

PERRYSBURG CITY COUNCIL

RECREATION COMMITTEE

REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2019

PRESENT: Chairwoman Deborah Born, Council members Jim Matuszak and Jonathan Smith, City Administrator Bridgette Kabat, Law Director Laura Alkire.

Chairwoman Born called the meeting to order at 6:30 P. M. in Council Chambers. After the Pledge of Allegiance, citizen concerns were requested and none were offered,

There was no action or discussion on Riverside cannon stands or the Inclusive Playground.

Codification of Responsibilities for the Recreation Committee:

Chairwoman Born stated that she had exchanged E-Mails with the Law Director the morning before the meeting on this topic. She asked Ms. Alkire if she had anything to add. Ms. Alkire stated that she had not yet prepared a draft for the Committee's review because she had read in the report of the August 13 meeting that changes had been made to the second draft which she had not yet received.

Chairwoman Born read the E-Mail she had sent Ms. Alkire. In it she had stated that the requested changes in the second draft were spelled out in the report which Ms. Alkire had acknowledged she had received. and for which the Committee had voted 3-0 to recommend approval. Chairwoman Born then asked that an ordinance be prepared for Council by the September 17 meeting and, as requested by Mr. Matuszak, copies of this ordinance be sent to the three Committee members in advance of the meeting.

Mr. Smith stated that he did not recall a formal vote being taken; Ms. Alkire concurred with this statement. Mr. Matuszak responded "rather than worry about what happened at the last meeting, I suggest that we take care of business." Mr. Matuszak then read to the Law Director a final version of the draft which included the revisions already presented at the August 13 meeting. Mr. Smith asked several questions and reiterated that he would like to review the Law Director's ordinance before the Council meeting. Ms. Alkire acknowledged that she now has all the information she needs to prepare the ordinance.

Request for authorization to purchase shade systems for Riverside Park: Ms. Kabat presented a proposal to purchase six shade systems to be installed in Riverside Park. These would be furnished by DWA Recreation Systems at a cost of \$41,928. Ms. Kabat stated that the lawn chairs and swings are already down there and this purchase is part of an overall plan to improve the park. She asked Planning and Zoning Administrator Brody Walters to further discuss the project. and also stated that this project had been discussed at an earlier Recreation Committee meeting.

Chairwoman Born then commented that she did not remember any of this being previously discussed at this Committee. Ms. Kabat responded that it could have been some other committee but she can furnish pictures if needed.

Mr. Walters stated that the sunshades had been included in the original plan for the park but had been postponed due to budget considerations. The Administration is now ready to move forward on this. Mr. Walters claimed that people using the park had told him that shades were needed to protect them from the sun while they ate lunch.

Ms. Born commented that she thought this was a bad idea because Riverside Park is on a flood plain which was severely damaged last winter and she did not want to see almost \$42,000 lost if bad weather strikes again. She also stated that if the original trees in Riverside Park had not been cut down the shades would be necessary. Ms. Kabat claimed that Jon Eckel told her that there had been no damage to

Riverside Park last winter; Mr. Walters gave a similar opinion. Ms. Born responded that she has footage of the damage and it is available for review online.

Mr. Smith asked if some of the pads could be left uncovered for people who like to be in the sun. Mr. Walters responded that they can be rotated if the users want to do so. Mr. Walters then stated that the shades are supposed to be winter hardy but to make sure the City plans to store them in the winter.

Mr. Matuszak stated that he had ridden his bike down to Riverside Park. He was there for an hour and no one else was present. He feels that the park is being poorly maintained and all he saw were weeds and dirt. Ms. Kabat stated that the plans for the alteration of Riverside Park did not include an irrigation system which causes problems for the trees. She also stated that the Toledo Zoo had planted a prairie planting which did not fare well so they sprayed the planting and the Zoo will do a replant this fall.

Mr. Smith asked if the City has a portable water tank they can bring down to the park to help with irrigation. Mr. Matuszak stated that he was very opposed to the park being built but since it is here it needs to be maintained properly. Mr. Matuszak asked why Mr. Walters was present considering that Jon Eckel usually makes presentations to this Committee. Mr. Walters responded that Mr. Eckel feels that He (Walters) is more creative so Mr. Eckel relies on him for design and implementation.

Chairwoman Born commented that like Mr. Matuszak she had been opposed to the revision of Riverside Park because it is now a concrete park which violated the United States Secretary of the Interior's standards and guidelines for Historic Districts and should have been constructed in a modern area. The money for these shades would be better spent on activities such as baseball or lacrosse.

The Committee then voted 2-1 (Born no) to make a recommendation to Council to approve the administration's request.

Other Business: Mr. Smith stated that he had followed up a discussion at the last meeting by asking at the Planning and Zoning Committee how much money is currently available for purchasing a new park. Mr. Walters replied that there is \$491,000. Mr. Smith stated that he feels the administration should be looking for additional land to purchase for a park on the west side of town. Chairwoman Born asked (so it would be on record) to what specific location he was referring. Mr. Smith responded "the western side of Perrysburg." Chairwoman Born suggested that we need to make sure we are not talking about Middleton or Perrysburg Township.

Mr. Smith stated that the park located furthest west in the City is Rivercrest and many people on the west side do not have a park within walking distance of their homes. Mr. Matuszak responded that developers have the option to donate land or pay a fee when they initiate projects. Mr. Walters responded that the Planning Commission (if it wishes) can require donation of land.

Meeting adjourned 7:10 P. M.
Next meeting October 8 at 6:30 P. M.

ADDENDUM: A report on the September PRAC meeting was listed on the agenda; this meeting was cancelled.

Report prepared by
Deborah Born, Chairwoman
September 14, 2019