

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

City of Findlay
March 21, 2016

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Members Present: Paul Schmelzer, Chair, Matt Cordonnier, Dennis McPheron, Greg Meyers, Gary Pruitt, Grant Russel, Mike Slough, Dave Trisel.

Staff Present: Matt Stoffel, Lisa Mansfield, Jarron Reesman.

Guests: Jeff Newcomer, Water Treatment; Eric Vonalmen, Ohio Department of Natural Resources; Holly Frische, Council.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Pruitt stated that in his report in the January 19, 2016, meeting minutes, it should be reported that the new trail will be from Riverside Suites to Bright Road rather than to the Hancock Park District offices.

Motion to accept minutes of the January 19, 2016, meeting as amended by Meyer, second by Slough. Motion passed 8-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Recreation Summit Recap: Mansfield stated that there was good attendance at the Summit. All but one or two user groups were represented at the meeting. A lot of good discussion. Went over how the City handles its field permits and ice contracts with the user groups to make sure they understand and the importance of maintaining the conflict calendar. Discussed the National Alliance for Youth Sports but after discussing the benefits, there wasn't a lot of interest in it. The City will not pursue. Alissa Preston from the Hancock County Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) addressed the different programs and assistance they have available to the different groups that are bringing in tournaments. Additional items discussed was an additional sheet of ice at the Cube and the need for a multipurpose sports facility. Those suggestions will need future planning. Need for a real time calendar. Looking at current software capabilities and making contact with BGSU ice rink staff to schedule a time to look at their software. The University of Findlay (UF) baseball team requested additional batting cages. The City already has this in the capital plan for this year. The funds for the batting cages are scheduled to be appropriated in the second quarter. Need for a permanent ticket structure at the main entrance to the Marathon Diamonds. Findlay youth baseball and girls fastpitch softball stated that they have already raised funds toward this project. One structure will be built at the main entrance and one at the entrance off the proposed parking lot for the Miracle Field. This will be started in April. Hancock Soccer Association would like assistance with water and maintenance bills at Emory Adams Park. They will need to address Park and Recreation Board to request the assistance. Since there have been changes in staffing at Findlay City Schools (FCS) and the City's Recreation Department, a meeting will be scheduled to confirm if FCS wants to continue having the City handle the scheduling of their facilities. Long Term items: Youth Football – power needs, will need estimates. Traffic Lights will assist in plans for electric. UF would like electric in dugouts at the Marathon Diamonds. If we are going to do electric in these dugouts, we will do electric in all the dugouts in all the fields at the Marathon Diamonds. Traffic Lights will also look at this. Also coordinate with Miracle Field electric needs. Hancock Soccer wants an indoor facility. FAST states a need for another pool, possibly coordinate with YMCA what their future plans are.

Schmelzer stated that in the future, the City will have discussions with user groups ahead of creating the capital plan. No sense budgeting for something when the user groups can raise money. Good feedback from the meeting. When we can take some of the items that are relatively inexpensive to take care of and address a need, that's a win for the meeting. When we start having the Summit annually, we won't have to go over as much of the rules. Long term wants/needs that we have heard before—pool, additional sheet of ice, indoor soccer. We

have an idea of what the pool will cost. We have a concept for this major indoor complex. This is a little beyond what we are really talking about for indoor space and flex space or an additional sheet of ice. Where does the board want to go with long term items that were suggested and the question –what are the new ideas, what if any other direction should the recreation in the City be taking? Do we want to start looking at what indoor ice and indoor flex space would look like by evaluating an architect and having them come on board and paying them a fee to help deliver a product much like we have for the swimming pool? Do we want to have somebody facilitate a discussion about strategic planning for building some of these items?

Slough mentioned that these issues aren't going to go away. There will be more demand for additional space and additional ice. Some individuals can't get ice, so they are going to Bowling Green or Detroit. If it is one of the goals of this community to provide facilities for people of our community then position should be taken for additional space for indoor soccer or flex facility plus sheet of ice. With the growth of the usage of the facility we have the basis for additional facility. We should move ahead rather than waiting.

Meyers interesting thing there hasn't been a lot that has changed. Same wants and needs from 25 years ago.

Additional ice, indoor soccer, pool. It might be a good idea to expand the assessment to not just the user groups but to people within the community.

Schmelzer stated that the YMCA is in the process of a market study/facility study. They are looking at needs in the community to develop what their program looks like, we should reach out as a board to see what that discussion looks like. We definitely don't want to do anything that is competing. We need to be complementary and not duplicate other efforts. Meyer stated that we should include UF in our discussions.

Grant stated that the survey was completed by 50% of recipients. Mansfield stated she resent the survey to those who did not respond with a summary of the summit for those not attending the summit and just the survey to those attending. Mansfield stated that she make the personal contact if wanted.

Cordonnier state that he is in favor of a facility that 80% of residents would use, not 1%.

Need to engage public what or if it should be built.

Can we piggy back on YMCA strategic planning. It is in its infancy. Requesting it be made a community wide study vs. just YMCA. Russel stated that the YMCA has completed their study and have their needs identified.

Have Brent Finley come to the next Board meeting to talk about what their study looks like and from there develop what we want to do going forward. UF and Fair Board will also be invited to next meeting.

Schmelzer stated a utilization study needs to be done for City facilities. Then a community-wide discussion needs to be held.

Waive fee for Expo by Design: Expo by Design rented dry floor space for its event. As is normal practice, chillers were turned on during the event because ice was going to be put on the next day. The new chillers cool the floor 10 times faster than the old one. So this event had a cold environment and had blankets and glass that had condensation on it. Schmelzer suggests waiving the remaining balance of \$1088 of the bill. Staff knew from past practice that chillers can be turned on during an event and it would not get cold enough to impact the event. The new chillers dropped the floor temperature extremely quickly. Schmelzer stated the fair compromise is to waive the remaining balance of bill.

Motion to waive \$1088.00 for the Expo by Design event, by Russel, second by Cordonnier. Motion passed 8-0.

Hunting at Reservoir: Schmelzer stated that a few months ago the Board had a discussion about permits for bird hunting at the reservoir. Water Treatment usually issues about a dozen permits per year. Have not had any issues. Looking for additional information from Water Treatment and Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR). Water Treatment put together a map of the reservoir that was distributed with hashed areas where it is suggested that hunting would be prohibited. It is also suggested the Rules and Regulations be revised under 4. *Hunting as follows: e) No person shall discharge any firearm from any areas designated as closed to hunting, or from grassy slope of any outer reservoir dikes; and add i) Must be 100 yards off shore in areas where dikes are closed to hunting.*

Newcomer stated that there haven't been any issues. The areas that are suggested to be permanently closed to hunting is because there aren't a lot of areas for water fowl within that area. Vonalmen reported that he has been here for about a year and has only experienced one water fowl hunting season. There is not a lot of hunting of water fowl on the reservoirs. A few do hunt fairly regularly. He has not had any issues. Vonelmen stated that everyone he has checked has had the appropriate permits.

Pruitt inquired what ODNR's stand is regarding hunting in a public place with other activities. Vonelmen stated that ODNR's goal is to get people out to utilize the resources. Safety is definitely a priority when multiple

activities are taking place. Hunters are required to go through safety course that teaches fire arm safety to obtain their permit. There have been five injury instances across the state for the hundreds of thousands of sportsmen that are out there, a very small percentage. The City is in a hunting cooperative program with ODNR. Therefore, hunters need to get the permit from the City to hunt at the reservoir. Anybody that is stopped that does not have this permit will receive a citation. The City does not charge a fee for the permit. Schmelzer stated that there is no reason we should not make the changes that Newcomer suggested.

Motion that we modify the rules regarding hunting at the reservoir to modify *Section e) No person shall discharge any firearm from any areas designated as closed to hunting, or from grassy slope of any outer reservoir dikes* and add *Section i) Must be 100 yards off shore in areas where dikes are closed to hunting* and require the no hunting areas be delineated on a map and make the map available to those hunters that pick up the permit to hunt at the reservoir, by Schmelzer, second by Russel. Motion passed 8-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Riverside Pool Agreement with Findlay YMCA: Schmelzer reported that the agreement is very similar to last year. Council had the first reading of the ordinance last Tuesday.

Motion to recommend that Council approve entering into an agreement with Findlay YMCA for the operation of Riverside Pool for 2016 season, by Schmelzer, second by Cordonnier. Motion passed 8-0.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Recreation Department Report: Mansfield created a form for entities requesting for fees to be reduced or waived. The Board thought the form was good. Entities need to complete this form and then come before the Board. UF Softball had first double header last week; UF Baseball team will have home game middle of April. On April 23, the City will host a Pitch Hit & Run event at the Marathon Diamonds. Mayor Mihalik signed up the City of Findlay to be part of Play Ball, an initiative of the U.S. Conference of Mayors and Major League Baseball. Different events will be held throughout the summer in relation to this initiative. Softball managers meeting was held and registrations are due April 15. Games start the second weekend in May. Miracle Field and Playground for All will hold their grand opening on August 20. Three games will be held that day with six teams competing. Gliding Stars and Silver Blades ice shows were held last weekend and everything went smooth.

An Arlington softball league would like to bring their games to Findlay on Friday nights at Rawson Field and Cooper Field. They were told the Independent League fee is \$1000 plus \$100 administrative fee, plus \$50 electric fee per field, per night. They thought the fee was a bit high for the electric. In an effort to work with the new league, it was suggested that the fee for a league that runs in the daytime would be \$1000 plus \$100 administrative fee; the fee for a league that runs in the evening would be \$2000 plus \$100 administrative fee (this would include the electric use). Schmelzer stated that this is the same discussion as we have had in the past. Leagues pay the umpires much more than what they pay the City to use its facilities. Cost of facilities and electricity is spread out over quite a few players. Why should the City give a break for use of our facilities and utilities? Schmelzer stated this would not be a policy change, just an exception to the rule for this instance for this league. Make it clear that this is a one year concession. It is unlikely that this is going to be a year after year occurrence. We welcome them to give us a shot to show how much better our facilities are. If they want to come back next year, it will be at full price.

Motion to give the Arlington softball league a one-time only exemption for a flat rate fee of \$2000 league fee with electricity plus \$100 administrative fee, by Cordonnier, second by Slough. Motion passed 8-0.

Mansfield introduced Jarron Reesman, new hire at Recreation Department. Mansfield reported that 20 security Cameras have been installed at various locations at the Cube as a security measure due to vandalism. Motion sensor lights will also be installed.

OTHER REPORTS

Hancock Park District Report: Pruitt reported that they have the Blanchard River Challenge self-guided float trips with shuttle service and horseback riding in partnership with UF will be offered this spring. Registration now open.

OTHER BUSINESS

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board is scheduled for April 18, 2016, 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