

## **Bowling Green Parks & Recreation Park Board Meeting Minutes**

**June 25, 2019**

### **Call to order**

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by Jeff Crawford.

Jeff Crawford welcomed new Park Board Member, Phil Simmons.

### **Roll Call**

**Present:** Jodi Anderson, Jeff Crawford, Linda Cubberley, Cale Hover, Jon Laabs, Phil Simmons and Robin Veitch

**Absent:** Karen Rippey and Monique Rosati

**Others Present:** Kristin Otley, Chris Gajewicz, Ivan Kovacevic, Mike Przysiecki, Cinda Stutzman and Cheryl Witt

### **Minutes**

Minutes of the May meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by Cale Hover and a second by Robin Veitch.

### **Correspondence**

Correspondence was shared with the board.

**Special Presentation:** Tyler Briggs, Epidemiologist with the Wood County Health Department gave an informative and interesting presentation on mosquitoes and ticks in Wood County. Chris Gajewicz stated that he spent four hours dragging Simpson Garden Park, Wintergarden and Carter Park for ticks and in four hours he found six American dog ticks at Wintergarden.

### **Chairperson's Report: Jeff Crawford**

No report at this time.

### **Old Business**

Board retreat update: the board was emailed the SWOT analysis document outlining the bullet points brought up at the retreat and was asked to review the document.

### **New Business**

Chris Gajewicz read a statement on the history of Simpson Garden Park.

Mike Przysiecki, Simpson Garden Park Manager, gave an overview on the park and some history on the grasses. He as well as all of the BGPR Staff wants the park to be a clean, safe and fun place for visitors. Mike took many questions and comments from the members of the community in the lobby.

### **Lobby Visitation**

Jeff Crawford opened up the lobby discussion on the length of the grass in Simpson Garden Park. Jeff feels that Simpson does not fit his idea of what a garden park should look like. He also has overall concerns on the maintenance of Simpson and asked for better communication to the board on material changes in the parks.

Cale Hover mentioned that he has not heard one complaint about the grass.

Jodi Anderson commented that the tall grass does not bother her. She asked about the educational aspect of the grass and how that was being communicated to the public.

The lobby was filled with city residents who all had passionate, spirited ideas and comments on the park and on how the grass should look. Many felt that the grass should be mowed and many thought that the environmental impact that the long grass has was well worth it and that it should stay the way it is. In the end it was decided that there was no one way to keep every citizen happy as far as the way the garden looks. Mayor Edwards suggested getting the original committee for SGP together and to make sure the vision now is consistent with what the original committee had in mind. Sandy Rowland said that she would be happy to host a gathering in January/February to help facilitate and discuss ideas for the park. Bill Herald suggested that a neighborhood group that met periodically would be helpful. Enrique Gomezdelcampo stated that the committee should not be made up of just the neighbors of the park. Simpson Garden Park is not a neighborhood park, it is a city park and other citizens should have the opportunity to serve on the committee(s) as well.

### **Parks & Recreation Foundation Report, Kristin Otley**

September 27, 2019 is the Wine & Cheese.

We rely on the Foundations support and thank them for recently splitting the cost of six new spin bikes to be used at the Community Center for fitness classes with the department. They also have purchased seven new Adirondack chairs for out in Simpson Garden Park. Chris Gajewicz mentioned that he hopes that the new chairs will encourage people to sit and stay awhile and enjoy the park.

Kristin reported that the Black Swamp Conservatory (BSC) is under contract for 20 acres adjacent to Wintergarden. This is the Creps property. The Foundation will have two years to raise \$100,000. This is the amount that BSC anticipates they will need, in addition to several grants, to purchase the property. After the BSC purchases the property the deed will be turned over to the City, and BG Parks & Recreation will be the caretakers of the land. This is an exciting opportunity. Fundraising letters will go out the first week in July.

**Director's Report: Kristin Otley**

- There is a lot of passion in this room. The record rainfall has had an impact on what we do. We also have had trouble getting seasonal maintenance workers. Linda Cubberley mentioned that the court may be able to help with people who need to do community service and that Kristin should contact Doug Cubberley.
- Weekly construction meetings are held at City Park about the new building. Everything is progressing nicely. The outside colors will be slate blue, gray and stone. There will be a sign going up on site with a picture of the finished building and an anticipated open date. A new conceptual drawing showing the colors was shared with the board.
- We finally have had good weather for the pool.
- 2020-2021 is when we will update the master plan and we will have a levy coming up. We will start public meetings this fall.
- Wintergarden has standing water and we are working with other departments for a short term solution. Engineering, Water/Sewer and Public Works will be involved in this as well as researching long term solutions for the land.

**Coordinators Reports**

- No coordinator reports were shared at this meeting.

**Adjourn**

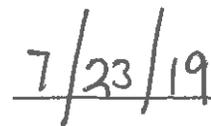
Jeff Crawford ended the meeting by announcing that he will convene with Mayor Edwards on putting together a committee to address Simpson Garden Park. He also asked that if there was anyone who wanted to further discuss this issue to please email him. Jeff is very proud of our parks and holds the department in high esteem. This is an issue of tall grass and nothing else. The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Linda Cubberley and a second by Cale Hover at 9:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Witt, 7.5.2019



Jeff Crawford, Chair



Date

Next Meeting: July 23, 2019 - Simpson Meeting Room