

Parks & Recreation Board Meeting October 22, 2019

Call to Order:

Jeff Crawford

(7:00pm)

Roll Call:

Present: Jodi Anderson, Jeff Crawford, Linda Cubberley, Jon Laabs, Karen Rippey, Monique Rosati, Phil Simmons & Robin Veitch

Absent: Cale Hover

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

Approval of Minutes: August minutes unanimously approved on a motion by Linda Cubberley, second by Monique Rosati.

Correspondence: Passed around and shared with board. Chris Gajewicz shared an electronic correspondence that was a thank you from Mickey Cochran for Chris's and his staffs' quick response to his inquiry about memorial trees. Kristin Otley reminded everyone that all families were contacted about memorial trees.

Chairperson's Report: No report at this time.

Old Business: No old business at this time.

New Business: Approval of 3rd Quarter Fee Waivers unanimously passed on the motion by Monique Rosati and a second by Robin Veitch.

Foundation Report, Jodi Anderson: The Foundation meeting will be next week so there is no report at this time. Jodi extended a thank you to all for their help on another successful Wine & Cheese. Kristin mentioned that the Wintergarden Grows Campaign is still underway and donations will gladly be accepted. Jeff Crawford asked if there is any concern for taking on the additional acreage at Wintergarden and handling the maintenance of that land. Kristin answered that there is no concern. The additional acreage will mostly be natural with some trails.

Director's Report:

- The next meeting with the original Simpson Garden Park group will be soon. It is difficult to get these movers & shakers all together. Hopeful that it will be early November.
- The next Community Focus Group meeting will be on November 13 at 7:00 pm in the classroom at the Community Center. The topic for this meeting will be Carter Park and Ridge Park. Free childcare is available for anyone attending the meeting. Karen Rippey asked how attendance was at the last meeting and Kristin said that there were about 35 people there. If you are not able to attend a meeting, you can always email Dr. Orr.

- City Park building is on schedule and almost fully buttoned up so that they can focus on the inside of the building. There will be no vehicular access to the park from October 28-November 1. They will be paving. We have sent out an eblast, press release and informed Conneaut School. There can be no cars in the park, however foot traffic is allowed.
- It is budget time, so we have been working hard on that.

Coordinator Report:

Ivan Kovacevic: The Zombie Mud Run was on October 6th. It was a great weather day for the event. It was also the most smoothly run mud run that we have had. The DECA class was outstanding and full of enthusiasm and energy. This has really grown in to a family event. Youth basketball is underway and Eric Fletcher has done an awesome job organizing and promoting this. Please remember that the Community Center is your best fitness option in town, it is a great place to be active as a family and we have many different pass options. Adult Fitness Classes are going strong and I would like a shout out to go to Josh Chatfield and Lindy Hoodlebrink on their great work with fitness classes. Jeff Crawford asked about the chillers out at the TACC if they were all fixed or if they were still the temporary chillers. Kristin stated that they were still temporary chillers and the plan is to have a permanent fix as soon as parts are available. Kristin said that coupons can be used at anytime to extend passes.

Chris Gajewicz: All Wintergarden trails are now open. Chris & Cinda have been busy with fall programs. We had a great time with the kindergarteners at Conneaut this morning. A large number of garden clubs from all across the state and from Michigan have been to Simpson Garden Park for tours. Some clean up has taken place on the east end of Simpson Garden Park and along the South side of the park. We will start a renovation of the Peace Garden; the Master Gardeners will be helping us with this project. Staff will be attending the Ohio Wildlife Conference where speakers will present on living with urban wildlife. We will be able to share and educate the public on what we learn at the conference. This Saturday at 3:00 pm, Jeff Craig will be doing a program on weird things in Ohio. He has created a 5x5 map detailing all of the weird things that he has found in the state. Maps can be purchased for \$10 and he will sign them. This will be our last special speaker for the year. Kristin added that the Master Gardener Program is a great program and that the new class is accepting applications. Jodi Anderson asked where the application is located and Chris answered that you can go on the Ohio State Extension Office website to locate an application. Kristin appreciates the partnership with the Master Gardeners and the help that they give volunteering at Simpson Garden Park. Jeff Crawford asked about the wetland project out at Wintergarden and if that was tabled for now. Chris said that it will be revisited at another time as the current plan was to fix the drainage issue. Kristin reiterated that the immediate concern was the drainage and that it is all fixed now.

Lobby Visitation:

Mayor Edwards asked about the project of seeding and leveling at Ridge Park and how that was coming along. Kristin answered that the back section will be leveled and the slope will still be there. The drainage issue has been fixed and seeding will take place in the spring.

Motion to Adjourn:

(7:27pm)

Unanimous approval on motion by Jodi Anderson, second by Linda Cubberley.

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl Witt, 10.22.19

Jeff Crawford, Chair

Date