

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

APRIL 5, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by Chairperson Jessica Kemp, and held via Zoom. Committee members present were Lindsay Buker, Aaron Findling, Randy Fahringer, Todd France, Will Harbauer, Jessica Kemp, Christopher Patrick, and Tony Wade (8). Quinn Baumgartner and Rick Gilts were excused absent and Caleb Christen was absent (3). Also present were Council Representative Deborah Born, Director of Public Service, Rob Ross, and Operations Manager, Greg Kuhr.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 2, 2020 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Harbauer moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Seconded by Ms. Kemp. Ayes: (8). Nays: (0).

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2021 (CHAIR, VICE CHAIR, SECRETARY)

Ms. Kemp was nominated for Chair, Mr. Findling for Vice Chair, and Mr. Harbauer for Secretary. Seconded by Mr. Harbauer. Ayes: (8). Nays: (0).

SUMMARY OF 2020 WORK & PLANNED FOR 2021

Director of Public Service, Rob Ross, reviewed a summary of the work performed in the City in 2020 and work planned for 2021 within the Department of Public Service, a copy of which is attached hereto. Mr. Harbauer asked if the shelter houses will be able to be reserved this year and Mr. Ross said that he's waiting for an update from Governor Mike DeWine and CDC Guidelines. Mr. Ross said that he's hoping for a decision by May 1, 2021. There was a brief discussion about opening the restrooms at the parks, and Mr. Ross added that current guidelines require cleaning every hour and on the hour. Ms. Born asked about the parks near the river with regards to the wetlands along the river's edge, adding that the State of Ohio has a plan. Mr. Kuhr noted that there is a grant opportunity for restoration of the wetlands and added that he was unsure if the City would qualify for those funds. There was a brief discussion about visible signage at the parks with regards to unleashed dogs. Mr. France asked about paving the Orleans parking lot with asphalt, and if there is that much of a demand for the proposed surface. Mr. Ross noted Davis Overlook, and his understanding that if the parking lot is paved more usage is encouraged. Ms. Born said that she agrees with Mr. France, and added that the area often floods. Mr. France stated that the usage at Orleans is seasonal and suggested that the resources be used to pave the path at Woodlands Park instead. Mr. Harbauer added that he is in favor of the paving at Orleans Park as a tie in to the new multi-use path. There was a brief discussion about the new multi-use path and a continuation of the path to Hood Park, and a discussion about moving the tee pads at Woodlands Park with regards to the Disc Golf Course.

PARK REPORTS

Rivercrest – Rick Gilts emailed:

-Asked about the schedule for re-purposing the multi-use path for sealing and re-paving

Milestone – Will Harbauer reported:

- Looks fine

Riverside – Will Harbauer reported:

- Been taking walks at the park, it looks sharp, and noted that at least 20 people are visiting the park at one point in the day
- Excited for the native species addition to the park
- The Toledo Zoo signs look sharp along the ramp

Orleans – Jessica Kemp reported:

- Noted that there is graffiti under the walking bridge
- The canoe and kayak racks looked empty
- One kiosk looks nice with the dogs on leash signage

Municipal – Christopher Patrick reported:

- Looks great
- Asked if it's possible to heat the pool, and Mr. France said that there's great access for a solar roof installation

Woodlands – Randy Fahringer reported:

- Visiting often with kids on the playground
- Sent pictures of the benches that look "sad"
- Saw crews working on new parking lot
- Ms. Buker noted that one part of the fence around the little kid's park is off the hinges, and Mr. France added that the pin hinges are "off", and Mr. Kuhr said that he will look into a re-design

Eisenhower – Lindsay Buker reported:

- Looks good, hopefully more use this year

Hood – Aaron Findling reported:

- Looks great with minimal brush
- Boat house is near completion

Three Meadows – Tony Wade reported:

- Looks good with the erosion work, and sidewalk replacement around the shelters
- A lot of people are using the shelters and leaving a mess, and Mr. Wade has volunteered to clean up the shelter areas himself
- Asked about the dirt piles on the east side of the pond, and Mr. Kuhr said that they will be using that dirt and filling in on the back side with the erosion, and Mr. Ross said that they will be doing some "mounding"
- Asked if there could be a walking trail around the pond, as one-third of it is not being used, and Mr. Kuhr noted that the pond is gated off at the back corner and that a trail might be a good idea, and Mr. France said that he agrees with a path around the pond
- Mr. Ross said that he will ask the Police Division to patrol the park more often

Bicentennial – Todd France reported:

- One of the swing chains is broken, and added that it would be nice to have a pad underneath
- There's a tripping hazard of loops with 5-6 inches sticking up out of the ground near the new bench
- Noted the condition of the porta-potty
- Added that the soccer goal nets are in bad shape
- Mr. Kuhr said that a few of these issues were addressed today: roots from the spruce trees, plank can be replaced, will take care of the goals/nets that are owned by the schools, a landscaper drove through the park causing ruts

Rotary – Jessica Kemp reported:

- Noted the recent groundbreaking ceremony for the new Inclusive Playground by Wood County Plays
- Referenced the new shelter house

REVIEW OF RECREATION COMMITTEE

- Ms. Born recognized the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Inclusive Playground
- Ms. Born thanked Rotary for the new shelter
- Ms. Born thanked the PRAC Committee members and DPS for their service

OTHER BUSINESS

There was a brief discussion about when PRAC meetings would be able to be held in person, rather than over Zoom, and it was confirmed that May and June will be virtual.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Alfaro
Recording Secretary

Next meeting: Monday, May 3, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom