

Minutes of Perrysburg Citizen's Park and Recreation Advisory Committee

Meeting Held May 6, 2024

WELCOME, QUORUM, REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS FROM APRIL 1, 2024 MEETING

Chair

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Chairperson Judy Hagen. Committee members present were Karen Fleming, Judy Hagen, Will Harbauer, Brian Kirby, Marty Pennington, Mark Schrock, Shannon Solt, and Allison Westmeyer. Todd France arrived at 7:10 p.m. Cole Christen and Susan Edinger were absent. Also present were Rick Rettig, Chariman of the Recreation Committee of Council, City Administrator Joe Fawcett, Planning and Zoning Administrator Brody Walters, and Operations Manager for the Department of Public Service Greg Kuhr.

APPROVAL OF APRIL 1, 2024 MEETING MINUTES

All PRAC Members

Ms. Fleming moved to approve the minutes of the April 1, 2024 meeting as written. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kirby, and it was unanimously approved.

REVIEW OF RECREATION COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chair of Recreation Committee, Rick Rettig

Mr. Rettig stated that the May Recreation Committee meeting was canceled so he has no report on that. He introduced Perrysburg resident Justin LeCompte who gave a presentation about skate parks. Mr. Rettig stated that at one point in the past, there was \$25,000 allocated in the budget for a skate park. Mr. LeCompte said that he has been skateboarding for over 20 years, and he began when he was a young kid growing up in Perrysburg, and he did not participate in organized sports. He said that skating can give kids who don't participate in other group activities a sense of community. It also provides exercise and teaches perseverance. Mr. LeCompte provided some statistics on the risks involved with skating versus other sports like basketball. He said that per 1,000 basketball participants there are 224 injuries, and in skateboarding, that number goes down to 20 injuries per 1,000 participants. Mr. LeCompte showed pictures of skate parks in other communities, and he said that people travel to go to skate parks, so it can also have a positive impact on businesses. He said that they would need approximately 10,000 square feet for the park, and he discussed grants that could be applied for and other ways to raise funds. Mr. LeCompte gave some suggestions as to where it could be located. Mr. Walters stated that the Orleans Park Master Plan does include an area for alternative sports. He said that it is a placeholder but nothing specific has been decided. He said there is no timeline or dollars committed to it as it is

a long term plan. Mr. Kirby asked if Mr. LeCompte had an estimate of the cost for a skate park. Mr. Rettig said per his research, he believes it is \$40-\$50 per square foot. Ms. Fleming said that she thinks we should have a skate park, and she asked if the park could be done in increments. Mr. LeCompte said that it could be. Mr. Shrock noted that at a prior meeting they discussed how to get high school kids to use the parks, and this might do it. Ms. Hagen asked that Mr. LeCompte get them contact information for companies that build skate parks, and a list of people who want to see a skate park in the city. Mr. Rettig said that he believes in this concept, and he would like to see a plan so we can get it in the queue. Ms. Hagen asked if Mr. Rettig sees this being like Fort Imagination or Wood County Plays. Mr. Rettig said that this is a uniquely different project than an inclusive playground, and he does not want it to be pay to play. He said that there needs to be conversations with the Mayor and Administration, and the goal of the Recreation Committee is to make the parks better and stronger.

Next Recreation Meeting: May 14, 2024 at 5:00 P.M.

PARK REPORTS

All PRAC Members

Ms. Fleming reported that Eisenhower Park looks good. The grass has been cut, but it looks weedy with a ton of dandelions. Mr. Kuhr said that the weed control treatment schedule is on the City's website, but they are limited as to what they can do at Eisenhower because of the water storage next door.

Mr. Shrock stated that Municipal Park is getting busy, and he asked about the backstops that were removed. Mr. Kuhr said that they didn't want people congregating behind the plate harassing the umpires. Mr. Shrock asked about lights near the basketball and pickleball courts, and Mr. Kuhr said there is no timeline for those. He said the guys have been working on the pool, and it is scheduled to open June 1.

