

RECREATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

FEBRUARY 9, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairperson Deborah Born. Committee members present were Deborah Born, Jan Materni, and Jonathan Smith. Also present were Bridgette Kabat, City Administrator, and Kate Sandretto, Law Director.

INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND

Mr. Smith asked about the Rotary Park Master Plan Amendment since the public hearing was held last week. Ms. Kabat said that it is on the agenda for the Planning & Zoning Committee meeting scheduled for the following day. Ms. Sandretto said that it is going to the Planning and Zoning Committee because it went through the Planning Commission. Mr. Smith and Ms. Born said that they are excited to see it moving forward.

MULTI-PURPOSE WALL

Ms. Materni asked what park the multi-purpose wall is intended for. Ms. Born stated that last year Damon Gorcz of Perrysburg Lacrosse who proposed the wall stated that it is transportable and can be moved from park to park.

WEST SIDE HANDBALL COURT

Ms. Born stated that idea of a west side handball court was brought to the Committee's attention by Al Rava. She said that Mr. Rava will be submitting ideas or plans, and she will bring them to the Committee after she gets them.

UNLEASHED DOG PARK

Mr. Smith stated that at the last committee meeting there had been some discussion about a dog park. He said that he just got the budget amendment and has not had time to review it to see if any funds for a dog park are included. Ms. Materni said that she recalled they asked that \$25,000 be put in the budget amendment. Mr. Smith noted that we had saved that amount on the bucket truck purchase. Ms. Born said she had some questions about it and some pros and cons. She said that Ohio Revised Code Section 955.11 says you have to have a dog on a leash on public property. Ms. Kabat said that her recollection is that Section 955.11 oversees the Dog Warden and cruelty to animals. She said that she will have to reread that section and look at our Code, and she believes our Code requires dogs on leashes in parks. Ms. Materni questioned how you can have a dog park with a leash law. Ms. Kabat said that she and Ms. Sandretto can take a look at it, and Ms. Sandretto will talk to the City's insurance company about our liability. Ms. Born expressed concern about larger dogs harming smaller dogs and about parvovirus. Mr. Smith said that there would be separate areas for big and small dogs. Ms. Kabat said that she has been told by Lucas County that the best practice is that the turf be rotated so you would need two times the space so when one area is closed for bringing in topsoil and reseeding, the other area would be open.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was discussion regarding committee reports and meeting minutes. Ms. Born referred to Section 220.05 of the Code regarding written reports of committee meetings. Ms. Sandretto agreed that Committee chairs are responsible for providing written reports, but she added that the Ohio Sunshine Laws require accurate minutes of every public meeting. She said the committee members must also be able to amend and vote on those minutes. Ms. Born stated that she wants the reports to be on the website as well.

Ms. Materni moved to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2021 meeting as written. Seconded by Mr. Smith. Ms. Born said that as Chairperson she is not allowed to vote. The minutes were approved 2-0.

Ms. Born said there are no PRAC meetings until April so there is no PRAC report.

Ms. Materni asked if we are losing someone off of PRAC, and Ms. Born said that she had not heard that.

Mr. Smith reported that he will be attending a Sunshine Law training webinar the following day.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jo Sutton
Recording Secretary