

RECREATION COMMITTEE

MARCH 10, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Rick Rettig. Committee members present were Tom Mackin, Jim Matuszak, and Rick Rettig. Also present were Bridgette Kabat, City Administrator and Jon Eckel, Service Director.

SKATEBOARD PARK UPDATE

John Hawley was present to give an update and read a letter from Brian Hall of Sylvania Township in support of creation of a skateboard park in the city. John's efforts to this end have included 50 supporters marching in the holiday parade, a shoe drive, and activities of his nonprofit group "Right Direction". He feels that he has done what the committee wanted him to do. He has also contacted several businesses who may be interested in contributing to the skate board park if they feel it really is going to happen. The potential cost for putting in a skateboard park was estimated to be \$150,000. John has \$2000 in his account for the project, and will push to raise more, but wanted a confirmation from the committee that this project was realistic. Mr. Rettig answered that the city was indeed interested and had put aside \$25,000 for such a project. He wasn't originally in favor of a skateboard park, but because of John's efforts he has changed his mind in favor of it. Some discussion about a possible location seemed to favor Rotary Park as the most suitable site at this time. Mr. Mackin indicated that next council meeting they would put it on the agenda to discuss a location and money to be allocated toward this, if it is built at Rotary Park. Mr. Matuszak said if the cost of the project was \$150,000 that John Hawley shouldn't think that he alone needed to raise the difference between that and the city's amount of \$25,000 already set aside for it. Mr. Mackin agreed as the city has provided for some other recreation projects, assuming budget will allow it, they would be willing to allocate for this.

2015 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH PABSC

Chris Tinney from PABSC was present to discuss next year's agreement with PABSC. They are have 643 kids signed up which is down 35 from last year. They are planning a opening day parade to make it fun for the kids. Ms. Kabat explained that prior agreements have not been as clear on field maintenance and revenue sharing. Ms. Kabat will send copies of the new proposed agreement to committee members. Mr. Rettig made a motion to approve the agreement with PABSC. Mackin seconded. Ayes: Rettig, Mackin (2) Nays: (0), with Mr. Matuszak recusing himself.

2015 CONTRACT WITH YMCA-OPERATION OF MUNICIPAL POOL

Steve Shives was present from the YMCA, to discuss the 2015 contract for operation of the Municipal pool. \$204,000 is the proposed amount. Jon Eckel recognized the cost included a 3% increase over last year, and also included some extra days because of the present school calendar. He recognizes the great job the YMCA does in the management of the pool, which is a big job. The YMCA had offered the Splash program for an additional \$5000, but Jon Eckel and the administration had felt they should say no, as they needed to stay within budget. Ms. Kabat said next year they will review the school calendar. Mr. Eckel thanked Steve for his work and asked if he had concerns, or how could the pool be better? Steve said that they take the resources of the city seriously and that safety is the preeminent concern. He cited the lack of shade as the number one issue that he has heard from people. He also pointed out that cleaning the pool would be a good thing to do in the future. He mentioned the splash program had maxed out at the YMCA at 600 participants and because of that he thought to have it offered here. Mr. Rettig made a motion to approve the contract. Matuszak seconded. Ayes: Rettig, Matuszak (2) Nays (0), with Tom Mackin recusing himself because his daughter is a lifeguard.

RIVERFRONT CONCEPT

Bridgette Kabat was present to discuss the Riverfront Concept. We have a direction we want to move forward, if the funds are available as allocated by council then the council will move forward with a resolution on this. Mr. Rettig asked if it was a general concept that was asked for. Mr. Mackin said yes, that this is a Recreation and Finance committee's items and reviewed the plan for the 2.2 million dollars to be split out with \$1.5 million allocated to Riverside Park, and \$700,000 set aside for a fire station. Ms. Kabat said it would take several more times of it coming back to council for all the details to be worked out. Council approved application for an ODNR grant and it will be 1-2 months before we receive an answer on that. She may have some more concrete numbers for the next meeting. In talking about Riverside Park that the multi-use path they plan to add that as one of the last pieces and it wouldn't be part of the 1.5 million dollar budget. Ms. Kabat explained that the multi-use path would be a future item. Mr. Rettig opened the floor to comments from the public.

Charles Pflgebraar has concerns about the ADA accessibility of Hood Park. His mother is handicapped and it is difficult to get around there. He would like to see some of the funds set aside for Riverside Park to address this issue at Hood Park. Ms. Kabat indicated that the grants involved require that ADA issues are complied with. Also, Mr. Rettig said that if the city is going to do something, like Riverside Park, they are going to do it right and complete. Mr. Pflgebraar also mentioned the historic value of Hood park which Mr. Rettig acknowledged.

Christina Holland supported the idea of Hood Park being accessible to not only handicapped but to those using strollers as well. She said that the pitch and steepness

and possible instability of the hill were why it hadn't properly been developed. Mr. Eckel said that maintenance in the past about 10 years ago had made the hill stable. Ms. Holland is concerned that when a project uses a lot of earth moving equipment that there is the potential for a possible shift and properties there to receive damage. She also voiced her opinion that if the pool needed painted it would be good to do that before opening this summer.

Greg Bade agreed with what the other residents said, but added that he supports the city's vision to move along with Riverside Park first and continue forward. He has seen a lot of talk in the past that didn't amount to anything useful getting done, and he supports this concept of \$1.5 million for Riverside Park to move things forward. Ms. Kabat said she was confident the engineering involved would be more than sufficient.

Mr. Rettig made a motion for the approval of the Riverside Park Concept. Mackin seconded. Ayes: (3) Nays (0).

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Rettig
Chairman, Recreation Committee

Next meeting: Tuesday April 14, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.



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February 19, 2015

Dear Council Members:

I am writing this letter per a request from the Perrysburg Skatepark Effort. They have request we share our experiences with the Skate Plaza, built in 2011, at Pacesetter Park in Sylvania, Ohio. This project was part of a bond issue passed by the voters of this community in 2008.

This project was spearheaded solely by the skateboarding community in Sylvania with the support of their parents. The project also received the support of the City Administrators, local businesses, City Police Chief, Township Police Chief and the Recreation District. This overwhelming support was due to the identified needs in the community for a dedicated and safe facility for this activity.

Extensive research began with existing facility visits, meetings with individuals from the local skateboarding community, skate park design firms and contractors, risk managers, facility operators and local law enforcement. Also, public meetings were held in our community to invite general input, offer education about the sport of skateboarding as well as discuss location options within our community.

The design of the facility came with the help of some of the same local skateboarders as we wanted to ensure what was built would meet their needs today and for many years to come. The construction phase was just as important as we needed to ensure qualified contractors would be completing the specialized portions of the build.

When the facility opened, we could not have been more satisfied. The facility received daily use and nothing short of positive feedback from the users. Of course there was the anticipated period of educating the users as to the policies for the facility. Well prior to its opening, the Recreation District researched the appropriate policies for such a facility. All aspects were examined and risk managers were consulted to develop

the current policies of use. Also, the Township Police Department was committed to supporting the Recreation District as needed.

Overall, the facility has been another jewel in the Recreation District in Sylvania. It gets use almost year-round and we have been able to develop new recreational programs at this facility. Though we did have the initial growing pains with this facility and still may have occasional incidents, I would personally recommend this type of facility to any community which has a skateboarding community large enough to support it.

If there are any further questions concerning the experiences Sylvania Recreation District has had with the design, build or operation of the skate plaza at Pacesetter Park, please do not hesitate to contact me at 419-885-1982 or bhall@playsylvania.com

Sincerely,

Brian T. Hall

Brian Hall
Facilities and Maintenance Director