

RECREATION COMMITTEE

APRIL 13, 2016

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. Also present were Bridgette Kabat, City Administrator, Jon Eckel, Service Director and Brody Walters, Planning and Zoning Administrator.

APPOINTMENTS TO PRAC

The Committee considered the appointments of Daniel Walton as a student representative to PRAC and of Elizabeth Laurer to fill an unexpired term. Mr. Walton is a sophomore at Perrysburg High School and is interested in serving the community. Ms. Laurer is an instructor at Owens Community College and she is looking for ways to get involved. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval of both appointments.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW RECREATION DIRECTOR AND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Mr. Eckel stated that Jim McMorgan will not be returning as Recreation Director this year and he introduced Scott Buker as the new Recreation Director. Mr. Buker has been the assistant director for several years and he worked as a staff member for the program while in high school and college. The Assistant Director will be Charles Brigode who was previously a staff worker for five years. Mr. Eckel explained the duties of the directors which include putting together all programming, preparing the brochure, hiring instructors and managing twenty employees. Mr. Eckel said that the most important issue with the Recreation Program is the safety of the children.

SET RATES/MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR MUNICIPAL POOL

Mr. Eckel distributed a spreadsheet showing revenue of over \$110,000 for the pool for 2015. He said that expenses were approximately \$274,000 so it cost about \$164,000 to run the pool last year. He distributed another spreadsheet showing rates for neighboring city pools. He said the average rate is \$144 and the mean is \$130 and we try to be in the mean. There was a slight increase in the rates last year and Mr. Eckel recommended that the rates stay the same this year. Pool passes will go on sale on May 1, 2016. This date will be published on the City's website and on the YMCA's website. Ms. Kabat stated that we can also put it out on social media. Mr. Smith said that for next year he would like a breakdown of revenue showing the number of resident and non-resident passes purchased. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval of keeping the rates for pool passes and memberships the same for 2016 as they were for 2015.

DISCUSSION REGARDING MAUMEE RIVER TRAIL FROM THE INDIANA/OHO BORDER TO MAUMEE BAY

Mr. Eckel reported that he and Brody Walters attended the initial stakeholders' meeting regarding a Maumee River Trail from the Indiana/Ohio border to Maumee Bay as a way to promote the Maumee River as a resource for kayakers through uniform signage, trip-

kits, brochures, etc. He said that by the City becoming a member it will increase our chances of receiving grant money through ODNR. Mr. Smith asked if there is any cost to the City. Mr. Eckel said that there is no cost but we could be asked for a resolution of support somewhere down the line. The Committee discussed the lack of a user friendly area for people with kayaks or canoes to keep them at the foot of Louisiana Avenue while they go to eat downtown. Mr. Smith asked about parking. Ms. Kabat said that it was her understanding this was just the initial meeting. Mr. Rettig was in favor of the idea and added that who knows where it could go from here. Mr. Matuszak asked who sponsored this. Mr. Eckel said that Toledo Metroparks are spearheading the local effort but it is ultimately sponsored by ODNR. This was just an informational item, no action was requested.

PERMISSION TO BID RIVERSIDE PARK PROJECT

The Administration requested permission to go out to bid for construction of Riverside Park improvements. Ms. Kabat gave the following timeline:

- Ordinance to go to bid to City Council on April 19
- Start Advertising April 22
- Bids Due May 9
- Recreation Committee on May 11 seeking to award contract or perhaps request that the meeting date be changed by a few days
- Ordinance to award contract on May 17
- Construction period 120 to 150 days, depending on weather

Ms. Kabat said that if bids come back too high there are a couple of options. There could be interviews with the bidders to see if there was any confusion or miscommunication or we could reject and rebid. If the bids are still not favorable then there would have to be a discussion with City Council on the next step. Ms. Kabat stated that the original conceptual drawing that showed a floating boardwalk that projected into the river was still on the website so that was taken down and the Edge Group prepared a refined concept. The refined concept was distributed to the Committee. Mr. Matuszak said if the base bid comes back lower it doesn't mean they can move forward with alternates so they are asking to get bids on things not approved by City Council. Ms. Kabat said that it would go out to bid for the base package and alternates and both the base bid and any alternates would go back to City Council. Mr. Matuszak asked if there are any alternates on the list that City Council has not seen. Ms. Kabat said that the alternates are: illuminated handrails, plaza furnishings including trash receptacles, benches and what is referred to as chunk seating, and illuminated bollards where the multi-use path meets the plaza. She said that the only alternate City Council has not seen is the illuminated bollards where the path meets the plaza. Mr. Rettig stated that if we don't go out to bid, we will not know actual costs, which is important. The Committee agreed 2-1 to recommend approval of going out to bid for Riverside Park construction.

DISCUSSION REGARDING RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PRAC

Mr. Rettig said that PRAC has recommended a couple of items that he wanted to present to the Committee for their consideration. The first is the idea of a resolution regarding a clean air/clean park initiative and to create a smoking area in parking lots of the parks and posting no smoking signs in other areas of parks. This would give opportunities to people working in the parks to move smokers to a designated area. Mr. Matuszak said if there is no penalty it's not enforceable, and then it's not worth it. Mr. Rettig said that by having a sign it does bring teeth and he doesn't foresee a slew of tickets being issued, he sees it more as the community enforcing as opposed to the police. Mr. Smith expressed concern about signage detracting from the parks. Ms. Kabat said she will discuss this with the Prosecutor, Law Director and Police Chief.

Mr. Rettig reported that PRAC also recommended that a strategic plan for multi-use paths be developed to provide connectivity. PRAC is concerned that without a plan the paths will not be a priority. Rick Gilts of PRAC even suggested that this could be a large enough plan that we might want to go outside to get it done. Mr. Smith said that he is not opposed to looking into it, but he would say do it internally. Mr. Matuszak agreed, adding that when you get someone from outside the City they don't really know the town. Ms. Kabat said that she can have the Staff map out what they feel comfortable mapping out. She acknowledged that we are spotty in some areas and we might need to go outside to help us figure out how to connect. She said that the Administration will continue to talk internally about these issues raised by PRAC.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Rettig, Chairman
Recreation Committee

Next regular meeting: Wednesday, May 11, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.