

RECREATION COMMITTEE

OCTOBER 13, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by Chairman Rick Rettig. Committee members present were Tom Mackin, Jim Matuszak and Rick Rettig. Also present were Jon Eckel, Service Director and Brody Walters, Planning and Zoning Administrator.

2016 BUDGET

Mr. Eckel reviewed the items he requested in the 2016 budget for parks and playgrounds, pools and pond, and recreation. He said that he requested two new employees for parks and playgrounds to start in April, replacement of some older vehicles, a hillside mower that can also mow flat ground, and two new leaf machines which help extend the life of the dump trucks. He said that they are a very labor intensive department and they mow 230 acres in addition to tree trimming. Mr. Eckel said that when he took over the Service Department in 2000 there were the same number of employees as there would be with these two additional employees. For the pool, Mr. Eckel said that the bottom needs to be painted at a cost of \$40,000, the diving boards need to be replaced at a cost of \$15,000, and the pump needs to be repaired at a cost of \$5,000. He said that they received a grant for \$20,000 for sunshades at the pool and an additional \$10,000 for sun shades that they might put at Rotary Park. Mr. Eckel said there were not a lot of changes with the Recreation budget other than to back out Safety Town employees which should not have been included, they are paid by the Police Division. He said that other capital items requested were a shelter building for Rotary Park, \$25,000 for the skate park, and tiling at Bicentennial Park. Mr. Rettig said that PRAC agrees with the shelter house at Rotary Park and the tiling at Bicentennial. He noted that there is also a low area to the east of the playground equipment at Bicentennial. Mr. Eckel said there are catch basins there, but they can install an additional catch basin and tie it in. Mr. Rettig said that he would like to see the amount for a skate park be doubled. Mr. Eckel stated that these are the items he asked for, not necessarily what he is getting.

RIVERSIDE PARK

Tim Bockbrader and Rick Butera of the Edge Group gave a presentation to the Committee regarding Riverside Park. Mr. Bockbrader said that the multi-use path is a separate project, but he showed the alignment of the path from Hood Park to the west edge of Riverside Park, and he said that the soil borings and survey work were done in conjunction with Tetra Tech. A Project Timeline was discussed showing six steps: Design Development, City Review, Construction Documentation, City Review, Bidding and Construction. Mr. Bockbrader said that they have completed the Design Development which includes soil borings, survey, layout plans, grading/drainage plans, site construction details – sections/elevations, selection of materials, review construction cost estimate, and coordinate with multi-use path. He said that this presentation is part of step two and the plan will be on the November agenda for the Historic Landmarks Commission and Planning Commission. He said that after the City's review, they will finalize construction layout plans and details, finalize specifications, finalize the construction cost estimate, and obtain EPA Approval and the Notice of Intent. Those construction plans will be reviewed by the various city departments in December and January and they hope to go to bid in January or February with construction occurring from March through June.

Mr. Mackin asked when this would go back to City Council. Mr. Walters said that it would go back for Council approval between steps four and five. Mr. Bockbrader showed the areas where the soil boring was done. He said soil boring is done to understand the soil composition where construction will occur. He said that he has copies of the results of the soil boring, but he gave a summary of the results. He said that the sampling turned out very well and showed predominantly stiff to very stiff cohesive fill material with trace amounts of crushed stone, brick fragments and trace amounts of organics; medium to dense granular fill material with predominantly cohesive fill materials; recommended inspections during construction which Mr. Bockbrader said is normal; no groundwater was encountered; lateral earth pressure – Mr. Bockbrader acknowledged that hillsides are always moving and because of this, it was recommended that free-draining granular fill be used behind retaining walls; hydrostatic pressure – recommended a foundation drain be placed at footing level behind the retaining wall. Mr. Mackin said that someone opposed to this project might ask about the soil borings being done at this time of the year when it is dry versus in the spring when it is wet. Mr. Bockbrader said that if they were done in the spring the moisture content in the soil borings would be higher, but the ground level water would not be affected. Jim Hagen, Avenue Road, asked how deep they went down for the soil borings. Mr. Bockbrader said they went down ten feet which is double the depth they will go down for construction.

Mr. Bockbrader reviewed the design of the park. He showed the pathway down and explained the use of handrails and guardrails. He said the guardrail that was added is not required by Code but they feel it's a good idea as a safety feature because of who will be using it. He showed the upper plaza and said that there will be four street trees at the upper plaza. He showed where the Blue Star Memorial will be located and showed the area where they are working with the Bicentennial Committee to put in some granite pavers that would extend out to the sidewalk. Mr. Mackin asked about the additional cost of these pavers. Mr. Bockbrader said that it is not in their budget, the Bicentennial Committee is looking at fundraising for this feature. Mr. Walters explained that the funds from the pavers would pay for the pavers plus help cover the cost of a timeline of Perrysburg history to be included. He said the decorative granite would help downplay the concrete. Mr. Rettig asked if the guardrail will block the view if you are sitting on the benches. Mr. Bockbrader said that they have tried to make the guardrails as transparent as possible. Mr. Bockbrader showed the modular block system that they would like to use for the retaining wall. He said they chose it because the constructability is easy, there's not a lot of maintenance, and it is cost effective. He said as the hill moves in and out, the modular system moves in and out. He said that if they built a solid wall and there's movement, it breaks but that would not happen with the modular system. They are large chunks of limestone with a geogrid fabric wove through it. Mr. Eckel interjected that the same type of system was used on Pine Street if anyone would like to go see how it works. Mr. Matuszak asked if any thought was given to using timber and cables for the railings and posts. Mr. Bockbrader said that there is more maintenance involved with the timber. He said that they looked at some low level lighting along the walkway but the cost is high so they are still exploring that option. Mr. Bockbrader reviewed the Grading Plan, the Planting Plan and Elevations showing examples of the materials chosen. It was noted that the boardwalk area was not included. Mr. Bockbrader said that the project estimate is \$1,276,000 which includes a 10% contingency. Mr. Matuszak said that he is not in favor of the sun shades and would like to see them get away from the metal guardrails. Mr.

Bockbrader reviewed the concept of the guardrails and said they are not like the guardrails used along highways, it is a technical term used to refer to a handrail that is 42" high along stairways.

Mr. Rettig asked if any action is requested by the Administration. Mr. Walters said that the presentation is to keep the Committee updated as the process moves along. Mr. Mackin stated that since the estimate is over the budgeted amount, City Council should consider whether they want to increase the amount in the budget. Mr. Walters said that we have not received any notification from ODNR about our grant application, but he is hopeful we will hear something by the end of the month. Mr. Rettig expressed concern that there was not any advance notice that this was going to be presented. He said this is a controversial issue and it is imperative that there be more communication. He asked that the presentation be put on the City's website. The Committee discussed having another presentation at the November committee meeting.

Kitty Gibson, Perrysburg Township resident, said that the estimate includes a ten percent contingency but what if it goes over that amount. The bidding process was explained to Ms. Gibson and Mr. Mackin added that if it is over budget it would have to go back to City Council for approval.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Rettig
Chairman, Recreation Committee

Next meeting: Tuesday, November 10, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.