

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairwoman Deborah Born. Committee members present were Deborah Born, Jim Matuszak, and Jonathan Smith. Also present was City Administrator Bridgette Kabat.

CITIZENS' CONCERNS/DOG PARK

Ruth Lucius, 26768 Ottekee Drive, was present to request that a dog park be located within the walking path at Rotary Park. She said that this spot would be advantageous because there is already water run to the park, there is a lot of parking, and it is not near a residential area. Ms Born discussed some of the issues that would be involved with having a dog park; the on going maintenance and the liability. Ms Born mentioned there are 12 parks within the city and dogs are allowed in all of them. She said that she would like to see more information regarding the cost. Mr. Smith said that there are three options for a dog park. It can be an area that is free for all or you can charge a fee. He said the third option is if the City would donate land to a third-party non-profit and have them run it, and the City would have no liability. He added that maybe a hook could be added so ownership of the land would revert back to the City if the land stopped being used for a dog park. Mr. Matuszak said that he has not looked into dog parks, and he is not against the idea, but he would want to see some type of design. He said that he would not want to charge to use the park, and he doesn't want to give up park land to anyone. Mr. Smith said that he is in support of the idea and would like to continue to explore the issue. He said that he spoke to Jeff Studer, Animal Control Officer, and he suggested using an area of Three Meadows Park.

Lynn Riehle, business owner at RiverPlace Shoppes, said that Dave Keinzle, the owner of RiverPlace Shoppes, has said that he would let them use an open area at the shopping center for a dog park. Ms. Riehle said she has been working on the idea for the last three months, and she has obtained estimates for fencing and for a water fountain. She said that she has a committee of eleven dog friendly people are working on it. She discussed donations of bridges, benches and the cost for fencing would be: \$5657.58, Water Fountain Costs: \$3,500. Total \$10-15,000 for overall cost with the "At Your Own Risk" Rules.

Mike Cousino, 26901 Eckel Road, said that dog bites are a huge problem and the average settlement for a dog bite case is over \$2,000. He said that the City does not need that liability and he is not in favor of a dog park. He said that dog owners already use the twelve parks in the City.

SPLASH PAD

Ms. Born stated that a lot of parents in Perrysburg would like a Splash Pad, and the idea was recently was discussed at a PRAC meeting. She said that maintenance is easy, there is no need for lifeguards, and she thinks it would be nice for the community. Possibly located in Rivercrest Park. Mike Cousino, 26901 Eckel Road, said that he is very much in favor of a splash pad on the west side of town.

OTHER BUSINESS

Karen Davis, 232 E. Seventh St, was present to discuss her termination of employment from the City as a Crossing Guard back in 2015. She wanted to express her concerns after hearing about the recent Police Investigation within the City. She worked for the Perrysburg Police department for 20 years, in her last 5 years she claims she was being bullied at her post. Ms Davis continued to state that the City Administration and Mayors Office knew about it but nothing was done. Eventually, she was dismissed and states that the Gentleman who was bullying her made several false claims about her which resulted in her termination. Ms Davis and her husband spoke with Tom Hosler, Nelson Evans and Sheriff Mark Wasylyshyn about the incidents. Ms Davis stated that nothing was done about it and was told there is nothing they can do unless it happens on her post. She mentioned that one of her reasons for dismissal was "Insubordination" Regarding an incident when asking for bus time changes early on in the school year. Another claim was "Straying from her duties" and accused of "distributing Christian Literature" on her post. Ms Davis said that these were all false accusations and that the gifts she gave were done "off duty" and consisted of Family Movies not Christian Literature. She said she had a perfect word record until she reported the bullying. Her husband wanted to know how they City obtained this information which resulted in a letter of dismissal. She felt she was wrongly let go after she reported the bully. Ms Born asked if she had brought this before a Safety Meeting before. Mr Matusak asked for clarification on her opening statement regarding the importance of the current "Police Investigation" and her case. Ms Davis response was that Chief Dan Paez was her old boss and reiterated that her goal is not vindication but to clear her name and get her job back. Ms Kabat reiterated that the Crossing Guard Post is a part time position and is under jurisdiction of the Mayor not Council. Mr Matusak stated that although this is under the jurisdiction of Administration and the Mayor, the citizens of the City look to Council to voice their concerns. Ms Matusak suggested that they should go through the Personnel Committee. Ms Davis said she already went both to the Personnel Committee and the Mayors Office and nothing happened.

Mr. Matuszak informed the Committee that the plan is to have a first reading of the budget ordinance at the second City Council meeting in November with passage scheduled for the first Council meeting in December. Ms. Born said that the Committee will discuss the Parks and Recreation budget at the November meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Born, Chairperson
Recreation Committee

Next meeting: Tuesday, November 13, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.