Minutes of Perrysburg Recreation Committee

Meeting Held November 8, 2022

CALL TO ORDER - 6:30 PM

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Chairperson Jonathan Smith.

ROLL CALL

Committee members present were Jonathan Smith and Cory Kuhlman. Committee member Barry VanHoozen was not present. Also present were Bridgette Kabat, City Administrator, Kate Sandretto, Law Director, Amber Rathburn, Finance Director, and Brody Walters, Planning and Zoning Administrator.

CITIZEN'S CONCERNS

Jeff Condon, 221 Cranden Drive, was present to discuss naming the outdoor municipal tennis courts after Al Rava. He stated that he and Ms. Kabat have been in communication. Mr. Condon shared some statistics of Mr. Rava's coaching career. Mr. Smith stated that the Mayor and Administration are working very hard to try to get this accomplished sooner than later. Mr. Kuhlman stated that there are a lot of emails and support behind Mr. Rava.

Deborah Born, 125 East Front Street, is also in support of Mr. Rava and has known him for many years. She hopes that we recognize Mr. Rava and that it will happen very soon. Ms. Born recommended that the sign be black and gold.

APPROVAL OF 10/11/2022 MEETING MINUTES

There being no objections, the minutes of the October 11, 2022 meeting were approved 2-0.

MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS OF MARTY PENNINGTON AND MARK SCHROCK TO FILL VACANCIES ON PRAC

Mark Schrock has applied to fill a vacancy at PRAC, he has recently retired and has a master's degree in Recreation. Mr. Schrock added that he has been looking for something to do and give back to the community. Mr. Smith is glad to have Mr. Schrock on board and is looking forward to seeing him at future meetings. There being no objections, Mark Schrock is being recommended 2-0 to fill a vacancy at PRAC.

Marty Pennington has applied to fill a vacancy at PRAC, and he likes the community has activities and parks around. He wants to get involved in the community that he plans to live in for a long time and noted that this is an exciting opportunity. Mr. Kuhlman is excited when people want to get involved. Mr. Smith is thrilled to have him. There being no objections, Marty Pennington is being recommended 2-0 to fill a vacancy at PRAC.

PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT UPDATE

Mr. Smith was made aware yesterday that the new playgrounds will not be put in until the spring as the temperature is too cold to pour the rubber for the playgrounds. Ms. Kabat stated parts are starting to come in and they will work over the winter to schedule the parks out with the manufacturer. There is a contractual deadline to have those parks all installed by the end of June 2023.

Ms. Sandretto stated that the contractor suggested having a certified playground safety inspector inspect the current playgrounds, to be sure they are safe for donating. She stated that it is a little bit about liability, but mostly about the safety of children. The contractor would need to have a conversation with whoever is taking the playground equipment out to be sure it is removed properly and that the holes that are left are filled properly. The contractors do not want to be responsible for taking it down to the standard required to remove it for donation. Mr. Smith stated he is concerned that if we do not think it is safe for donation, how is it safe to allow our children to play on it now?

Jay and Jan Nielsen, 103 Wentworth Court, are representing Missions International of America. The City's contractor is happy to meet with the Nielsen's to talk through what needs to happen regarding removal. Mr. Kuhlman would like to gift it with a waiver and Missions International of America would be responsible for removal and inspection. Ms. Nielsen stated that it would be sent to Haiti, which is not covered by any of the liability laws that we have in the United States. Ms. Sandretto stated that we have to go back to the contractor and make sure they are comfortable with the manner that the City Council would like this handled. Mr. Kuhlman and Mr. Smith agreed that they want to go the route of the waiver and that the Administration should connect the contractor with the Nielsen's.

Erin Bilski, 1798 Arrow Lane, is part of the committee that built Fort Imagination in 1997, mostly with funds raised on their own. She stated that they did it all themselves, with much of the community behind it. Ms. Bilski questioned why we would inspect it to donate it. She stated that it is hard for them to watch the removal and she asked about the bricks there that were donated. Mr. Smith stated that they had requested to keep the bricks there and that this project is a legacy of what they accomplished twenty-five years ago.

TIM BOCKBRADER, EDGE GROUP, WILL BE MAKING A PRESENTATION ON ORLEANS PARK MASTER PLAN

Tim Bockbrader, Principal at EDGE, made a presentation to the Committee regarding the Orleans Park Master Plan. Mr. Bockbrader stated that there have been several stakeholder meetings with people from the City, different departments within the City, and outside groups, including the Toledo Zoo and the Toledo Metroparks. The Mayor wants this plan to be feasible and doable in smaller pieces.

Mr. Bockbrader reviewed some highlights of the plan including a nature focused playground, pavilion space for a versatile rental, pedestrian access through the wetland areas, ADA accessibility to a bird lookout spot, an adventure course with pump track or skate park, and cleaning up the woodland edge. Mr. Bockbrader stated that this is doable over time and that there is a lot of potential funding out there to help facilitate this.

