

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

City of Findlay
July 15, 2019

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Members Present: Brian Thomas, Chair, Colin Earl, Dennis McPheron, Gary Pruitt, Grant Russel, Ben Taylor.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the June 17, 2019, meeting were not approved due to lack of a quorum.

OLD BUSINESS

Skate Park Update: A summary of the community input survey for the skate park was distributed. Director Thomas stated that 39 people completed the survey and 19 people said they were interested in providing more feedback. Overall themes from the responses are to put it in a public location, should be concrete, allow BMX bicycles. Will be setting up a meeting with the folks interested in providing more feedback to see how to move forward. All Park and Recreation Board members will be invited to attend. Pruitt stated that it should be decided what position the City is in regarding funding before we bring in a lot of people. Don't want to waste time. Mitchell stated that in her research a successful model is for the community to do some fundraising, apply for grant money, and the City put in capital dollars. Stoffel stated that he can refurbish the existing skate park for approximately \$11,000 to get us through until a decision is made moving forward.

Waiver Request Policy: Director Thomas distributed a summary of the discussion at the June meeting of a waiver policy. Pruitt had two concerns. The Board eliminated the nonprofit rate, with the idea that everyone pays the same fee. If we then create a policy that grants waivers, it feels like we are reinstating something we eliminated. If the board agreed to have a waiver for nonprofit groups, but we weren't going to apply it to all nonprofit groups like sports clubs he sees that as bad public policy. The combination of those two things and the fact that several people raised the issue at the last meeting that didn't get fully vetted was should we waive fees at all. He thinks that is the way to go. We built facilities, we set the fees, and we should charge them. If we were prepared to vote, Pruitt stated he would be ready to make a motion to no longer waive fees because of everything that was said last month. Taylor echoes the sentiments. Russel stated that if we have a policy, the Board has to back it.

NEW BUSINESS

Potential Addition of Ballfield at West Park: Mayor Muryn will discuss at the next meeting.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Recreation Department Report: Mansfield reported that the ice schedule is finalized; we have confirmed two dry floor events scheduled-working on a new one to be scheduled; ice is coming out now, taking boards out and will do maintenance on the boards while they are out; ballfield schedule only lost two days due to rain.

Parks Maintenance Department Report: Stoffel stated that he is meeting with a scout this week to discuss a project for his Eagle Scout. He will be redoing the dugouts at Remington. Grills are ordered utilizing the Hancock Park District Grant, along with updates to restrooms being completed.

OTHER REPORTS

Hancock Park District Report: Pruitt reported that they have submitted a Great Lakes Restoration grant to create a conservation area for the farm fields at Oakwoods Nature Preserve. They purchased two fields, over 100 acres, back in 2006 and 2009. They have been leasing it to farming all that time, about 10 years. This year decided to no longer farm the fields, starting in 2020, and to turn into conservation. Because it hasn't been farmed in two years due to it being too wet, it's really two years into a natural succession. If the grant is received, they will take 46 acres of the farm next to County Road 9 and restore wetlands, prairie plantings and trees. With the separate grant, will do the other field. Had a concept plan in 2009 to transition the farm fields, but it has taken this long to get ready to do it. Aeroland Recreation Area was acquired in 2013. It is located on Township Road 243 and actually has a Fostoria address. We are planning a development of the park. In concept, it will have climbing boulders as the play area, state of the art waterless restroom facilities, side amenities: open play/event area; in the location of the swimming pool it will all become grass; the concrete area between the buildings will remain and will be the picnic area that can hold small scale special events of all kinds; accessible walkways; building improvements are all in the plan. As early as next fall might be ready to pursue.

OTHER BUSINESS

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board is scheduled for August 19, 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