

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

City of Findlay
October 21, 2019

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

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

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

Guests: Todd Eilerman, Pacesetter South; and Nikki Wortman, Pacesetter South and Findlay YMCA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to accept minutes of the August 19, 2019, meeting, by Meyers, second by Cordonnier. Motion passed 8-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Skate Park Update: Director Thomas stated that the staff at Hancock Regional Planning Commission put together an overlay of potential skate parks on existing facilities. They took four existing facilities of different sizes in the region and compared them with available locations in current City of Findlay parks for possible location.

Director Thomas stated that he spoke with the a representative of Hunger Skateparks and she stated that the rule of thumb for a community our size a 10,000 square foot skate park is what we should be looking at. They put together a proposal for consultation, layout and conceptual renderings for a total of \$6000, and an additional \$4000 for Construction documents. McPheron and Meyers stated that they are not sure that the demand is there to invest in a new skate park. Russel stated that if you build it, they will use it based on his conversations. Pruitt stated that we need to do an overall comprehensive plan and needs assessment for parks and recreation facilities and programs for Findlay rather than just a study on skate parks. Russel asked if we need to do a plan or stay in maintenance mode and not building anything new. Taylor stated that we should decide on size and give that option only. Thomas stated that he is in favor of pursuing Phase 1 of design proposal. Meyers stated that we have not received much response from the skate park. Pruitt stated that an estimate of the cost of a comprehensive plan is \$25,000. This will give the City direction on all parks, not just a skate park. McPheron is more in favor of doing a comprehensive plan than moving forward with just a skate park plan. Cordonnier stated that recreation is a big part of quality of life. Meyers stated that he is in favor of the comprehensive plan. Russel stated that we will need to determine a definition of scope. Earl stated that it will be good data to back up what should be done. Russel stated that if we are going to move forward with a comprehensive plan project, we need to first talk with the Mayor and Council as it relates to their strategic planning process. Director Thomas stated that it appears the consensus of the board to move forward with a comprehensive plan for parks and recreation rather than just focusing on a study for a skate park.

Motion to pursue comprehensive master plan for parks and recreation to be funded in the 2020 City budget, by Russel, second by McPheron. Motion passed 7-1. Ben Taylor cast the dissenting vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Riverside Pool Update: Thomas stated that the YMCA reimbursement for 2019 was \$21,337.40. The YMCA would like to change the reimbursement to a flat fee of \$25,000 rather than having it based on loss. The YMCA is looking to add programming next year. The YMCA offers swim lessons for a \$5.00 fee the first day and the remaining lessons are no charge. Thomas stated that we need board consensus to move to a flat fee.

Motion to recommend that the operating contract for Riverside Pool with Findlay YMCA include a flat reimbursement fee of \$25,000 starting in 2020 by Cordonnier, second by Meyers. Motion passed 7-0. Colin Earl left the meeting.

Review of Recreation Fee Schedule: Mansfield stated that there are no changes to the fee schedule for 2020. Motion to approve Fee Schedule by Russel, second by Cordonnier. Motion passed 7-0.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Recreation Department Report: Mansfield reported that the ball season is finished and only had two lost day during the tournament schedule all year; repairing leaks in the irrigation system then winterizing; ice is in full swing; Keep Active program has expanded into winter months working with the YMCA and waiting on response for gym space at Findlay City Schools; coordinated Move with the Mayor program which included Wags and Walks with resulted in two dog adoptions.

Parks Maintenance Department Report: Stoffel stated that they are moving into Fall/Winter mode; restrooms at the parks will be shut down in November; still doing a lot of mowing; closed pool and baby pool has been painted; bandshell work is needed, possibly doing a full restoration in 2021 with a possible grant to assist with cost, two corners will be repaired this year.

OTHER REPORTS

Hancock Park District Report: Pruitt reported the Blanchard River Water Trail map and guide is complete with 25,000 copies made and it has been placed on the Hancock Park District and Ohio Department of Natural Resources website

Pacesetter Report: Todd Eilerman wanted to thank the City for assisting with weed and feed, aeration, and overseed for the entire park, west side only. Pacesetter provided the material and City provided the labor. Wortman stated that there are two extra goals that the City could use at West Park if it turns into soccer and not baseball.

OTHER BUSINESS

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