

**Park Board
Meeting Minutes
March 4, 2015
City Administration Building**

Terry Leasure called meeting to order at 4:15 P.M.

Present were Terry Leasure, Steve Tobin, Josh Ford, Larry Olson, John Ankrom, Becky Staresina and guests Gary Smith and Dave Guappone

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made to approve the minutes of the November 2014 meeting by Steve Tobin. It was seconded by Terry Leasure. All in favor. The motion carried.

Guest Gary Smith & Dave Guappone: Gary Smith and Dave Guappone explained that they were hired to prepare a new Master Plan for Ted Lewis Park. They have been meeting with various focus groups throughout the day and have received a lot of good feedback. They also have received 72 online survey responses so far. They want to hear from Pee Wee Football and the Park Board.

Introductions were made that Larry Olson is President of the Friends of the Circleville Parks. Terry Leasure is President of Pee Wee Football. Steve Tobin is a Park Board member who oversees Mary Virginia Crites Hannan Park. Park Board member Kevin Keaton oversees Barthelmas Park, but is absent tonight.

Leasure indicated that Pee Wee Football and Girls Softball use Ted Lewis Park. Chris Caudill is the contact for Girls Softball, but he could not attend. Leasure added that he takes his probationer kids to the park to clean it up.

Smith said he feels the excitement from the focus groups he's interviewed today about changing Ted Lewis Park. So far, the survey results reveal that folks would use the park more if it had a walking/biking trail and improved safety.

Leasure said his goal is to have the road open again. Smith added that there was consensus among the focus groups that the road needs to be reopened for safety and access.

Olson added that parking can be a real problem during sporting events. It is very haphazard and there are few handicap accessible spots.

Leasure said the basketball courts attract problems. Smith added that was mentioned by some of the focus groups too. Leasure said there are issues with picnic tables being turned over, being skateboarded and biked over.

Guappone added that problems with parking and safety can be addressed with the use of shrubbery, fences and crosswalks.

Olson stated that if the basketball courts were moved, it would provide a great opportunity to showcase playground equipment up front and present the opportunity to attract families.

Ankrom asked the group if there was any element that has to be preserved at Ted Lewis Park. He thought the light with signalization should stay.

Leasure stated that he wants the playground equipment located near the shelter houses. He was asked about the area of play needed for Pee Wee Football and it would have to be 80' long and 50' wide, goal line to goal line. He would prefer a 100' field and a practice field. The fields would need lighted too.

He mentioned that someone provided him with information about the Tony Hawk Foundation. Apparently, they donate to skate parks. He asked if there are enough people interested in skate parks to support one in the Master Plan. A new one is going to be built in Ashville. There is a really nice one in Athens.

Smith suggested considering relocating it near the Police or Fire Department. There is the potential to relocate it to the Fire Department back lot.

Smith suggested that if the facilities were improved, the element might change too. Some areas have success with concrete structures.

Olson stated that the culture in the park has to change to make it more family-oriented.

Leasure added that restrooms and concessions need to be near the ball fields. He mentioned that he may start an adult softball league again in June. He was asked to do so and is considering it. There used to be league play every Wednesday and Sunday. Olson said there are no more Men's leagues or Church leagues in area. Leasure will call it the Doug Good Memorial League if he does it, in memory of his friend Goody that passed away. He would implement strict rules: no cussing, no smoking and no alcohol. He said Chris Caudill's softball fields would be okay for the men's softball. ASA slow-pitch men's softball requires 265'-315' diamonds & outfields.

Smith stated that the survey revealed people would like more events & activities at the park. Leasure said he would like a shelter house with a stage. A gazebo for gatherings would be nice too. He said they use to do banquets for sports down there.

Smith said Ted Lewis Park is within walking distance of many homes located within a quarter mile of the park.

Ankrom added that the city may have some bargaining position with the railroad. The railroad is trying to reduce their 18 Circleville crossings.

Ankrom suggested inviting Sid Liming to cover the meeting at the High School or Middle School. We also need to confirm that the Herald is aware of the Public Meeting, which is scheduled 4/16/15 at 7PM.

There is the potential to apply for grants and use city money as seed money for the proposed projects. This will be a multi-year project.

Smith added that the lack of modern facilities and safety concerns were cited as reasons why people don't go to Ted Lewis Park.

Beth Mason: Not present

Chris Caudill: Not present

Josh Ford's Report: Community Action Day is April 16, 2015 and he is trying to line up some projects for Ted Lewis Park. Ford cannot be onsite to coordinate this year due to his work schedule, but he can make arrangements. He thinks he needs between 20-30 people to work on the following projects: mulching, pulling weeds, trash pick-up, trash can painting, power washing shelter houses, skate park clean-up, painting of dug-outs, painting of back of bleachers, white posts that have chains also need painted. Need to coordinate projects with Dane.

Last August, the Nazarene Church did 3 weeks of service dedicated to community. They would like to do something like that again this August. Ford will get more details.

Larry Olson's Report: Larry shared information about the proposed signage plan for MVCH Park. Signs of Distinction provided the estimate and drawings. The Park Board approved moving forward with the signage plan. The FOTCP has \$2,000 available, but needs \$4,600 to complete the entire plan. They are considering applying for grant, but don't know if they can or if the PCCF would need to. (According to Tom Davis, PCCF would need to apply.)

John Ankrom's Report: There will be a public meeting to gain input on the Ted Lewis Park new Master Plan on April 16, 2015 at 7PM at Circleville Fire Station 1.

Billy Barbo with First Baptist Church will be available with volunteers on June 8-13, 2015 to do projects at Ted Lewis Park. The plastic drainage tile will need replaced on fence.

****They would like to coordinate a cook-out/ice cream bar for Friday in the Park.**

Becky Staresina's Report: Connie Gosdon would like to donate a bench in her husband's memory at either MVCH Park or Barthelmas Park. How do we wish to handle memorial requests now? Leasure suggested incorporating these requests into Ted Lewis Park and the new master plan.

The next Mayor's Cup is scheduled on May 15, 2015 at Pickaway Golf Club.

Pickaway County Park District is offering a 2015 Grant and we are considering applying for way finding signage.

Child Abuse Prevention Month is in April and Nick Tatman would like to use the Pavilion and open up the event to the public. Leasure approved complimentary use of the Pavilion.

Kids and Badges is scheduled for September at MVCH Park. They would like complimentary use of the Pavilion and shelters as they had last year. Leasure approved that.

Kevin Keaton's Report: Not present

Steve Tobin's Report: Had to depart at 5PM.

Terry Leasure's Report: There is a bush by the parking lot side of the pool that needs removed. This would provide a better view.

Can we check what shape the flags at Ted Lewis Park are in? Can we get flags donated?

Leasure asked if we can open road at Ted Lewis Park now. Ankrom indicated that we would need to get the surface acceptable to do so. One option is to put millings down as an inexpensive option. We also need to get Chris Caudill's opinion on opening the road.

Meeting adjourned at 5:35PM.

NEW BUSINESS:

OLD BUSINESS:

DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS: