

RECREATION COMMITTEE

OCTOBER 21, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chairman Joe Lawless. Committee members present were: Todd Grayson and Joe Lawless. Mike Olmstead arrived at 5:58 p.m. Also present were City Administrator Bridgette Kabat and Service Director Jon Eckel.

DISCUSSION REGARDING RIVER WALK PATH MATERIAL OPTIONS

Ms. Kabat discussed the document provided to Committee members that shows different types of material available for walking paths. She said the plan is to further discuss this internally and review issues such as maintenance. Ms. Kabat said that the Law Director has confirmed that we are not exempt from ADA laws whether we accept funding for the project or not, so she has reached out to Tim Harrington of the Ability Center about the different surface options. Mr. Harrington said that he will have a couple of staff members meet with the Administration to discuss ADA compliant and ADA friendly surfaces. Ms. Kabat will report back to the Committee with updates.

2013 MUNICIPAL POOL REPORT

Steve Shives of the YMCA/JCC provided the Committee with a year-end report regarding the Municipal Pool. Mr. Shives stated that their number one priority is safety and all residents were safe. He said the weather was not cooperative and as a result, attendance was down from 26,043 in 2012 to 18,699 for 2013. Pool passes and pool party rentals were also down. He said the water quality issues that they had the end of last year were resolved by the purchase of the new Chemcontrol unit and an auto-pool vacuum. Mr. Lawless said he heard nothing but good comments about the pool and to keep up the good work. Mr. Shives said that they are happy to partner with the City.

2013 SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAM REPORT

Jim McMorgan distributed year-end information to the Committee. He said that the weather was a major obstacle, especially in June, with rain on at least 21 of 30 days, but they still only missed 12-14 hours total. He said the cancellations were more than the previous five years combined. Mr. McMorgan said that overall there were between 700 and 800 registrations. He reviewed the programs offered and discussed staffing.

RIVERCREST BASEBALL DIAMOND LIGHTING PROJECT

Mr. Eckel stated that an Open House was held in July for property owners that live near Rivercrest Park that may be affected by the lighting. A list of questions was generated and

responses to those questions have been sent to the attendees of the meeting. Mr. Eckel said that he has received no inquiries or response to the letter. He would like to send another letter giving one last chance for feedback before he comes to the Committee and requests permission to enter into a contract with PABSC. Mr. Grayson voiced concerns that the lighted field was only used 42 times in 2013 and questioned whether this was a valid use of taxpayer money when a field owned by Perrysburg Township is a block away. Mr. Lawless and Ms. Kabat indicated that the township will not let PABSC use the field. Mr. Lawless said that we want to be competitive with other communities and tournaments are an economic benefit to the hotels and restaurants in our area. There was a discussion regarding lighting soccer fields. Ms. Kabat said that is the type of thing that PRAC should look at as a master plan for the parks is developed.

2014 BUDGET DISCUSSION

The Committee reviewed the pool, parks and recreation budgets. Mr. Eckel indicated he would like the pool to be more self-supporting, but said he wants it to remain competitive. He said any possible rate increase could be discussed when rates are set in March. There was discussion regarding solar heating for the pool, and the Committee agreed 3-0 that an additional \$25,000 should be included in the budget for pool equipment to cover the solar heating. There was a discussion regarding pay rates for recreation employees, and Mr. Eckel said that he bumped up the salary line item because they are losing employees to higher paying jobs. Mr. Eckel said that land acquisition for downtown restrooms has been cut from the budget. Ms. Kabat said that is because there currently is no suitable land available. She said that if something becomes available, City Council could be asked to amend the budget. Ms. Kabat said that also included in the budget were funds for a skate park to be located at one of the existing parks. The Committee discussed skate parks in other communities. This item will be discussed at future committee meetings.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Next regular meeting: Monday November 18, 2013 at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Lawless, Chairman
Recreation Committee