

RECREATION COMMITTEE

JUNE 13, 2017

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.

CITIZENS' CONCERNS

Adam Kujawski, 101 ½ Louisiana Avenue, was present to request that the City consider installing a kayak launch at Hood Park. Mr. Kujawski presented the Committee with examples of commercial kayak launches he found online that ranged in price from \$8,000 to \$18,000. Mr. Matuszak asked if Mr. Kujawski has any idea how many people kayak in that area or if he was a member of a club. Mr. Kujawski said that he's not sure of a number but he usually sees people out on the river whenever he kayaks.

Jim Hagen, Avenue Road, said that he likes the look of Riverside Park but he wondered if there was a final number on the cost. Mr. Rettig said that he will ask the Administration and follow-up with him. Mr. Hagen asked why there is no drinking fountain. Mr. Rettig said that he brought that up during the design phase. Mr. Hagen also asked about the PVC riser sticking up to water the garden area. He said that he is concerned it will get vandalized.

PERRYSBURG HEIGHTS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Chris Amato, Paul Belazis and Fred Moor of the Perrysburg Heights Community Association were present to request a donation of \$20,000 from the City. They gave an overview of the programs they offer to kids of the Perrysburg School District, particularly the Third Grade Reading initiative. Mr. Matuszak asked if they have a financial statement that they can share. Mr. Belazis said that they do have a financial statement that they can provide. He said they have no debt, are operating in the black and are stable right now because they are very conservative. Mr. Amato said their annual budget is \$80,000 but they don't have money for capital projects such as fixing the air conditioning or parking lot. Mr. Belazis said they will look into grants for the capital improvement projects. He said that they would like to sustain, expand and improve their programming. Mr. Rettig asked if this request is for \$20,000 annually or just this year. Mr. Belazis said it is for this year only. He said that they hope it will continue, but they want to gain City Council's confidence and feel they should make their case for the request every year. Mr. Rettig asked if they discussed this request with the Administration. Mr. Belazis said he met with the Mayor and he asked if the Township was contributing. At that time they did not have a commitment from the Township, but they have since committed to donate \$20,000. Mr. Belazis said that the Mayor said it was City Council's decision. Mr. Rettig noted that the \$20,000 request is below the threshold the Administration can spend without City Council approval. Mr. Matuszak said that he does not see it so much as a city versus township issue but people are going to ask how the money is going to be spent, and they may be okay with spending it on reading programs, but not the sports programs. Mr. Belazis stated that they would like to be able to expand the programming. Mr. Rettig said that this is an interesting and unique program because it's year round but one concern is that they

have to answer to their constituents about money going to a facility that we don't own. Mr. Matuszak said that it could be a restricted donation like churches do where you designate what you want the money to be used for. Mr. Belazis said they have no problem with doing that and he agreed to provide their financial statement to City Council.

PRESENTATION REGARDING MULTI-USE PATHS

Jessica Kemp, on behalf of PRAC, was present to give a PowerPoint presentation regarding the benefits of multi-use paths. She said that she did research over a four month period as part of her graduate studies for public health at BGSU. She listed the benefits of multi-use paths including improved health, reduced traffic congestion, and interconnectedness to points of interest. Ms. Kemp said that multi-use paths are a multi-year infrastructure improvement project. Her overall recommendation was that the City should partner with TMACOG and prioritize and secure funding for the infrastructure development and maintenance of multi-use paths.

Mr. Matuszak said that he did not see the downside in her presentation. Ms. Kemp said that the obvious downside is the cost. Mr. Matuszak said that another negative is that you are funneling everyone down certain corridors and it can become congested. He said that he is neither for nor against multi-use paths, but he feels the presentation would be more credible if it presented both sides. Mr. Smith said that he has heard that hard core bicyclists won't use multi-use paths. Ms. Kemp said that if there are a lot of walkers on the path they won't want to use it, but women, kids and seniors don't want to ride on the road.

Jon Orser, 125 E. Front Street, said that what they are talking about are bike paths and everyone hates the path on Carronade Drive.

Diane Friess, 311 W. Indiana Avenue, asked the committee if any of them would like a multi-use path running in front or back of their house. Mr. Matuszak said that he would not, and they are not appropriate everywhere. Mr. Rettig said that most people think of a ten foot asphalt path, but he would like to see something on streets to make them more bike friendly and to slow down drivers and make it safer. Ms. Friess suggested we put in five or six foot wide sidewalks everywhere. Mr. Smith said that strollers and wagons are hard to use on sidewalks when they become bumpy. Ms. Friess said there is a lot of maintenance with asphalt and the one by the cemetery is an absolute mess. Mr. Rettig said that he is there a lot and he wouldn't call it an absolute mess. Mr. Matuszak said that he is confident our City Engineer could engineer a sidewalk that does not have issues.

Deborah Born, 125 E. Front Street, agreed with Jon Orser and Diane Friess' comments. She said that in 2002 there was an issue on the ballot about multi-use paths and it was defeated 60% to 40% against it. She said that there are more walkers than bikers and multi-use paths are a waste of resources.

Jim Hagen, Avenue Road, said that he would rather leave his car at home, and there is room on the north side of 795 for a multi-use path.

Mr. Rettig thanked Ms. Kemp for her presentation and for her service to PRAC.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Rettig, Chairman
Recreation Committee

Next meeting: ???