

RECREATION COMMITTEE

OCTOBER 12, 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 Karlene Henderson, Law Director.

CITIZENS' CONCERNS

Dick Currie and Charlie Gries were present to discuss biking facilities in Perrysburg. They specifically requested that this fall South Boundary Street be striped 2' on each side for a bike path. Then when the whole road has to be restriped, the bike lanes can be increased to 3' each. Mr. Currie said that it would be easy, inexpensive and it will put it in the mind of City Council that something is being done for bikers. Mr. Rettig said that PRAC has been discussing this issue and the Administration is being invited to the next PRAC meeting to explain the City's long term plans for moving people around the City.

The Committee agreed that because of safety concerns they were not comfortable with striping a 2' section along South Boundary Street. Mr. Currie suggested that Doug Dariano, the City Engineer be given the responsibility of looking into it and if he needs help he can go to Proudfoot. Mr. Matuszak stated that City Council can't tell Mr. Dariano what to do; the Administration would have to be on board too.

SMOKING LEGISLATION

The Committee reviewed the draft legislation that Ms. Henderson and Mr. Rettig drafted that would restrict smoking in certain areas of the City's parks. If approved, the use of tobacco products in marked areas in the parks would be prohibited. This language would be added to Section 1090.06 as item (n). Mr. Matuszak said that he would prefer it not say anything about keeping the air clean since you're outside at the park. Mr. Rettig said that the air quality is a factor in this. He spoke to Scott Buker, our Recreation Director, about this proposal and he said thank you because virtually every day someone is smoking around the recreation facilities. There was a lengthy discussion regarding enforcement of this legislation, and Mr. Rettig said that in many ways he feels it will be enforced by the community. Mr. Smith said that he questions whether it is the City's role to tell people not to smoke around their kids. He said the ultimate goal is to avoid littering, and if you put cigarette butt receptacles in designated areas, people will congregate there. He said that he does not want the police having to respond to calls in the park and if enough complaints are received they will almost have an ethical responsibility to enforce this. He added that he does not see the necessity at this point.

Mr. Matuszak suggested that signs be put up asking people to not smoke around the kids. Mr. Rettig said that at a previous meeting Mr. Matuszak said that if it didn't have teeth, he didn't want to hear about it which is why Mr. Rettig is proposing legislation. Mr. Matuszak said that the ordinance is still not enforceable. Mr. Matuszak asked if smoking is banned

in state and federal parks. Mr. Smith looked it up on his phone and said that smoking is prohibited in national parks.

Mr. Matuszak stated that he does not think we should tell people what to do. Jim Hagen, Avenue Road, said that people are told all the time what to do through traffic signs and signals. He stated that smoking is not allowed at most, if not all, professional baseballs fields. Mr. Hagen added that you can put receptacles all along the park but they don't get used. He said that personally he has no problem with making the entire park no smoking.

Mr. Smith and Mr. Matuszak expressed concern that the legislation as drafted leaves it wide open about where smoking would be prohibited and the Administration could put signs wherever they want. Mr. Matuszak said he would like to see that tightened up so they don't have carte blanche. Ms. Henderson said that she could redraft the legislation and add a reference to the verbiage from the resolution about communal areas.

This item was tabled until next month's meeting.

2017 BUDGET

Mr. Rettig stated that the Committee received the additional information that had been requested from Mr. Eckel regarding the budget. He said that nothing struck him as inappropriate and he asked if the other Committee members have any concerns. Mr. Matuszak said that he would like to see all items that were asked for and were denied for all divisions. That way he can see the big picture. For example if the Police Chief was told no on something and there is something included that he would rather have removed. Mr. Rettig said he will send an email to Mr. Eckel and copy Ms. Kabat on the request.

UPDATE ON RIVERSIDE PARK

Mr. Rettig said that he does not know where we stand on the sewer issue at Riverside Park. Mr. Smith said the cost will be \$67,000 to redirect the sewer. Mr. Matuszak clarified that the entire cost to repair and redirect the sewer is \$67,000. Mr. Smith agreed and said that two manholes would be eliminated. Mr. Matuszak asked if this is coming out of the park budget and Mr. Smith said that it will come from the utility budget.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Rettig, Chairman
Recreation Committee

Next regular meeting: Wednesday, November 9, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.