Justin Lecompte, 1060 Little Creek Drive spoke to the group. He grew up in Perrysburg and has been skateboarding for twenty years and added that there is a lack of quality skate parks in Northwest Ohio. Mr. Lecompte stated that skateboarding is now an Olympic sport and that they do not have a proper practice facility in Northwest Ohio. He shared a document with some designs, budgets, construction, and sizes.

Scott Tutak, 360 Blue Jacket Road, owns a skateboard shop. Mr. Tutak shared that the Tony Hawk Foundation has quite a bit of funding available and for skate parks and in Detroit, Ann Arbor, and Farmington Hills the foundation matched half of the budget for the parks. Mr. Kuhlman wanted to clarify their purpose here today. Mr. Tutak stated that we need a skate park. Many skate parks can be built in tandem with a pump track. Mr. Smith appreciates both Scott and Justin for coming out and would like a skate park to be an included as a listed item in conjunction with the pump track.

Mr. Kuhlman likes to focus on sustainable revenue generation. Mr. Bockbrader stated that part of the boat storage facility could have a conference or meeting space. Ms. Kabat stated that the outdoor shelters are very often booked out during the summer. Mr. Kuhlman asked about having more open pavilions or shelter houses. Mr. Bockbrader stated that there is room to add more open-air shelter houses throughout the park. Mr. Smith prefers that the plan mentions that a dog park could be a fit in the future programmable area. Mr. Kuhlman does not want the dog park to be the focus of everything they talk about, so that is why the Planning and Zoning Committee recommended they take the dog park out for now. Mr. Kuhlman noted that he would like to explore lighting some of these paths. Mr. Bockbrader stated that the lighting could be some sort of art, to create some buzz and interest.

Judy Hagen, 10741 Avenue Road, has some concerns about the Master Plan. She stated that the pump track area is not stable enough for a skate park and that the ice flow will wipe out a lot of things. She noted the area used to be the city dump and that there could be a cost impact to what is happening. Ms. Hagen questioned why they are building a boat house with City funds for a high school rowing team. Mr. Smith responded that nothing has been decided about how things will be paid and that there will be conversations eventually regarding donations or grant opportunities. Mr. Smith also added that this is a conceptual design and items and locations within the park can change based on engineering surveys as that is not part of this plan. Mr. Kuhlman stated that the crew storage is in addition to the kayak storage and that people would rent space like they do now. Ms. Hagen is also concerned with having artwork near the river and that it could be destroyed by the ice flows.

Jim Hagen, 10741 Avenue Road, stated that his main concern is the water treatment facility's smell and that it is a great plan, but the wrong location for it. Mr. Hagen suggested Coe Court with a nice pavilion and the woods.

Todd France, 804 Streamview Drive, is a member of PRAC, and is not here to represent them, but has concerns about the road access and pungent smell. He loves phase one of connecting underneath the bridge. He stated that by removing the trees, they would be removing the bird habitats and erasing the sound barrier between the road and green space. Mr. France asked if there are examples of other communities that have done something near a similar area.

Mr. Walters stated that this area is already being utilized and with inadequate construction. He added that the challenges are not a reason to not do anything. Mr. Smith stated that this is a good plan to move forward and that they will have more conversations regarding funding.

USAGE OF CITY-OWNED FIELDS FOR ATHLETIC TOURNAMENTS

Mr. Smith stated that this can be pushed back to a future meeting as this is not urgent to be conscious of everyone’s time this evening.

DISCUSSION ABOUT DONATIONS

Mr. Smith stated that he has been looking at what other communities and parks systems have been doing with donations. He would like to encourage more donations and wants to create an easier access point for donations to occur. Ms. Rathburn stated that she looked at foundations in the area for the Toledo Metroparks and the City of Bowling Green. She stated that they are separate legal entities, so the first step would be to get volunteers and a board of directors together. If the City accepts donations, legislation is necessary. Mr. Smith stated his personal goal is to make it easier for donations to occur, and to bring in both public and private investment into our park system.

DISCUSSION ON 2023 BUDGET

Ms. Kabat reviewed the department's budgets that fall under Recreation, with the Committee members. Ms. Kabat stated that the largest item is the mosquito spray. Mr. Smith asked about the toxicity level to people. Ms. Kabat will get them the information on mosquito spray. Mr. Kuhlman asked about weed control toxicity. Mr. Smith requested some better signage when playgrounds are being sprayed for weed control. Ms. Kabat stated that they are working on it, but that some people will not voluntarily comply regardless. Ms. Kabat added that the screens in the budget are actually windscreens for the Rotary Park pickle ball courts.

Mr. Smith asked about the $85,000 increase in the salary side from last year to this year. Ms. Rathburn stated that it is for wage increases in addition to the Urban Forrester. Ms. Kabat stated that they have the Rec Director scheduled to come in after the first of the year, to give an overview of what the program will look like for 2023. It was suggested continuing Recreation programs into the fall or winter. Ms. Kabat stated that there would be nobody to put the program on, since it is mostly staffed with schoolteachers and high school students. Mr. Smith stated that it is a long-term goal of his to have someone that we have a permanent year-long position as a Recreation Director.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Smith, Chairperson
Recreation Committee

Next meeting: Tuesday, December 13, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.