

PERRYSBURG CITY COUNCIL

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Report for regular meeting of May 11, 2021

PRESENT: Chairwoman Deborah Born, Counselors Jan Materni and Jonathan Smith

Chairwoman Deborah Born called the meeting to order in Council Chambers at 6:30 P. M. After roll call and the Pledge of Allegiance, the Administration's report of the April 13 meeting was approved 3-0 with the modification requested by Chairwoman Born that she had mentioned that Will Harbauer had been elected Recording Secretary by PRAC.

No citizen concerns were presented.

Old Business:

Mr. Smith reported that he has had a discussion with the Administration about a location for an unleashed dog park. They are working on a location in the City of Perrysburg, possibly Orleans Park. He said hopefully the conversations will continue.

New Business:

Chairwoman Born reported that she had attended the most recent meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC) at which the Committee had made three recommendations to this Committee, two by motion and one as a suggestion.

The first recommendation (passed by motion) was that the Orleans Park parking lot not be paved. Todd France, an engineer and the Vice-Chair of PRAC (he was chairing the meeting because the Chair was absent) did a survey at his own time and expense over the course of a week during walleye season on parking usage in Orleans Park, Maple Street Hood Park, Fort Meigs river access and Davis Overlook.. Below are his findings over the week in question ("W" means Wood County license plate, "NW" means confirmed Non Wood County plate, "U" means unknown):

Maple Street: 6W, 21NW, 1U

Hood Park: 1W, 0NW, 0U.

Orleans Park (lower): 2W, 18NW, 5U:

Orleans Park (upper) 1W 2NW, 0U

Fort Meigs 0W 2NW, 2U

Davis Overlook 2W, 9NW, 3U

Mr. France also included Buttonwood Park in his survey as a comparison even though it is in Perrysburg Township. For Buttonwood, his numbers were 10W, 65NW, 22U.

Chairwoman Born commented that Buttonwood is by far the most congested access point to the river even though it is not paved because the river is higher at that point and people accessing the river find it convenient, regardless of surface.

The overall conclusion from this data was that most of the people using the parking areas were non-resident adult males. In addition, most of these areas are in the 100 year flood plain which means they are often covered with water and ice during the winter which would require continual annual maintenance.

In conclusion PRAC recommended that the Orleans Park parking lot not be paved, and the money allocated for this be used in some other manner.

PRAC's other two recommendations were to open the public bathrooms in the parks (passed by motion) and for a natural walking path to be built around Three Meadows Pond (not a motion but a suggestion).

Returning to the discussion of paving Orleans Park, Chairwoman Born reported that Mr. France also talked to one of the men using the parking lot and asked if it mattered to him if it was paved. The gentleman responded that since he didn't live here he didn't care one way or the other. Ms. Born stated that she would like a motion to send this issue back to the Finance Committee for further review.

Ms. Materni objected to this action. She acknowledged Mr. France for his work but then stated that the survey was "statistically invalid" because it was only one day in duration (several times during the meeting it had already been stated that the survey was done over a week). She then stated that the Fort Meigs river access area had been flooded during the recent bad winter and it had not been damaged at that time.

Chairwoman Born stated that during the 44 years she has lived in Perrysburg, the Orleans Park parking lot has never been paved. Ms. Materni stated that this was now proposed because of "the zoning" She stated that she did not want a motion but had no objection to Ms. Born's bringing this to the Finance Committee (of which the latter is a member).

Mr. Smith said he supports the paving of Orleans Park because he said it is required by the City code. He said he had previously discussed paving issues at Rotary Park and felt that those issues applied here as well. He also stated that some proposed future uses of Orleans Park would require paving.

Chairwoman Born stated that she is very opposed to spending \$120,000 on parking for what is basically a seasonal activity. There being no objection she plans to take the issue personally to the Finance Committee. Ms. Materni stated that she does not care whether or not the park was primarily used by non-residents because Perrysburg tax payer money should be used to provide entertainment for them.

Mr. Smith commented that another reason for paving the parking lot is the fact that access from Western Reserve Road is sometimes congested and paving the upper portion of the lot may help alleviate this

Chairwoman Born then brought up PRAC's recommendation to open up the park bathrooms. Ms. Materni answered that this is a Service Committee issue and they are working on it.

Chairwoman Born then brought up PRAC's suggestion (proposed by PRAC member Tony Wade) of a natural walking path around Three Meadows Pond. Mr. Smith asked that this idea been reviewed by the Administration.

PRAC Report: Most of this was covered by discussion of PRAC's three proposals. Jessica Kemp has resigned from PRAC so a new member and Chair will be needed.

Other Business: Ms. Materni asked some questions about the staffing for the swimming pool. Chairwoman Born stated that various citizens have asked her why use of the swimming pool is currently limited to city residents. She said she believed it was because of Covid restrictions. Ms. Materni disagreed and said that pool is paid for by Perrysburg tax payer money and Township residents should not be allowed to use it.

Meeting Adjourned 6:57 P. M. Next regular meeting will be Tuesday, June 8 at 6:30 P. M.

Report prepared by
Deborah L. Born
Chairwoman
May 16, 2021