

RECREATION COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 4, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairman Joe Lawless. Committee members present were: Todd Grayson, Joe Lawless and Mike Olmstead. Also present were City Administrator Bridgette Kabat, Law Director Mathew Beredo, and Service Director Jon Eckel.

CITIZENS' CONCERNS

Pete Scarborough was present on behalf of Perrysburg Youth Lacrosse. He said they have been using the area by Woodland School for practices and games, and they are outgrowing that location. Mr. Scarborough said they have been maintaining the field and renting portable restrooms. Mr. Lawless asked for specifics regarding their field needs. Mr. Scarborough said they need three soccer fields from the beginning of March until the beginning of June. Mr. Olmstead asked how many participants they have. Mr. Scarborough said that last year they were just shy of 300, but they have been growing each year and they are adding new age groups. Mr. Lawless asked how often they use the field. Mr. Scarborough said practices are Monday through Thursday from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. with games on Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mr. Eckel said that he has been looking to see what fields are available. He said that there is a big empty field at Bicentennial, but it needs to be cleaned up. He said he is envisioning the same type of agreement with the lacrosse league that we have with PABSC, PYC, and PYSA. He added that the area at Rotary Park where a future waterpark is planned might be a good temporary home. Mr. Eckel said he will keep in contact with Mr. Scarborough and will keep the Committee updated. Mr. Lawless stated that maybe the City could contact the schools and see if we can help lacrosse out with the maintenance at Woodland. Ms. Kabat stated that she has been meeting with the schools on a monthly basis to discuss common issues and she can bring this up at their next meeting. Mr. Lawless said that we will work on it, and hopefully before March we will have something for lacrosse and maybe next year they can use Rotary Park.

PRESENTATION OF CHECK FROM PABSC

Representatives of PABSC presented their year-end financial report. They presented the City with a check for \$12,883 for the City's share of field rentals and banner advertising. The first year of the agreement the City was paid approximately \$6,000 and last year we received \$8,100. Mark Gumpf thanked the Public Service Department for their assistance last season. Mr. Eckel said that this arrangement is good not only because of the revenue sharing, but PABSC maintains the fields and maintains and runs the concession stands. Mr. Lawless said that this is a perfect example of a private organization and a public entity getting together to make a better community.

PABSC PLANS FOR RIVERCREST BALL FIELDS

Mr. Eckel stated that the City is partnering with PABSC in lighting Field 4 at Rivercrest Park. The City's share is \$45,000 and has been carried over in the budget the last three years. The next step is to have a public meeting either in late February or early March. Letters will be sent out to property owners who live near the park so their concerns about the lights can be addressed. There was some discussion about also doing the lighting at Rotary Park. Mr. Eckel said they will need to get an estimate to see if it needs to be bid out.

PABSC, PYC and PYSA CONTRACTS

Mr. Eckel reported that he is working on renewing the contracts with PABSC, PYC, and PYSA for 2013. The agreements will be similar to the 2012 agreements and will come back to the Committee in March for approval.

UPDATE ON RIVER WALK PLAN

Ms. Kabat distributed a revised proposal from the architectural firm that shows the walkway piece along the riverfront. She said that they will begin engaging the public and stakeholders to get their input, likes and dislikes, and take that information back to the architect. There was a discussion regarding parking along the riverfront area. Ms. Kabat said that the Mayor and staff are cognizant of the need for parking. Several residents who live along West Front Street were present to express concern about development along the riverfront. They said the erosion in that area is phenomenal. Katina Holland, 335 West Front Street, said she had envisioned a walkway with wood planks like the one at Hospice. Mr. Lawless said that these plans are all very preliminary and their input will be considered. He said he is taken aback with how we got from a multi-use path to a multi-million dollar plan. Ms. Kabat reiterated that the City will be holding meetings and inviting neighbors to show them the plans. She added that we have to be cognizant of the material for the path because of the need for access for public safety and service vehicles to reach the area.

CITY PARKS MASTER PLAN

Mr. Eckel asked for guidance from the Committee as to what scope they are looking for with a Master plan for City Parks. The Committee suggested that an advisory group consisting of representatives from the private groups that use the park be asked for their input. Mr. Lawless said that we should get a group together, look at what parkland we have and our future needs. Mr. Grayson said he understands why the Public Service Department would not be in favor of "pocket parks", but as we develop further to the south and west, he is concerned about kids not being able to get to the parks on their own.

RIVER WALK GARDEN CONCEPT

Mr. Grayson expressed concerns that people are not aware that the multi-use path along the riverfront exists. He suggested putting in a standard park sign on the west side of Rapids Road to show that the path is there. He said that he and Judy Hagen discussed putting in a little garden at the sign and perhaps below the sign, an image that will be chosen through a contest with High School kids in association with Earth Day. Mr. Lawless agreed that the path should be marked somehow, but he said that whatever we do it should match the other park signs, and it should not detract from the gateway sign as you enter the City.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

Next regular meeting: Monday, March 18, 2013 at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Lawless, Chairman
Recreation Committee