Mr. Kirby reported that Rivercrest Park is also busy. He asked about the mowing schedule and fields being closed. Mr. Kuhr said they didn't close any fields, but the fields are rotated so that some fields are being rested. Mr. Kirby asked about the sun screens that are going to be installed. Mr. Kuhr said that the shades are for the spectators, and they will be installed as time allows.

Ms. Hagen stated that Woodlands Park is good, but the gaga pit needs a sign.

Ms. Solt said that Davis Overlook looks great. She asked when the slide at Three Meadows will be repaired. Mr. Kuhr said that he was told the part was recently shipped. Ms. Solt said the sign needs to be repainted, and Mr. Kuhr said they can power wash it.

Ms. Westmyer said that Three Meadows looks good.

Mr. Harbauer said that Milestone looks good, but there is a rusty bollard at Riverside.

Ms. Hagen asked Mr. Kuhr if the picnic benches have been ordered, and Mr. Kuhr said not yet. Mr. Walters noted that they would have to run that through the Historic Landmarks Commission.

Mr. Harbauer said that at Municipal Park there have been dogs off leash, and the signage saying it's not allowed is in the parking lot, not on the gate going into the playground area. Ms. Hagen suggested they use signs like the one at Rotary Park that say something about for the safety of the children, and to maintain the safety surface, no dogs allowed.

Mr. Pennington said that at Hood Park, on the steps leading down, near the first light, there is some faded graffiti that could be cleaned off.

Mr. France stated that there is nothing new to report on Bicentennial. He asked Mr. Kuhr if anyone has had a chance to look at a couple of trees at Bicentennial that need to be trimmed.

Greg Kuhr, Operations Manager at Department of Public Service

Mr. Kuhr reported that mowing has been a challenge, and they are trying to keep up with it. He said shelter rentals are on the rise, and soccer is in full swing. PABSC is having a tournament the end of April, and Opening Day is May 11. He said the company making repairs at the Rotary playground will be in town in a few days weather permitting. The wind screens are done at Rotary, and they will be starting at Municipal Park. He said that the drinking fountains have been turned on except for one at Rivercrest and one at Eisenhower because they don't meet EPA backflow requirements. He said they are working with the Utilities Department on those. Mr. Kuhr said weather permitting, the kayak racks will be put in at Hood Park this week. He said the holiday trees have been planted at Rotary Park. He said they received a partial delivery of the fish for the Fishing Derby which is on June 1.

RECREATION GUIDE

All PRAC Members

Ms. Hagen asked Committee members to fill out the recreation guide and get it back to her.

UPDATE ON ACTION PLANS FOR PRAC

All PRAC Members

REVIEW ACTION ITEMS FROM MEETING

Chair

Mr. Walters was present to answer questions from the Committee about the park land

near McKinley Woods. Ms. Hagen asked if it has a name. Mr. Walters said that the land came from Jeremiah Howald, so it's always been called Howald Park. He said it is south of Coe Court between Ringle and Dwyer. Mr. Walters reviewed the history of the area, and said that there are no legal or practical restrictions, therefore anything you see in existing parks could happen there. However, the neighbors enjoy it being scenic, so they might run into resistance from the neighbors if it is developed too much.

Mr. France asked about subdivisions having green space. Mr. Walters said that there are two competing schools of thought. One thought is that since all the existing parks are not fully developed, it is better to take cash in lieu of park land. Ms. Hagen said that in her opinion, we need to have a long term plan to acquire park land before it's all gone. Mr. Harbauer agreed.

Ms. Hagen said next month they can discuss whether they want more at Bicentennial and Three Meadows parks. She asked Mr. Rettig what the Rotary wants to add at Rotary Park, and he said they want a crosswalk from Fort Meigs School to the park. He said they are reformulating the rain garden with a teaching area.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jo Sutton
Recording Secretary