

# **PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD**

City of Findlay  
October 19, 2015

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## **MINUTES**

### **ATTENDANCE**

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

Staff Present: Lu Draper, Matt Stoffel, Brendon Schwiebert, and Kathy Launder.

Guests: Brent Finley, Findlay YMCA; Toni and Phil Alge; Grant Russel, Councilman.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion to accept minutes of the September 21, 2015, meeting, by Nichols, second by Slough. Motion passed 9-0.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Report on Riverside Pool: Brent Finley provided an annual report of Riverside Pool. The weather did not cooperate this past year. The water slides, picnic pavilion and additional chairs were well received by users. There were no complaints with service this year. There was an operating deficit of \$27,193.97 for the 2015 season. There were no pump issues this year. There were a few drain issues that were repaired. Additional activities and more promotions were done this year. Motion to recommend that the City continue with the same operation agreement with the Findlay YMCA for 2016, by Schmelzer, second by Meyers. Motion passed 9-0.

Skateboard Park: Toni Alge stated that the current skate park shows wear and tear. The wood ramps do not hold up well with Ohio weather. The skate park needs to be concrete. She stated that the park should be in a higher visibility area of town. It also needs to remain centrally located. There is a lot of vandalism due to the location and condition. Once the users of the park see that the City is behind them, they will take more ownership in it. The Tony Hawk Foundation assists communities in funding and constructing skate parks.

Grant Russel believes that skateboard organizations will assist in supporting funding and design to construct a new concrete skate park. Russel stated that he has travelled to Winter Park, CO, and the users of the skate park there self-police which results in low graffiti and vandalism especially since it is in a high visibility area. This is a different recreational population that uses skate parks. The professional 30 and under population uses skate parks. Russel further stated that this type of project can use matching funds. Suggestions of locations are Civitan Park or closer to Main Street on the property owned by Hancock County just north of the bridge on the east side of Main Street. Russel recommended that this be a topic at the Recreation Summit.

Phil Alge stated that inline skaters and bicyclists would also be able to use a concrete park. The skate parks in Bowling Green, Ohio, and Powell, Ohio, is an open area with no fencing. It is also not open at night.

Minimum cost to build a concrete skate park is \$250,000.

Schmelzer said that there is interest in exploring the possibility of a new skate park. Would draw on the resources that are out there for the drawing of the park and capital to build the park, use of private and public funds. Questions that would need answered are: location; what would it look like; funding.

A Recreation Summit will be held the first quarter of 2016. This can be one of the items discussed for parks and recreation facilities needs.

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

Recreation Department Report: Draper reported that responses to ballfield conditions have been 99% positive. The cooperation between the Public Works Department and Recreation Department has been fantastic. The ice is down and the season is well underway. Worked with the Public Works Department on the budget. The Marathon Diamonds have been winterized. Youth Football is still going on.

Draper reported that she received a call for a tournament requesting use of one City ballfield for a fundraiser for the individual's niece who has Leukemia. The individual will take care of all maintenance, i.e. dragging, lining the field, etc. Draper is asking on the individual's behalf that the City waive the cost of the rental of the ballfield which is \$125. Schmelzer stated that he will personally donate the \$125 rental fee of the ballfield for the fundraiser.

Parks Maintenance Department Report: Stoffel stated that the fence posts at Swale Park are coming together nicely. Stoffel will be meeting with the Hancock Park District regarding the City's grant application. Trees for Swale Park and Emory Adams Park will be planted through a grant from Blanchard River Watershed Partnership. Repairing valve related issue in showers at the swimming pool. Cleaning up and repairing vandalism on Shelter 27 and the Bandshell.

## **OTHER REPORTS**

Hancock Park District Report: Pruitt stated that the river access improvement project started last week. Concrete has been poured and some frames are being built.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board is scheduled for November 16, 2015, 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