

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

City of Findlay
February 19, 2019

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Members Present: Brian Thomas, Chair, Greg Meyers, Gary Pruitt, Grant Russel.

Staff Present: Matt Stoffel and Kathy Launder.

Guests: Alan, Service Supply Ltd.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the October 15, 2019, meeting were not approved for lack of a quorum.

NEW BUSINESS

Eagle Creek Skate Park: Stoffel showed photos of the equipment of the Eagle Creek Skate Park. He showed photos of when the skate ramps were refurbished by an Eagle Scout, and then current photos of the current deteriorated condition of the skate ramps.

Alan from Service Supply Ltd presented information on skate park ramp systems. They propose a two phase system. They deliver and install the ramps. All sections are modular and movable. Bicycles and scooters can also be used on these ramps. The ramp system proposed is designed to fit the existing location. The proposed ramps are made for the northern climate.

Phase I which includes enclosure panels is \$58,994. Combo price if you do Phase II (which would include Phase I and Phase II) is \$119,808. The City has \$68,000 budgeted this year in the Capital Improvement budget for the skate park.

Russel stated that we need to evaluate the current need/want for a skate park. Pruitt agrees and recommends a fresh start. The current location is not a good location. Meyers asked what do we do with the park if we close it and asked if we know what the demand for a skate park is. Alan stated that the demand has leveled off. Russel stated that we need to have a 5-10 year facility plan for the parks. Russel challenged the board to gauge interest in a skate park through Survey Monkey, website, Facebook, The Courier, bike shops, etc.

Russel asked the safety of the current equipment at the park. If it is unsafe, we need to close the park. A sign should be placed to contact the Mayor's Office with concerns. A news release added to the website as well as media to notify of the closure and interest.

Grants: The City will be applying for another AARP grant. One idea is for a dog park. It is suggested to be located in Anchor Park in conjunction with the skate park, if it is located there. Thomas asked for other ideas. Russel suggested looking at connectivity from the Pickleball Courts to the surrounding neighborhood, Findlay Country Club, etc. or other items to further enhance that area.

Thomas submitted ODNr trails grant for bike trails on south side of Blanchard River from Broad Avenue to River Street. ODOT grant for a bike path from the intersection of Howard and Broad to Walmart; and up Broad to Foulke thinking in the future to take it over to Blanchard.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Recreation Department Report: Stoffel reported on behalf of Lisa Mansfield that the Cube addition for the zamboni is moving along. Tournaments are booked for the weekends for Marathon Diamonds. Gliding Stars will have their show on March 17 and Silver Blades will have their show on March 22-25. Dry floor events include

The Courier's Bridal Showcase, Black Swamp Bucks Unlimited event, and a mixed martial arts event, and an inquiry about a circus. The adult softball manager's meeting will be held on March 18. Men's league is going down to one umpire due to lack of interest and shortage of umpires.

Parks Maintenance Department Report: Stoffel stated busy removing snow and ice, Park Maintenance employees are assisting Street Department. The Hancock Park District grant will be used to restore the restroom near the Pickleball Courts, adding LED lighting. The funds will also be used for tree replacement in the parks.

OTHER REPORTS

Hancock Park District Report: Pruitt reported that he attended the Ohio Parks and Receptions Association Conference. One of the sessions was about eSports being a booming industry. Cleveland's Recreation Department is in the process of incorporating an eSports room in existing recreation center. Power Point presentation from Dublin renovating part of an existing facility, and part of it is for eSports. Thought about the Cube and what opportunity there would be to have a space for eSports there. Got their attention if out in the parks. Is there a way to incorporate some fitness. Could the dry floor space be used for eSports tournaments. Ohio is a hot spot for eSports.

OTHER BUSINESS

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board is scheduled for March 18, 2019, 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