

PERRYSBURG CITY COUNCIL

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Report on regular meeting of August 13, 2019

PRESENT: Deborah Born (Chair), Councilmen Jim Matuszak and Jonathan Smith.

Chairwoman Born called the meeting to order at 6:30 P. M. in Council chambers.

After the Pledge of Allegiance Citizen Concerns were requested.

Paul Smithers 1055 Locust Street and several other members of the Perrysburg Pickleball Club were present to discuss the status of their organization. Mr. Smithers reported that the group had followed the Recreation Committee's earlier suggestion and founded a club, although complete organization was still a work in progress. The group has a Facebook page called "Perrysburg Pickleball Club". Mr. Smithers asked if there could be a link to the City of Perrysburg's web site and if the City Administration could help collect the Club dues and hold the funds until any unused portion would be returned to the Club to host a social event at the end of the season, Chairwoman Born stated that she was glad the Perrysburg Club is doing well.

Mr. Smithers then introduced Betsy Kinniston, 5958 Settlers Ridge Circle, Sylvania who is United States Pickleball Ambassador and trained in organizing inter-club activities. Ms. Kinniston said she that her area of responsibility is Northwest Ohio. She is a member of the Toledo and Holland Pickleball Clubs and is a founder of the Sylvania Club. She commented that Perrysburg is unique because it had courts in place before there was a club. She emphasized that it is important that the City and the Club work together. She asked who in the City would be the point person (contact) for the Club.

Chairman Born asked how long has the Sylvania Club existed; Ms. Kinniston responded that it was in 2015.

Mr. Matuszak stated that he is not a believer in growing government and wanted to know why the City should be involved in the finances of a private club; he mentioned that he is involved with some other clubs (soccer and baseball) in Perrysburg which do not do this. Ms. Kinniston responded that some clubs think that there will be greater security if the City holds the money but the procedure is not universal. She also stated the Holland Club manages its own money and Sylvania does this with all the private clubs it works with. If the infrastructure for this does not exist in Perrysburg then it does not have to happen. Mr. Matuszak responded that he would like for the pickle ball club to take ownership of that function themselves.

Mr. Matuszak then asked if the Sylvania Pickleball Club has a written agreement with the City. Ms. Kinniston responded that Club activities are posted on the City web site. She then listed the situation with other area clubs whose relationship with their respective political jurisdictions vary.

Chairwoman Born asked Mr. Smith for his thoughts. He responded that he agreed with Mr. Matuszak that the City should not be responsible for the Club's financial operations. He also recommended that the Club ask Bridgett Kabat or Jon Eckel to serve as a contact. Mr. Matuszak asked that the Club sign for its own protection some kind of written agreement with the City after which they can come back to the Committee. Mr. Matuszak also asked if the Club provided equipment for new players. Judy Hagen of the Department of Public Service responded that the Way Library and the summer Recreation Program has equipment which can be checked out free of charge. She thought it could be kept for a week but was not sure

Mr. Smithers thanked the Committee and the City for all they have done to help the growth of Pickleball. Chairwoman Born stated that she loved the enthusiasm and the inclusiveness which brings all ages together.

OLD BUSINESS:

A) Ms. Kabat has not yet provided information on the location of the waterline to the proposed splash pad.

B) No action was taken on the Riverside Park cannon stands.

C).No one was present to discuss the Inclusive Playground.

D) Chairwoman Born presented a revision to the draft ordinance which had been presented at last month's Committee meeting. This second version addresses the concerns the Law Director had expressed about the first draft. Ms. Born stated that she would like the Committee to make a recommendation this evening to the full Council to adopt this ordinance, Mr. Matuszak asked if the Law Director had been given the draft. Ms. Born responded that she had sent a copy to the Law Director but had not heard back from her.

Mr. Matuszak asked how Ms. Born had chosen the figure of \$25,000. Ms. Born responded that she had attended a Council meeting before she took office where it was mentioned that any expenditure by the City Administration of more than \$25,000 must be approved by Council. Mr. Matuszak then stated that he questioned the necessity of having language in the proposed ordinance requiring that the Committee make a recommendation before an issue is returned to Council because Council already has the power to remove by motion any issue from any committee and bring it back to the full Council if it wishes to do so. Ms. Born responded that she was interested clarifying the Committee's responsibility and making them more specific.

Mr. Matuszak stated that he has been on committees where occasionally issues were sent back to Council with no recommendation. He also mentioned that it is possible that Council might change the \$25,000 threshold so It would be better to not list a figure in this ordinance but instead to peg it to whatever number is listed in the part of the code which deals with the overall power of Council. Other than these two issues he has no problem with moving forward.

Mr. Smith said he agreed with Mr. Matuszak on both issues. Mr. Matuszak proposed that the language be changed to delete the phrase "...and make a recommendation to Council..." from all three clauses. He then asked that the revised draft be sent to the Law Director who can review it and return her views to Chairwoman Born before the next Recreation Committee meeting. When Ms. Born receives them she can E-Mail them to the other committee members.

Jon Orser, 125 East Front Street, congratulated the Committee on amicably resolving the issue. He commented that three rather than two of the seven Council committees will have designated responsibilities and hoped that today's action will be an incentive for the other four Chairs to take similar action.

4) New Business:

Judy Hagen, Office of Litter Prevention, requested that the Committee recommend approval of applications for three grants from the Wood County Parks District grant program. These are for storage racks at Orleans Park (\$11,527), bleachers for pickle ball courts at Municipal Park (\$9,096.25), and concrete trash cans for Rotary Park (\$9,948.17). The application deadline is August 30.

Mr. Smith asked if the Rotary Park garbage cans could have the Rotary Club logo on them. Ms. Hagen responded that the City uses the City logo, there is not room for more than one logo on a can and since the cans are periodically moved from place to place it would be inappropriate to have the Rotary Club logo on cans in other areas of the city.

Mrs. Hagen stated that the Law Director should have sent a copy of the Resolution to the Committee. The Committee members responded that none had been received. Ms. Born asked when it would be known if the City had received the grants. Ms. Hagen responded that there is no deadline but it could be October or November.

The Committee voted 3-0 to recommend to Council that a resolution permitting application for the grants be passed..

Chairwoman Born next reported on the August 5 Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting. She is Council's non-voting representative to PRAC She made three points:

1) The Committee is working on its bi-laws.

2) PRAC does not have a procedure for making its recommendations known to either the City Administration or Council. She recommended that they adopt a policy of making and passing a motion by the full Committee which would sent sent to either the City Administration or Council (whichever is appropriate).

3) One committee member expressed a concern that the majority of parks are in the "old" part of town. The reality is that there are twelve city parks of which three (Orleans, Riverside, and Hood) are located in the Historic District, one Municipal) in the original mile (of which the Historic District is part), and the other eight are in the newer areas.

Here followed a lengthy discussion on parks in general. Mr. Smith reiterated his position that an additional park should be built near Coe Court. He asked about what procedure PRAC should use to make its wishes known to Council although Chairwoman Born had already outlined a viable procedure ten minutes earlier. Jim Hagen, 10741 Avenue Road, asked for what purpose is the money used which is collected from residential developers who choose not to incorporate pocket parks in their developments. He stated that this money is supposed to be used to acquire land for additional parks which he feels should be located on the far west side.

Meeting Adjourned 7:45 P. M.

Next meeting is September 10 at 6:30 P. M.

Report prepared by Deborah L. Born, Chairwoman
August 18, 2019