

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

City of Findlay
February 18, 2020

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Members Present: Brian Thomas, Chair, Colin Earl, Dennis Doolittle, Jeremy Kalb, Josh Palmer, Gary Pruitt, Grant Russel.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to accept minutes of the January 21, 2020, meeting, by Councilman Russel, second by Earl. Motion passed 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Proposed Fee for Pickleball/Tennis Court Rental: Mansfield stated that the City has not established a rental fee for the pickleball and tennis courts. The proposed rental fee is \$5 per hour per court and \$20 daily rental per court. Mansfield stated that she researched what other cities were charging and the proposed fee is in line with other cities. The rental fee will offset the administrative costs it takes to rent the courts. The rental fee will apply if an individual or organization want to reserve the courts for exclusive use.

Motion to approve the rental fee for the pickleball and tennis courts of \$5 per hour per court and \$20 daily rental per court, by Councilman Russel, second by Councilman Palmer. Motion passed 7-0.

Grant Updates: Director Thomas stated the City of Findlay has been awarded a grant by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to repave the trail from River Street to Broad Avenue.

Active Transportation Plan: Director Thomas stated that the Transportation Coalition is putting together an Active Transportation Plan for Hancock County. As part of that ODOT has a free training class that helps organizations put together these plans. The training is scheduled for March 19, 2020, from 12pm-5pm at the University of Findlay. Once the plan is in place, all entities in Hancock County will be in a better position to apply for grants that are available.

Additional Grant Opportunities: Mayor Muryn stated that planning ahead and coordinating with other government and park entities regarding grant applications. Mayor Muryn stated that we need to organize and coordinate applications for the Safe Routes to Schools and Safe Routes to Parks grant. With both the schools and parks locations, the whole City would pretty much be covered. Ohio Department of Transportation and Ohio Department of Natural Resources are putting more money into alternative transportation options, need to make sure we are taking advantage of these funding opportunities.

Mayor Muryn stated that a previous meeting a master plan for parks and recreation was discussed. Would like to look at setting goals around recreational paths, park development, and recreation programming. Councilman Russel-long term vision Parks master plan, how does it fit in Strategic Plan, not be aggressive in putting in new amenities until master plan. Mayor Muryn stated that she is in favor of having the parks and recreation master plan process be part of City Council's strategic plan. That being said, she doesn't feel that we should wait for that process to get started. She would like to know what the two to three priorities are from this group for this year. Councilman Russel stated that the City should not be aggressive in putting in new amenities until a master plan is done whether that be through City Council's strategic plan process or through master plan process for parks and recreation only. Pruitt reminded the group that what led to the master plan discussion was the potential relocation of the skate park. Mayor Muryn asked the Board if they are okay with waiting for the master plan if Council's strategic plan doesn't move forward this year. Mayor Muryn stated that priorities as she sees it are organizing for Safe Routes to Schools and Safe Routes to Parks. Pruitt stated that we should move forward with trails regardless of master plan process. Mayor Muryn stated that we may have a better idea after the next Strategic Planning

meeting to better identify what the scope looks like. At the next Board meeting we can discuss further. Mayor Muryn stated that there is a request on Council's agenda for tonight's meeting to apply for grant funding for the development of a dog park at Anchor Park. Councilman Russel stated he believes Council's strategic plan will move forward. He stated that we will be putting the cart before the horse if do a parks and recreation master plan before Council's strategic plan.

Mayor Muryn summarized that we will continue to get organized around Safe Routes to Schools and Safe Route to Parks, try to get a better plan around trails and how we see that continue to build out, and work to get Council to move forward on its Strategic Plan which will be conclusive of a master plan for parks and recreation.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Recreation Department Report: Mansfield reported FAHA tourney first two weeks of February; high school hockey wrapping up games; Public Skate attendance numbers up 2235 over last year-had 451 attend Saturday's Public Skate, have been averaging 350 people. Kudos to staff on facility; have set tentative dates for the Keep Active, Keep Healthy program for summer; will participate in the summer lunch program again this year; continue to participate in the Children's Museum Fitness Fridays; grant for training for walking program six week program 3 days a week online; Heart Walk team.

Parks Maintenance Department Report: Stoffel stated they have been doing repairs and maintenance on equipment; ordered items from Capital budget, getting ready for Spring maintenance on equipment.

OTHER REPORTS

Hancock Park District Report: Pruitt reported registration for summer camps; registration for self-guided float trips on Saturdays in May; parking lot and shelter reconstruction will be bid in March and will be done early summer.

OTHER BUSINESS

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board is scheduled for March 16, 2020, 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