

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

City of Findlay
May 20, 2019

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Members Present: Mayor Christina Muryn, Dennis McPheron, Gary Pruitt, Grant Russel, Ben Taylor, Jeff Wobser.

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

Guests: Bigelow Hill School students; Michael Momany, United Way.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

OLD BUSINESS

Skate Park Update: Elicia Mitchell stated that last Friday we put a community input form on the website and advertised it on Facebook and Instagram. The input form will be up until July 8. From just over the weekend, we have received 36 responses so far with 18 people willing to participate in additional forums or focus groups. The comments so far are to maintain the existing park, downsize the existing park and have a larger location elsewhere, allow bicycles and skates, rebuild with a concrete structure, offer an indoor location such as the mall. Elicia is researching what grants are available to help with cost of building a new skate park. Stoffel stated that the current site is still being used, so the equipment will be repaired until the future of the skate park is decided.

NEW BUSINESS

Playground Activity Proposal: Beth Ann Nissen with Bigelow Hill School explained a project that students from Bigelow Hill School have been working on. It is a learning experience-problem based learning. The task was as playground engineers how can you design an activity for recess time that involves at least two of the seven habits, something that can be put up and taken down during recess time. Presentations followed by the students.

Waiver Request-United Way: Michael Momany of United Way requested a waiver of fees to rent the five ballfields at Marathon Diamonds and to have the concession stand open for the United Way Annual Campaign Kickoff kickball tournament. The board elected to table the request until a policy can be put in place.

Breakdown of fees to be waived for United Way event: Total fee: \$1160 (Field rental - \$900 total [\$180 per field for 5 fields]; Staff - \$260 [1 person to staff event \$25/hour for 8 hours=\$200; 2 concession stand attendants \$10/hour per person for 3 hours=\$60])

Councilman Russel suggested the following criteria:

Has to be non profit

If making money off of waiver then, no

Has to be a Findlay based organization

Focus, results, benefit of event has to be for Findlay

Has to be open to the public

Have to be some measure of scope/size of it-Example: we can't waive the fees at the Cube if only three people attend-it needs to attract 300 or more

Can't modify our facilities or have major advance set up

Has to do a post event summary/recap with the Parks and Recreation Board-lessons learned-did they get the numbers expected, did they make the dollars expected

Possibly make it into some matrix scoring system for full waiver or percentage of waiver

Taylor suggested a gradual waiver: 1st year full waiver, second year 50% waiver, third year 25% waiver; fourth year and after – no further waivers

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Recreation Department Report: Mansfield reported that the Keep Active program has been put together starting in late May through September. Will be working with YMCA and Findlay City Schools to finalize dates for activities for the winter months. Looking at doing some tennis and swimming activities with the YMCA and secure gym space through the Findlay City Schools for different activities. LaCrosse will finish up next week. Wrap up spring Learn to Skate-we had 27 enrolled. Learn to Skate Camp June 10-14, theme is “The Show Must Go On.” Hockey drills and skills for adults was introduced for the adult hockey league and will be doing another one over summer. Adult softball started – only had one night that games were not rained out. Children’s Museum reached out to have Recreation Department come out on July 26 for their Fitness Fridays which occur once a month. Spending US Conference of Mayors Childhood Obesity Prevention grant money. We are utilizing the grant monies to enhance and expand the Keep Active program.

Parks Maintenance Department Report: Stoffel stated that they are mowing, doing ballfield maintenance, and getting the pool ready.

OTHER REPORTS

Hancock Park District Report: Pruitt stated that he had a conversation with a youth that was visiting Civitan Park regarding the skate park. The youth goes to the skate park quite a bit, but it is not a good location and not in good shape. He stated that the new one should have room for bikes.

Classic issues skateboarders have being kicked out of areas; having to deal with streetscape rather than having a true play space for skateboards. He was interested in being involved in the focus groups and he said he could bring a lot of people with him.

OTHER BUSINESS

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board is scheduled for June 17, 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