

RECREATION COMMITTEE

JUNE 1, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 5:11 p.m. by Chairman Rick Rettig. Committee members present were Jim Matuszak, Rick Rettig and Jonathan Smith. Also present were Bridgette Kabat, City Administrator, Karlene Henderson, Law Director, Jon Eckel, Service Director and Brody Walters, Planning and Zoning Administrator.

CITIZENS' CONCERNS

John Wellstein, 145 W. Second Street, voiced his support of the Riverside Park project. He said that he is concerned that some items were removed from the budget such as the lighting. He said that he feels that for aesthetics and safety, the lighting is needed. Mr. Wellstein read a letter from Steve Fowler, 102 Walnut Street, which stated Mr. Fowler is also in support of the park and feels that the lighting is an important part of it.

PERMISSION TO ACCEPT BID FOR RIVERSIDE PARK PROJECT

Mr. Walters said that the bid opening for the Riverside Park project was held on May 27. The Administration is recommending that the bid be awarded to Miller Diversified. He provided the following bidding summary:

\$1,505,000.00 = Available Budget

-\$1,435,900.00 = Bid Amount for Base Bid (2.38% higher than engineer est.)

- \$36,677.00 = Electrical Service (Alternate #1)

\$32,423.00 = Available budget for safety, security and aesthetic upgrades

- \$14,186.00 = Upgrade to stainless steel cable railing (Alternate #2)

- \$28,848.00 = Electrical Service – add illumination to Alternate #2 (Alternate #3)

- \$10,611.00 = Additional funds needed to provide safety, security and aesthetic Upgrades (Alternates 2 & 3)

Mr. Walters showed a sample of what the illuminated railing would look like. Ms. Kabat stated that it would be at the upper plaza at Front Street and the staircase going down. She added that the lighting fund could be used, with City Council's permission, to cover the \$10,611 needed for the additional lighting. Mr. Smith asked how much was in that fund. Ms. Kabat said the balance is \$255,000. Mr. Eckel explained that Fund 225 is used for Toledo Edison bills and they do LED projects out of that fund every year. Mr. Rettig said that he sees this as two requests: the base bid and electrical as approved in the budget and the illumination as a separate issue. Mr. Matuszak said that in his mind Council agreed to the base bid and the electrical and the bid came in under budget but that doesn't mean they can spend the rest of the money. He said he does not think this is a responsible use of taxpayers' money. Mr. Rettig said that making sure we have light is important in protecting our investment which is why the electrical was included.

Ray Corrigan, 223 W. Second Street, said that when you buy a car you do add-ons for more safety and this is the same type of thing. He said the lighting should be done for safety; it is a good investment. Dick Currie, 529 E. S. Boundary Street, said the park will be closed when dark. Mr. Eckel noted that even after the parks are closed, they have some lighting for security reasons. He added that we might want to look at why the parks are closed at dark. He said it would be nice to walk along the river after dark. He added that when we installed lighting at Rivercrest Park, vandalism was greatly reduced.

Mr. Smith asked if we know we have the extra money in the 225 fund. Ms. Kabat said we know we have at least \$10,000 available in that fund. She said that there is also a \$60,000 contingency built into this contract that we hope won't get used, but we have no way of knowing that now. There was further discussion regarding the contingency and Rick Butera of the Edge Group said that a contingency is built into every project.

Becky Williams asked how many bids were received. Ms. Kabat said there were six or seven contractors at the pre-bid meeting but we only received one bid. She said that it is late in the season and there is a lot of earthwork being done in the area which may have a lot of contractors already tied up.

Mr. Smith said that he would be in support of the lighting for security reasons if funds are available in the lighting fund.

The Committee agreed 2-1 to recommend approval of the base bid and alternate 1, electrical service. The Committee also agreed 2-1 to recommend approval of alternates 2 and 3, the illuminated stainless cable railing at upper plaza/stairs.

PERMISSION TO APPLY FOR WOOD COUNTY PARK GRANT

Mr. Eckel requested permission to apply for the Wood County Park Grant. This grant application has three categories. The first category is under \$5,000. If awarded, this grant would be used to purchase recycled lumber picnic tables and outdoor grills for the Davis Overlook. The second category is \$5,000 to \$10,000 and this would be used for renovations to Fort Imagination at Woodland Park. Mr. Eckel said there is a lot of work to do there and they are looking at sun shades, concrete slabs for picnic tables and trees. For the last category, which is over \$10,000, Mr. Eckel said they would like to have the cannons at Riverside Park refurbished and have timber carriages built for them. Mr. Smith said he agrees that Fort Imagination needs some work. Mr. Matuszak asked how often the parks are serviced and Mr. Eckel said daily. Mr. Rettig asked if the tables and grills at Davis Overlook would be okay since it is zoned S-1. Mr. Walters stated that since no structures are planned, it would be acceptable. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval of a resolution granting permission to apply for the Wood County Park Grant.

DISCUSSION REGARDING DRONES

Mr. Smith said that he received a phone call from a citizen who was concerned because they were buzzed by a drone and perhaps recorded without their consent at Fort Meigs. Mr. Smith said that he is not in favor of an outright ban on drones, but he suggested that perhaps a park be designated for drone use. Ms. Kabat said that the FAA has a registration process for drones and they are working on guidelines. The Ohio House also has pending legislation regarding drones. Ms. Kabat said that Ms. Henderson will monitor this legislation and see if we need to enact legislation in the future. Mr. Smith suggested that we put a link to the FAA website on the City's website.

SMOKING RESOLUTION

Mr. Rettig said that this was discussed at the last committee meeting and he worked with Ms. Henderson to draft a resolution directing the Administration to write an ordinance creating a limited smoking area in the parks. Mr. Rettig said that this gives smokers an area to smoke without having to leave the park. Mr. Matuszak asked why Mr. Rettig is proposing a resolution to prepare an ordinance. Mr. Rettig said it gives the Administration the time to get the pieces together. Mr. Matuszak suggested deleting the section that designates this as an emergency measure. There was discussion regarding how this would be enforced and what the penalty would be. Ms. Kabat said those are some of the issues that will be discussed with the Police Chief and Prosecutor. Ms. Henderson said that the Ohio Revised Code sets the penalty based on the degree of the misdemeanor. Ms. Kabat said that it would be up to City Council to set the degree of the misdemeanor. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval of the draft resolution striking the final Whereas section which contains Mr. Smith and Mr. Matuszak's names and striking Section 4 which states it is an emergency measure.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Rettig, Chairman
Recreation Committee

Next regular meeting: Tuesday, June 21, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. which is a change from the regular date and time.