

City of Bowling Green
Parks & Recreation Park Board Meeting Minutes
Simpson Building ~ September 25, 2018

Call to Order: Jeff Crawford (7:00 pm)

Roll Call:

Present: Jodi Anderson, Jeff Crawford, Cale Hover, JD Pooley, Karen Rippey, Monique Rosati & Robin Veitch.

Absent: Linda Cubberley & Jon Laabs.

Others in Attendance: Kristin Otley, Ivan Kovacevic, Chris Gajewicz and Cheryl Witt.

Approval of August 2018 minutes: Unanimous approval on a motion by Cale Hover and a second by Monique Rosati.

Correspondence: Passed around and shared with the Park Board.

Chairperson's Report: No report at this time.

Old Business:

- Change in smoking policy to smoke free-Action Requested.
 - Kristin asked the board if they had heard any comments or feedback about this out in the community. Channel 11 did call and ask about it but she did not see their report. She has not had one person in the community contact her about it. Many P & R departments throughout the state are going totally smoke free. As Parks & Recreation professionals we feel very strongly that it is the right thing to do. Cale Hover asked if going totally smoke free would have any negative impact on rentals of buildings. Kristin stated that she did not think that it would. All park facilities are currently smoke free. JD Pooley asked if there will be signs posted and Kristin said that there would be. The decision to be totally smoke free will be the norm and we feel the health of individuals is the most important thing to consider. Karen Rippey asked how this will be enforced and Chris Gajewicz answered that the staff enforces it now. He also added that now the rule is a policy and if it becomes an ordinance then it will be a law and could be enforced by local law officials. Jeff Crawford commented that making all parks smoke free fits in with what we stand for and is in favor of changing the policy. Kristin suggested that the board vote to amend the current policy to be totally smoke free and then move it up the chain to council for it to become an ordinance.

On a motion by Monique Rosati and a second by Cale Hover it was unanimously approved to have a total smoke free policy in all parks and facilities. Cale Hover then mentioned that it would be helpful for this to be an ordinance. A motion was then made by Robin Veitch and seconded by Cale Hover that the Park Board would recommend to City Council to draft an ordinance that all parks and facilities be totally smoke free. Unanimous approval.

- **2019 Fees-Action Needed:** A summary of the 2019 fee recommendations was handed out to the board. Kristin Otley explained that Mind Body fees are now being recommended to be increased due to a \$70 per month usage fee increase. We also are recommending to add a new facility rental fee for BG Based Non Profits. The non profits would receive a 50% discount on rental fees. They would have to provide us with documentation proving their nonprofit status to receive this discount. It was recommended that the pool prices be increased 3% as well. The average increase would be 25 cents for pass admissions. The last time pool prices were raised was in 2017. Kristin likes to keep to a schedule of every other year for pool pass increases so that it does not seem like such a shock when they go up to keep up with inflation. Kristin stated that raising the prices after a really good summer helps because people feel that they are getting more for their passes. Jeff Crawford stated that he would like to see pool prices stay the same. He is concerned that there are underprivileged kids who would not be able to afford to come to the pool. Kristin mentioned that we can help those kids with the discounted passes that are available to families who meet the waiver of need criteria. Jeff feels that if the pool had a good year we do not need to raise the rates and that increases can make the pool out of reach for many kids. Jodi Anderson mentioned that many families who would be eligible for help do not ask for it. Karen Rippey mentioned that her out of town relatives felt that the daily rate was too expensive and that is something that we should consider. Jeff Crawford suggested that we table the pool rate increase until after we see the final numbers. The final pool numbers are nearly ready to give to the board. Cale Hover motioned to approve all fees excluding the Pool and Waterpark and to revisit the Pool and Waterpark rates after we have a chance to look at the final numbers. Robin Veitch seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

New Business: No new business at this time.

Foundation Report, Jodi Anderson:

The Wine & Cheese is coming up this Friday. We have sold 220 tickets so far. There are 35 silent auction items and 16 live auction items. If anyone has any last minute wine donations Jodi can take them tonight or they can be dropped off at the office. We will continue with the Wine & Cheese tally sheets where you pay for all of your purchases at once. The Sunset Bistro fundraiser brought in just over \$620. We will not be having it on a tractor pull Thursday in the future.

Director's Report, Kristin Otley:

- Teaser on the final pool report: Labor Day weekend there were 1,598 admissions to the pool. The swipe numbers are up 7,000 from last year. The staff did a fantastic job and we received many positive comments.
- The time capsule that is buried in City Park will need to be moved. It was buried in 1983 and was slated to be opened after 50 years. It is the responsibility of the Mayor to decide the protocol on how to handle this.
- Projects Update
 - City Park Building: fantastic meeting with the design team where we went through pages of schematics. The next meeting we will be focusing on hardware. The project is on track. There are a few more memorial trees that will be moved this fall.
 - Update on the resolution naming the new building in City Park: City Council agreed with the changes to the resolution from the board's suggestions. It is currently in progress.

Coordinator Report:

Chris Gajewicz: Things are winding down at Simpson Garden Park. We have to do lists for fall. We are also trickling down our seasonal staff. Seasonal gardener Bob Dorn is retiring and Friday will be his last day. He is moving to Florida. We are going to move forward with a staff management plan where we will be consolidating hours and using less staff. We believe this will be helpful in managing the gardens by having specialized staff working and having certain job duties that they are responsible for. The Prairie looks amazing. Brent Heath, a nationally known bulb expert, was here and spoke about bulbs and then presented a bulb workshop for 33 participants. Thank you to the BGPR Foundation for their help in bringing Brent to BG with funds out of the Kuebeck Forum line item. We also charged a fee for the bulb workshop. Brent was very smitten with Simpson Garden Park.

Ivan Kovacevic: The third annual Zombie Mud Run will be on October 21. We are very excited about the collaboration with the high school and college kids. This is a multi-generational event and we will have people of all ages participating. JD Pooley asked how many Zombies would be there this year and Ivan answered that he is hoping for 75. Ivan has been busy creating short one minute video commercials of everything that the department offers. Please like, follow and share all posts on Facebook. The deadline to sign up for fall basketball leagues is October 6th. Eric Fletcher does an awesome job with practice plans and the 3x3 format gives all kids experience and time to learn the skills. Positive response from the video on the Community Center with many views and likes.

Lobby Visitation:

Mayor Edwards commends the board and the department on the initiative to have all parks and facilities smoke free. He agrees that looking at the final pool numbers and

being sensitive to the fee prices is a good step in making the decision on whether or not to raise rates. He will not be at the Wine & Cheese this year, due to being out of town.

Councilwoman Sandy Rowland appreciates the guidance and input from the board and staff on the smoke free issue; she believes that this is the right thing to do.

JD Pooley questioned if the language of the smoke free ordinance will include vaping and Kristin said that it will.

Motion to Adjourn:

(7:50pm)

Unanimously approved to adjourn on a motion by Cale Hover and a second by JD Pooley.

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl Witt, 10.9.2018



Jeff Crawford, Chair