

RECREATION COMMITTEE

AUGUST 19, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairman Joe Lawless. Committee members present were: Todd Grayson, Joe Lawless and Mike Olmstead. Also present were City Administrator Bridgette Kabat and Service Director Jon Eckel.

DISCUSSION REGARDING RIVERFRONT PLAN

Mr. Lawless recommended to the Committee that the Riverfront Plan be separated into phases, with Phase I being the multi-use path connecting Hood Park to Orleans Park. He said that he would like to extract the path from the plan, send it to the staff to get cost estimates, see what we can afford, and how we can pay for it. He said he would recommend eliminating lights and other features, but perhaps look at additional parking at Hood Park. Mr. Grayson said that he likes the Phase I idea, but he'd also like to see if we could give the designer a budget number, if it wouldn't cost us anything, and see what cost effective things that tie in with accessibility that we could get done. Ms. Kabat said that we should be able to go to Harley Ellis Devereaux and ask them to further break out the estimated costs. Mr. Olmstead said that he was interested in hearing comments from those in attendance.

Becky Williams, 421 E. Sixth Street, said that this plan is an accumulation of ideas brought up through the process, and it does not mean we have to do every piece. She said she agrees with the multi-use path being done first; the riverfront is a beautiful area and it needs to be shared with all of the community.

Rachel Sowers, 117 Mulberry Street, said that she supports the Riverfront Plan. She said the 1816 map indicated a common area along the riverfront and during the P3 process one of the top concerns expressed was access to the riverfront. She stated that her family visits other communities with riverfront access and spends money in those communities.

Chris Dietz, 311 W. Second Street, said he has lived two blocks from downtown for two years. He said that he hopes the City will take the initiative to make the riverfront accessible.

Sandra Jane Heard, 333 E. Front Street, said that she has lived within two blocks of the proposed path for the last six years and they already use the path, but she would love a better path. When they moved here they were disappointed that there was no access to the riverfront and she would love to see the riverfront opened to the public. She feels it would do nothing but enrich the community.

Chris Barry, 341 W. Front Street, has lived there for 25 years and he uses the area of the path extensively. He said this path will do nothing to open up access to the riverfront and he believes that a mowed grass path is adequate. He said that any paved path would need maintenance, plus he does not want any vehicular traffic. He encouraged the City to repair the portion of the path that is a dirty, dirt road.

Katina Holland, 335 W. Front Street, said that everyone wants more access to the riverfront, but they will never have access to the riverfront because it is private property. She said that many years ago a roadway was proposed to go in that area but was stopped by the Corp of Engineers. She begged that a 12' roadway not go in; she suggested that if a bike path is desired that it go in along Front Street.

Mr. Lawless stated that the City does have a 40' right-of-way.

Nicki Decker, 440 W. Front Street, said that she agrees that they should start with the path. She said that she uses the alley to walk in because it is the only smooth surface.

Jon Orser, 125 E. Front Street, said that he does not live in the area that will be affected by the path. He said that he believes it is unfair to the people who own houses in that area to do the path without their consent. He said there is no legal justification, but there is a moral justification. He said if the other items are going on the backburner, he hopes they are discussed at a future date before being implemented.

Mr. Lawless said that he does not see much happening outside of Phase I until we figure out how to pay for it and have the money to pay for it.

Charles Pflgebraar, 401 W. Front Street, said that he has not seen the people who have spoken on the path and he does not think anything needs to be paved. He said it does not need to be asphalt to be safe. He said that when you put in a 12' road you need to dig into the hill, and he does not want to have structural problems with his foundation.

Mr. Lawless said that he is not an engineer, but he can assure Mr. Pflgebraar that the City's engineer and the engineers hired to design it will look at this before anything is done. He added, however, that hills do move. Mr. Grayson said that we always have engineers look at projects, and he certainly does not want to hurt someone's property.

Diane Bishop, 231 W. Seventh Street, said she has lived in the Perrysburg area for 42 years and she is very passionate about the development plans. She said that she goes to the river all the time and enjoys the nature. She implored the Committee to preserve the riverfront as it is a good place to teach about nature. She said that perhaps a retaining wall could be installed to prevent erosion.

Mayo Roe, 413 W. Front Street, said that he encourages City Council to invite all of the City to walk behind his house, and he would love more activity near the riverfront. He

said he is in favor of a delineated path behind his house, but not a 12' asphalt path. He said he is for the park; it would be good for the town, just not a paved path.

Mr. Lawless clarified that it would be a 10' path.

Paul Belazis, 503 W. Front Street, said that he has heard many legitimate views about the path, and everyone would like to see access to the riverfront. His question was regarding the funding. He said his understanding is the entire path revolves around TMACOG funding that the City has been approved for and is due to get in 2019. He stated that the grant has specifications tied to it as TMACOG requires a 10' paved path; the City has no other option. Mr. Belazis said that he would like the City to establish a process so we aren't tied to TMACOG requirements.

Mr. Lawless said the City does not have to accept the grant.

Judy Belazis, 503 W. Front Street, said that no one has talked about the ongoing operational or maintenance costs which will come out of our tax dollars which competes with school and library levies. She said that walking and biking on grass is safe and that the path will be tipping towards the river in a few years.

Jon Orser asked if the Committee is going to recommended putting the rest of the plan in limbo. Mr. Lawless said that he is going to recommend Phase I. Mr. Orser said that he feels it should be in the record that a lot of the citizenry does not want the plan implemented.

Brody Walters stated that the answers to the questions submitted at the July 30th meeting are on the City's website and if there are any more questions, please contact us.

Diane Bishop asked about flooding and ice dams and how this will affect the asphalt. Mr. Lawless said it has been a long time since the river froze so hard that we had ice damming. Ms. Kabat said that if the path does move forward, the engineers working on it will know our climate. She added that the criteria for the TMACOG grant is that the path be handicapped accessible.

The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval to City Council of a motion to proceed looking at a multi-use path from Hood Park to Orleans Park along the riverfront and to take a look at the grant and see what surfaces are available.

Mr. Lawless said once a plan for the path is completed, it will come back to the Committee.

CITIZENS' CONCERNS

John Stout, 26400 Laurel Lane, was present to discuss the field lighting proposed at Rivercrest Park. He said his agenda is not to prohibit the lights, his question is are they needed. He said that the lights on the existing field are not used most weeknights, so he wonders if an additional lighted field is warranted. Mr. Stout asked how much the City spent for the existing lights, did PABSC contribute to that, the cost to run the lights, and if non-Perrysburg teams pay to use the fields. He asked about the possibility of further restricting the hours the lights can be used. He asked that a work group be established consisting of members of City Council, PABSC and neighbors. Mr. Stout said that he has been involved with Perrysburg soccer since 1994. There was some discussion regarding PABSC's relationship with the City. Mr. Eckel said that if the soccer people were to give him a proposal, he would be more than happy to bring it to the Recreation Committee, but only PABSC has done that. Mr. Eckel said he is putting together a packet of information with the questions that were raised at the meeting with the neighbors. He added that as far as the demand for field usage, lighting this field opens up use for more age levels. Mr. Lawless stated that the relationship with PABSC saves the City a lot of money each year because of the areas they maintain.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

Next regular meeting: Monday, September 16, 2013 at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Lawless, Chairman
Recreation Committee