

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

City of Findlay

June 20, 2016

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Members Present: Paul Schmelzer, Chair, Dennis McPheron, Greg Meyers, Gary Pruitt, Mike Slough, Brian Thomas, Dave Trisel, Jeff Wobser.

Staff Present: Matt Stoffel, Lisa Mansfield, and Kathy Launder.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the May 16, 2016, meeting, were approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Hancock Soccer Association: Mike Slough asked about the status of additions to the premier field. He thought that Hancock Soccer Association (HAS) wanted to put in permanent seating for these fields. Schmelzer stated that the only conversation about the fields was about mowing. The only other idea was fencing for the premier fields. Meyers stated that he thought a decision was previously made to not allow HSA to put fencing up since Emory Adams Park is a park for everyone. He is not in favor of letting them do that. Schmelzer stated HSA is viewing it like the 5-plex with the fencing around the football field and the baseball fields. He is not sure they have the funding for it. Don't know that there is a request pending for the fencing. The sentiment from previous conversations was to not allow the fence, partially due to BalloonFest. Have not heard anything more about it. HSA is concerned of how to protect the fields from people walking across and walking dogs across the fields. McPheron stated that his observation is that it is not currently maintained as a premier field. They need to maintain it to this standard before requesting anything additional. Schmelzer stated that the maintenance aspect has fallen off with the change in leadership.

Recreation Summit /YMCA Survey: Schmelzer stated there is not enough data from the study to support question of unmet needs. Results from the Summit are how do we better serve organizations currently using our facilities. Slough asked if there is interest for a lacrosse field? He stated that Ede Park is underused. There would be an issue with parking and access into the park. Discussion ensued regarding need for a second sheet of ice. Meyers stated that we have a good idea of what users want. Meyers stated that according to the YMCA survey, it appears that everyone is satisfied. Has the YMCA surveyed young adults in the area sufficiently? Bike path is still a need. Schmelzer stated that steps are being taken toward implementing a bike path whether through the TAP project or Hancock Park District grants. Schmelzer stated that there was a low response of unmet need – more programming need than facility need. Meyers stated that he was surprised that there isn't a demand for something in the winter. Mansfield stated what she took away from survey was need for family activities. She and her team are looking into what can be done to meet this need.

Schmelzer stated that outside of the data that we have already gathered, do we need to find another way to find out if needs are being met? McPheron suggested to reach out to the larger companies and larger churches to get feedback. Slough asked what we need to do for discussion/need for second sheet of ice. Schmelzer stated if we look at second sheet of ice, it would be multipurpose based. Where would it go? Can we meet that need? We could hire a consultant who would show us what the design would look like and articulate what the cost would be, much like we did with the swimming pool. Have a couple options what the facility would look like in current location if it's modified, know about what the dollar figure looks like. Old study was pretty grandiose with swimming pool, etc. Can build into 5 year capital plan, what would be sacrificed to do that. Or look to a different fundraising effort. Without a plan of some sort it's tough to get conversation started. Ice time is currently booked solid. If we have ice time available, would people come from a distance to use? Mansfield stated that an annual meeting is coming up for ice user groups. Can ask the question of how much ice time wanted if you have unlimited. A recent tournament drew in teams from Windsor, Cincinnati, Dayton, Detroit, and Cleveland. Could only accept so many teams and then had to turn away. What does the group think about the viability of having people using an indoor flex space for indoor soccer and ice? Meyers stated that it was successful when we used a soccer rug to cover ice for one day a week for indoor soccer. Adding a second sheet of ice would be utilized. Has to be flexible enough for multiuse. Do we need more study to make sure what user groups are doing and where they go to expand their base. Mansfield stated that she plans to visit Tam-O-Shanter and Stroh Center to see how their operations run and see the software they are using. Schmelzer stated that we need to have a study done to determine what second sheet of ice looks like.

Summit Summary: Paul stated there really isn't anything new. Dugouts at the Marathon Diamonds on the north side next to maintenance facility are being replaced. Miracle Field opening day is August 20. Board is invited to attend. Part-time staffing for parks in general. Detail oriented type work. Would take care of the TAP landscape areas in the medians and bump out areas. This could be a potential collaboration with Blanchard Valley Schools, City and/or Downtown to do a sweep of these landscape areas-pulling weeds, picking up cigarette butts, etc. Take our needs to BVS and see if they have anyone to match this up with. In preliminary stages.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Recreation Department Report: Mansfield reported that the ticket structure has been built. Batting cages have been started. Still gathering information for the Summary of Use spreadsheet that was talked about last month. All playground equipment for the Playground for All has been installed. Base rubber material is down, top rubber material will be going down this week. One of the contestants at Findlay's Hit Pitch and Run, Cameron Glosser, participated in the Cleveland Hit Pitch and Run this Saturday and he finished first in the pitching in his age group. Top four will go to the MLB All Star game. Learn to Skate camp was held last week with 35 kids. Great turnout. Coaches did a fabulous job. On day one participants have no skill and by day four, they are performing a dance program. Regular Learn to Skate classes are on Mondays. Beginning of the month went to ice skating conference in Las Vegas. Had the opportunity to interact with other managers of ice skating rinks and hearing the same challenges we have, others have and discussing their solutions. Ball games at the Diamonds are being played every night and tournaments are booked every weekend.

Considering doing away with the arcade space at the Cube. Most any game that a child wants to play, they can get on their cell phone now. The revenues from the game room have dropped significantly over the last year. \$700 drop in one year. Looking at switching around the space to potential vending machines and storage. An area dedicated to vending space with food, beverages, hockey tape, mouth guards, socks, etc. Healthier food options. Schmelzer stated that we can repurpose space behind it with a false wall and utilize it for storage space to open up meeting room space. You can vend just about anything. Honing in on what people want to buy and set vending up for it.

Parks Maintenance Department Report: Stoffel stated softball tournament had some parking issues at Swale Park due to it being such a large tournament. There is another one coming up this weekend. We will be allowing parking in the grass. These tournaments are very successful. Schmelzer said it functions well as long as the ground is dry. Need to take a look at what parking expansion at Swale Park would look like for capital expense. If a new parking lot is installed, Stoffel stated that it would be advisable to put in the base and leave it for a year, and then pave it. Newly paved trail around Emory Adams Park is completed. Two new fields at Swale Field have received good compliments.

OTHER REPORTS

Hancock Park District Report: Pruitt reported that the Riverside Concert Series had a good start last Wednesday night with Night Jazz. Have a nice cooperative effort between City and Hancock Park District (HPD) for the upgrade to the bandshell with tuck pointing the brick, painting the dressing room for musicians and a storage room. Serves visiting musicians very well. It is now very welcoming. Two of HPD capital projects are being advertised for bid to build on to facilities, one at Liberty Landing and one at Blanchard Landing. Bids for parking lot paving project at Aeroland Recreation are due July 19. Arcadia Soccer Club uses field at Aeroland Recreation for U10 and U12 teams, and have asked them to relocate due to paving projects lasting several months. Other area soccer field owners may get calls requesting use of facilities by Arcadia Soccer Club

OTHER BUSINESS

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board is scheduled for July 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