

FAIRFIELD PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

MINUTES

OCTOBER 20, 2015

The monthly meeting of the Fairfield Parks and Recreation Board was conducted on Tuesday, October 20, 2015, at the Fairfield Community Arts Center. Chair Doug Meece called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM. Board Members in attendance were: Dean Bruewer, Craig Keller, Doug Meece, Debbie Pennington and Billy Smith. Board Member Bob Myron was excused. Staff members in attendance were James Bell, Director; Bob Schappacher, Facilities/Operations Manager; Brad Williams, Operations Coordinator and Cyndi Kreke, Secretary.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE: None

MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING: The September meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR:

Marsh Park Update: Jim Bell reported that on September 24, 2015, at the Community Arts Center, the City's team and representatives from The Kleingers Group conducted a public hearing/public input session on the project. Notice of the meeting was included in the City's fall newsletter, city's website; along with mailers to adjacent homeowners, approximately 100 residents participated in the input session. The Department is still accepting public input via the city's website and the City/Kleingers team will be meeting on October 26th to review the public comments. A second public hearing/public input session would be conducted in the spring of 2016.

Mr. Bell reported that Martin-Marietta Aggregates was continuing to sell the stockpiled materials and planned to continue this process through fall 2015. The remainder of the stockpiles would be disposed on site in accordance with the preliminary grading plan. Martin-Marietta has notified the City that its intent is to have the property reclaimed and deeded to the City by end of 2015; but recent corporate directives may postpone the transfer until second quarter of 2016.

Dean Bruewer questioned the Ohio Department of Natural Resources requirements; Mr. Bell stated that since the property was being conveyed as a recreational asset to the City, the Ohio Revised Code required Martin-Marietta to restore vegetation, top soil, safe access to water, etc. Mr. Bell said he would forward a copy of the ORC for the Board's review.

Harbin Park Design Study: Jim Bell reported that City Council will hold the third and final reading of the ordinance authorizing the agreement with Brandstetter Carroll, Inc., on October 26, 2015. Once the agreement is finalized, the City/Brandstetter Carroll team will begin the preliminary process, anticipating a public hearing/public input session on the project in spring of 2016.

Gilbert Farms Park/Stonehill Drive: Jim Bell reported that Councilman Jones had received an inquiry from a resident on Stonehill Drive regarding speeding, traffic and criminal activity along Stonehill Drive and at the Stonehill Drive entrance to Gilbert Farms Park. Councilman Jones had intended to attend the Board meeting, but had a previous commitment. Mr. Bell referenced a Board email, which further explained the situation and stated that the Police, the Police Rangers and the Parks staff were monitoring the situation.

Hatton Park/Nuxhall Miracle League Fields: Jim Bell reported that the City staff and representatives of the Joe Nuxhall Miracle League Fields, Inc., had been meeting recently to discuss the organization's

latest venture (Joe Nuxhall Center for Disabilities) and the need to define the legal boundaries between the Hatton Park and the Public Utilities campus; as related to the future expansion of the Public Utilities operations. The two groups have come to a consensus and a new agreement is being constructed.

Jim Bell requested that the Board recess into Executive Session to discuss pending or imminent litigation; the roll call vote was unanimous and the Board recessed into Executive Session.

The Board reconvened at 6:25 PM.

REPORTS OF AD HOC COMMITTEES:

City Council Update: Debbie Pennington reported that at a recent City Council meeting, the council had legislation regarding the Harbin Park study and an ordinance that would allow retired Park Ranger Mike Kraft to keep his service weapon. Mrs. Pennington commented that Richard's Pizza was also observing their 60th Anniversary; the actual date was October 24th. On that date, all Richard's Pizza locations would be selling their "famous" steak sandwiches for fifty cents.

Planning Commission Update: No report

Environmental Commission Update: Bob Schappacher reported that the Environmental Commission would be adding three trees to the Creekside Park/Memorial Grove this fall.

Cultural Arts Advisory Commission Update: Craig Keller reported that at the September commission meeting, the CAAC members voted on the juried art show; currently being exhibited in the Community Arts Center's gallery.

Golf Course Ad Hoc Committee: Doug Meece and Brad Williams reported that the Recreation Facilities Business Plan was in process and that the team had met twice to prepare a SWAT analysis on the facilities. It is the intent to have the business plan completed by year's end.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Point Pleasant Park/Walking Path: Dean Bruewer commented that he had received several compliments regarding the recently completed walking path at Point Pleasant Park. Mr. Bruewer inquired if there were plans to construct permanent restrooms at the site? Jim Bell responded that the park was within a floodway, which prohibited any permanent structures that would impede water flow. Mr. Bell stated that the youth sports organizations kept port-o-lets on site during seasons; but typically the City did not place port-o-lets within neighborhood parks, due to budgetary constraints.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: See above

The Board meeting adjourned at 6:35 PM. The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, November 17, 2015, at the Fairfield Community Arts Center.

Cyndi A. Kreke,
Secretary