

RECREATION COMMITTEE

OCTOBER 14, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 6:14 p.m. by Chairman Rick Rettig. Committee members present were: Tom Mackin, Jim Matuszak and Rick Rettig. Also present were City Administrator Bridgette Kabat, Service Director Jon Eckel, and Planning and Zoning Administrator Brody Walters.

CITIZENS' CONCERNS

John Hawley gave an update regarding his fundraising efforts for a skate park in Perrysburg. He said his efforts have come a long way in the last year. He acknowledged that it is not an overnight process, but he said he will keep working at it diligently. He provided signatures that he gathered in support of a skate park. Michelle Grigore, Bowling Green Parks and Recreation Director, spoke briefly about the evolution of Bowling Green's skate park. She said that because of liability issues, this is not a venture that can be undertaken by skaters alone. She provided information regarding the costs of construction for the Bowling Green skate park. Mr. Mackin asked if there are ongoing maintenance costs, and Ms. Grigore said there is not.

Mr. Mackin said that \$25,000 had been allocated for a skate park in the 2014 budget but it is not in the proposed 2015 budget. Ms. Kabat said that the proposed 2015 budget does not include carryovers, but that amount will be carried over to 2015. Mr. Mackin asked about a location for the skate park. Mr. Eckel provided a handout showing the Administration's first choice for a potential skate park. It is on City owned property adjacent to the YMCA. Mr. Rettig said that at the last meeting he asked for correspondence from those interested in getting a skate park in Perrysburg. He said he has received 12-15 emails. He said he agrees that this is not an overnight project, but from his prospective it seems to be gaining momentum. Ms. Kabat said that she will get copies of the information provided to all Committee members.

2014 MUNICIPAL POOL REPORT

Steve Shives of the YMCA was present to give a report about the 2014 municipal pool operations. He said their primary goal is safety and they had another safe season. He said there was a significant drop in attendance from past years which is probably due to the abnormally cool weather. In 2013 season attendance was 18,699, and in 2014 it was 16,300. Mr. Mackin asked if the Administration is happy with the relationship with the YMCA. Mr. Eckel stated that safety is the biggest issue and the YMCA has brought in a level of professionalism which has relieved the Department of Public Service of a big burden. Mr. Rettig asked about past discussions regarding heating the pool. Mr. Eckel said that they have looked at it in the past and even looked at solar heating. A company thought they could do the solar heating for a relatively low price, but they made a mistake and the cost went up 50%. It does not appear that the minimal amount that the temperature would rise is enough to warrant the cost. Ms. Kabat added that due to the school schedules of the lifeguards, we could not open any sooner or stay open any later.

DISCUSSION REGARDING DATE FOR HALLOWEEN

Mr. Rettig stated the subject of trick or treating has come up in public channels because it is scheduled for the same time as the Maumee/Perrysburg football game. He said the Administration has given it reconsideration but has decided to keep it on October 31st. Ms. Kabat said that the decision to maintain trick or treating on October 31st is due to the fact that the Administration does not believe there is a public safety issue. She said that they would like to keep it tied to public safety and stick with the traditional date and time unless there is a public safety issue. She said they do not want to start the process of moving it based on other activities in the community.

DISCUSSION REGARDING P3 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Administration provided the Committee with a list of eleven plans prepared throughout the years that referenced the riverfront and a list of participants from the P3 plan done in 2008 and the Riverfront Charette from several years ago. Ms. Kabat said the Administration would like to work with the Committee to go through the suggested goals of the P3 which were presented at the last City Council meeting, along with the additional goals of the Administration, and add to that list City Council's goals. Then together work through these goals to come up with a set of parameters or scope of work and to go through the Request for Qualifications/Proposals process so a design that meets all the criteria can be prepared. Mr. Mackin said that he feels it is important that something actually be done, and he suggested that some less controversial items such as trimming the vegetation that blocks the view of the river and adding park benches could be done. Mr. Rettig said that we need to look at how we can enhance the City by making the riverfront more accessible and more inviting for all residents. He said that you cannot make everyone happy, but he wants to make sure that it is the community's ideas that take precedent. Ms. Kabat said that the Administration would like to hold public open houses to collect the public's ideas and compare that with the information that has been collected in the past. Mr. Rettig asked how this is reflected in the budget because it appears the parks budget was reduced. Ms. Kabat said there are dollars allocated for design work in the 2015 budget. Mr. Mackin said that he would like the line item to be reworded so it reflects that it is for Riverfront/Downtown Enhancement Projects. Open Houses were scheduled for Thursday, October 30th and Monday, November 10th from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Katina Holland said that past plans were commercially driven and she said that a recent newspaper article says that they are looking to open up the riverfront to more vehicular access. Mr. Mackin said that he believes it is referring to vehicular access to parking spaces, not the area behind people's homes. Mr. Rettig said the parks are gems of our community and this is an opportunity to enhance the parks. He acknowledged that there is some trust building to do, but assured her that the intention is to make it more pedestrian friendly. Mr. Matuszak added that the last two riverfront plans that were done were economic development driven. Chip Pflieger said that he loves seeing people use the area behind his home, but there is sewage overflow in that area. Mr. Eckel said that should be corrected with the improvements to the wastewater treatment plant. Diane Bishop said that she likes the riverfront the way it is and said she is concerned about the impact on the environment and wild life. She also suggested continuing the

downtown streetscape down Louisiana to Fifth Street and down Second Street from Louisiana. Mr. Rettig stated that the committee is looking at how they can make Hood and Riverside Parks more inviting; what happens to other parts of the area are not the responsibility of this committee. A member of the audience said that there is a lot of talk about providing more access to the river but there are already several access points. Mr. Mackin clarified that by access they don't mean access to use the river or to put a boat in it, but the perception is that if you don't live near the riverfront you are not encouraged to use it. He said he is not in favor of commercializing it but wants to make it easier for residents to use. Mr. Rettig gave an example of an email he received from a resident who asked for steps with a handrail to make it easier to get down the hill. He said these simple things are the type of items that make it easier for residents to access the riverfront and make it more inviting. Deborah Born stated that she was a part of the P3 process but was not, and is not, in favor of any changes to the riverfront. She added that no one wants this, but said she is in favor of the skate park at Rotary Park.

BUDGET DISCUSSION

Mr. Eckel distributed a spreadsheet showing budget items related to recreation. The Committee said they would review it and discuss it at the next meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Rettig, Chairman
Recreation Committee

Next meeting: Tuesday, November 10, 2014 at 5:00 p.m., which is a change from the regular date and time.