softball, and the concessionaire then contracts with the user group to provide concessions.

Football Field Rental: Draper reported that Whirlpool Corporation requested to rent the new football field at the Cube for an employee picnic. They anticipate having large tents with stakes set up on the field. They are planning on 4500-6000 people to be in attendance throughout the day. They would like to reserve July 19 for the picnic with a rain date of July 20. Draper strongly encouraged Whirlpool to use Emory Adams Park, but they are adamant about using the football field. There is a large concern for the damage that can be done to the new field with regard to the set up of the tents and the amount of foot traffic. The City currently does not have a rental fee set up for this field. Whirlpool will accept all liability for damage. Director Schmelzer is concerned that the repairs will not be able to be completed in time for the field to be playable. This field is only one year old. Findlay Youth Football season starts in July. Director Schmelzer requested that Draper reach out to Whirlpool to let them know that the Park and Recreation Board is not in favor of renting the football field out for this purpose.

## **OTHER REPORTS**

Hancock Park District Report: Pruitt reported that the Hancock Park District hired a new marketing manager who started today.

Findlay Youth Football Report: John Kairys said thank you to the City for assistance in creating the football field at the Cube. They are considering activities to enhance the field such as a corporate pigskin challenge, flag football tournament, and NFL Punt Pass and Kick event.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board is scheduled for April 21, 2014, 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