RECREATION COMMITTEE

NOVEMBER 10, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 6:48 p.m. by Chairman Rick Rettig. Committee members present were Jim Matuszak and Rick Rettig. Barry VanHoozen was absent. Also present were Bridgette Kabat, City Administrator, Jon Eckel, Service Director and Brody Walters, Planning and Zoning Administrator.

CITIZENS' CONCERNS

Dave Dicke, 416 W. Third Street, thanked the City for their cooperation with the dock storage on Maple Street. He said that there could be some issues in the spring because it's taking up about twenty parking spaces. Mr. Eckel acknowledged Mr. Dicke's concern and assured him that they have dealt with this in the past and they will handle it.

PRAC REPORT

Ben Krautheim, a junior at Perrysburg High School who serves as Chair of PRAC, was present to give a year-end summary. Mr. Krautheim said that the Committee monitors eleven parks to ensure that they are in good order. Each member is assigned a park to check on and they report back each month on any issues. These are then passed on to the Department of Public Service. He gave an example from Bicentennial Park of water pooling and said there is now money in the budget to fix this problem. Mr. Krautheim said PRAC has also explored how to make the best use of the S-1 property near the Hawthorne subdivision and they hope to have more information in the spring. Mr. Krautheim said that the committee has identified several suggestions for a name for the Davis property. The list includes Davis Overlook, Spafford Overlook or Spafford Landing, or an historical or Native American themed name. Mr. Rettig said that with regard to the S-1 property, the information has been passed along to Mr. Munger.

RIVERSIDE PARK

Rick Butera of the Edge Group was present to answer questions regarding the Riverside Park presentation given at the City Council meeting. Mr. Rettig asked if the Administration has any additional information. Ms. Kabat stated that we received notification from ODNR that we were not awarded a grant so they are looking at alternate funding and at doing a base bid project with add-ons. She said that we have a little work in front of us but nothing insurmountable. Mr. Walters stated that the Historic Landmarks Commission agreed to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness for the project less the sun shades. Mr. Matuszak said that he did not care for the sun shades and he asked about the metal rails. Mr. Butera said that the wood rails are more difficult to maintain, eventually need to be replaced and they restrict the view more than the cable rails. He said that the Metro Parks would prefer going with the metal rails, but they can't afford it. Mr. Rettig asked about the view being blocked if you're seated. Mr. Butera said that is likely because the guard rails are at 42" which is about eye level if you are seated. Mr. Rettig summarized that we are in a holding pattern waiting to see if alternate funding sources can be found.

2016 BUDGET

Mr. Rettig asked if there are any updates to what was presented at the last meeting. Mr. Eckel said that he has nothing, and if there is a change made regarding the opening or closing dates for the pool, that can be handled administratively. Mr. Rettig said that he had a discussion with Steve Shively from the Y regarding staying open on weekends after school starts. Mr. Rettig suggested that we look at what other communities do. Mr. Eckel said that they can do that but he thinks most communities have the same schedule we do.

Mr. Rettig stated that at the last meeting Mr. Eckel pointed out that he requested two extra employees but they were cut from the budget. Mr. Rettig said that he feels given the high degree of stress, the things that they would like to do professionally, and given that there are two fewer employees than in 2001, he thinks there is a good case to justify this as a need instead of a want. Ms. Kabat said that she is keeping an eye on whether we need to add employees, but she does not feel we are there yet. She said that she looks at the number of phone calls we're receiving from citizens, overtime, as well as input from the department heads. She noted that an electrician and building maintenance technician were added to the department within the last couple of years. Ms. Kabat said that we want to maintain the same of level of service, and she will continue to monitor the situation. Mr. Rettig thanked Ms. Kabat and Mr. Eckel for their candor, professionalism and watchfulness of taxpayer dollars.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Rettig thanked Mr. Krautheim for the PRAC report and for his leadership. He said that they will think about the name choices for the Davis property. Mr. Eckel also thanked Mr. Krautheim and said that they appreciate the help PRAC provides with monitoring the parks and many work orders are generated from the information PRAC members pass on.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Rettig
Chairman, Recreation Committee

Next meeting: Tuesday, December 8, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.