

RECREATION COMMITTEE

NOVEMBER 9, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Rick Rettig. Committee members present were Jim Matuszak, Rick Rettig and Jonathan Smith. Also present was Jon Eckel, Service Director.

APPOINTMENT TO PRAC

Lindsay Buker was present to be considered for a vacancy on PRAC. Ms. Buker said that she works in downtown Perrysburg and has been involved with the Chamber, Harrison Rally Day, Girls on the Run and she used to work for the schools. She said that she is a runner and plays tennis. Mr. Rettig said that PRAC has been discussing pickle ball and Ms. Buker said that she has been playing for a couple of years. Mr. Rettig said that he thinks Ms. Buker's knowledge will be beneficial to PRAC. Mr. Matuszak asked how many vacancies there are on PRAC, and Mr. Rettig said he believes this is the only vacancy. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval of Ms. Buker's appointment to PRAC.

2016 SUMMER REC PROGRAM

Scott Buker and Charles Brigode were present to give a report on the Summer Recreation Program for 2016. Mr. Buker said that it was his first year as the Director and Mr. Brigode's first year as Assistant Director. They provided a breakdown of activities and said that through the programming they try to offer opportunities for every child regardless of their interests. Mr. Buker said that they did receive some feedback about trying to reach the middle school population. He said the Rec Program is a very successful program but there is always room to grow. They had nineteen staff members, six of which were new this year and they will probably have eight new staff members next year. Mr. Matuszak asked about the accounting practices for the Rec program. Mr. Buker said that they met with the Finance Department before the season began to go over some new ways for checks and balances. He explained that he records all payments, takes the deposits to the bank and then gives the receipt and back-up documentation to the Finance Department. Invoices are reviewed by Mr. Buker and then sent to the Department of Public Service for approval. Mr. Matuszak asked how much of the program is funded by fees and how much is contributed by the general fund. Mr. Eckel said that he does not see the revenue side of the fund report so he does not know. The Committee thanked Mr. Buker and Mr. Brigode for their report.

SMOKING LEGISLATION

The Committee reviewed the ordinance regarding prohibiting smoking in communal areas within the parks. Mr. Rettig said that with regards to the punitive nature of this ordinance, Ms. Henderson said that no one has been cited under 1090.06 which is the section that the proposed language would be added to if approved. The most common offense under this section is drunkenness and the Police Division issues those citations under the Ohio Revised Code because of incarceration costs. Ms. Henderson spoke with Chief Paez regarding enforcement, and he said that they regulate the park at the lowest level because

that is what the community expects. For example, if there is someone who has a dog not on a leash they usually issue a warning that the dog needs to be on a leash. Normally they comply so nothing is even written up. Mr. Rettig added that technically it would be a fourth degree misdemeanor punishable by a fine no more than \$250 or imprisoned no more than 30 days.

Mr. Smith suggested that there be a designated circle within ten feet of communal locations. He said that the ten foot designation is the same as buildings within the state of Ohio. Mr. Smith said that he spoke to a friend who is a park ranger and in the National Park System smoking is not allowed in any building or within the imaginary ten foot line of the entrance or if a fire watch has been issued. Mr. Rettig said that some of that is already addressed under section 1090.06 (g) which reads no person in a park shall: build or attempt to build a fire except in such areas and under such regulations as may be designated by the Director, or drop, throw or otherwise scatter lighted matches, burning cigarettes or cigars, tobacco, paper or other flammable material within any park area or on any highway, road or street abutting or contiguous thereto. However, there is nothing on the books to deal with extinguished objects. Mr. Smith said that littering is already prohibited, and Mr. Matuszak said that he does not think that people who smoke would categorize throwing a cigarette butt on the ground as littering. Mr. Smith added that the police would have to see them do it. Mr. Rettig said that the intent is not for the Police Division to write more tickets. Mr. Eckel asked about limiting smoking to parking lots. Mr. Rettig said that Mr. VanHoozen raised concerns that if no one is around why should people not be allowed to smoke.

The Committee discussed verbiage that Ms. Henderson was uncomfortable with that read "but not limited to" and agreed that the language should read: n. Smoking. Smoking is prohibited as marked in communal locations such as athletic fields, shelters, picnic areas, scenic plazas and playground equipment. Becky Williams asked about the logistics if this is approved. Mr. Rettig said that he is comfortable with leaving it up to Mr. Eckel as the Service Director. Mr. Eckel said that signage would be put up at the sidewalk as you leave the parking lot. Mr. Rettig said that he believes this is worthwhile and although it will not solve all problems, it will help. Mr. Rettig made a motion to forward the legislation to City Council. Mr. Matuszak clarified with Mr. Eckel that if approved, the signage would read smoking is not allowed in communal areas. The Committee agreed 3-0 to move the legislation forward to City Council.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Rettig, Chairman
Recreation Committee

Next regular meeting: Wednesday, December 14, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.