

**PARK BOARD
CITY OF CIRCLEVILLE
104 EAST FRANKLIN STREET
CIRCLEVILLE, OH 43113
(740) 477-8224**

Monday, June 5, 2019
City Hall Council Chambers

MINUTES

Members Present: Larry Logan, Saunie Hinton and; Clerk Brenda Short.

Larry Logan called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Saunie Hinton made a motion to approve the April 2019 meeting minutes as submitted and Larry Logan seconded the motion. The motion carried.

President's Report:

Larry Logan stated he would like to welcome the leaders of the Youth Athletic Organizations and we are anxious to hear your thoughts on your particular organizations but also your thoughts on the use of Barthelmas Park and the addition of 20 acres.

Mayor McIlroy thanks everyone for coming and stated he had asked Larry to invite everyone because he thought it is very important that we move forward with the additional space out by Barthelmas Park. He explained that the City has been very fortunate to work with the Rhoads family. Last night, City Council consummated the deal. That is twenty acres that we probably never ever again would purchase next to an existing park. This is an exciting time for us. We do not have a plan with what we should do with that facility. He stated that over the years, he has heard from some of the services that have used Barthelmas Park state that wouldn't be nice if we could have all youth athletics all at one facility. Sometimes they run concurrently together and families that have multiple children playing would have them all at one facility and not have to be divided up. The Rhoads family was very good to us and gave a very good price. He stated that the Park Levy a few years ago (county wide levy) provided \$225,000 will be coming to pay for this. We have purchased a bond that will pay the Rhoads family and the Park Board will be paying the City back over the next 5 years. The other \$75,000 comes from the City. He stated he welcomes all to join with this board to discuss the use of the additional acres. He stated it is very important that we do this quickly.

Mayor explained that he would like to present a Proclamation at this time to Terry Leasure for his years of service on the Park Commission. The Proclamation was read and presented to Terry Leasure for 38 years of service on the Park Commission. Circleville Herald was present along with Scioto Post.

Larry Logan stated that he started a fund raiser for the renovation of Ted Lewis Park on his own and has nothing to do with this Park Commission. So far, we have funds from the city of \$100,000 to go towards that. We have about \$9,000 coming from the Mayor's Cup and recently he has received donation for complete excavation of the area that will be redone at no charge to the City. Also, all of the electric at no charge to the City. We are very fortunate for that. He stated he is about to start the process of going door to door for donations to make Ted Lewis the park it used to be. It is that link in the park system for the City and it hasn't had anything done to it for some time. He added his congratulations to Terry Leasure for his years of service and his assistance on the Park Commission over the years.

Service Director's Report:

Don Sherman stated he received a complaint about the exercise equipment area and that has been excavated and drainage installed. They are working with Pheasants Forever. We have a management plan to follow. We will be mowing July and August. Late summer or early fall we will reach out to the Friends of the Parks to do the tree cutting and stump removal. Maybe next March we can do some herbicide application and that will be determined by the Bird Boss and we are trying to schedule a burn again in March 2020.

He stated he has heard rumors of safety issue at the MVCH Park. He stated if there is anything at any of the parks that needs repaired or replaced, please report it to him immediately. Sometimes we just take equipment out of service until it can be fixed. These issues have to be addressed immediately.

We are working on getting plans for Ted Lewis in order. He reminded Larry Logan that he would need to come in and see him so that they can work out the details of the donated services for Ted Lewis Park so he can coordinate the work.

There was a lady from New Hope Christian Academy that spoke to City Council about the tennis courts at Ted Lewis Park. Unfortunately, Council did not instruct them to come to Park Board. It is actually the decision by the City Council and they have not moved forward about changing the plan. There are some letters on file about saving the tennis courts.

We have some issues at the Splash Pad right now. The water pressure and water flow is being addressed.

We are working with AEP to reduce the electric bills at Ted Lewis. We have taken some meters out of service that are not needed now. One of the items discussed was the money from Ted Lewis Trust Fund going toward relocating some of the power poles that need relocated or removed.

FOTCP Report:

Will be discussed under new business

Public Comments:

None

New Business/Old Business:**MVCH destruction / safety issues:**

Ramona and Jim Edman put together a brief history of MVCH Park. It is owned by the City. The money that was raised to develop it was all raised privately. There was a large base of volunteers that helped maintain it. Over 100 trees were planted and had to be watered for at least two years to keep them alive. Volunteers did this. Also, the park has a connection to Pickaway County Community Fund which is different than other parks in the City. There are two funds in this account. One is for maintenance of the playground and the other is Mike Harrison Park Fund that pays for mulch, trees or any plantings that volunteers do out there.

After Ralph Starkey died, Dan Fouts stepped in to see the completion of the park. At that time, there were 100 volunteers. They were divided into 9 committees. Over the years, several have left.

Each of the committees that exist is outlined in a report provided to all members today along with their duties.

There are two main concerns at the MVCH Park. One being security. Up until January 2019 there was a group of volunteers who opened and closed the park daily. They also inspected the pavilion after any rentals and in evenings reminded those still in the park that it was closing time. This became a problem. They were verbally accosted and they were physically threatened. They decided not to do this anymore.

There is not a lot of vandalism in the park. Occasionally things get broken and occasionally people do not respect the wildlife and the park. More often what happens is that people are nasty to each other. The park gets full and people get testy.

Larry Logan asked Ramona if the issue was having police department to open and close the park gates. Friends of Circleville Parks was supposed to send a notification to the city stating they would no longer be responsible for opening and closing of the park and requested the City do it. That was supposed to be sent in January.

Don Sherman stated he has not seen any notification.

She went on to state it would be helpful if there were funds available to have a person in that park with some authority during the peak times and be able to answer questions about the park. She stated if they see someone there with some authority walking around it might change people's behavior.

She announced that in 2021 Jim and her are moving and will no longer be able to help with the park. They do a lot of work out there and they need someone that will step in and take over the role of organizer.

Larry Logan stated this is tough to resolve since the City has no funds to cover this and it is happening in all aspects of our lives where people do not volunteer anymore. He stated he appreciates what they do for the parks and the committee will discuss and see what they can do.

Youth Leagues:

Larry Logan stated the reason he had asked the Youth League Leadership to be here tonight is to get their input on what they would like to see at Barthelmas Park with this additional acres.

He suggested that the different league leadership meet and choose one spokesperson. Then anytime they have an issue that needs resolved, then that spokesperson can bring it to the Park Commission Meeting. Then we are made aware of the issue and it does not hold anyone back that cannot attend.

Beth Mason stated she has over 300 kids participating (girls and boys). There are 6 fields and they are all in use every evening except on Sunday. There are 36 teams. They merged with Logan Elm and are playing at their fields and ours. They do not have enough fields. There are ten T-ball teams and one field. They would like to install more lights so they can play more games later. She stated they could use 4 more fields and they would be filled. They have a scheduler that works and schedules all games daily and make up games. Games run from 5:30 p.m. – 10:30 pm at night. They only have one field with lights that they can play on.

She inquired, if the City gets the land, who is going to pay for the renovations and everything. Is it going to be donations?

Mr. Sherman stated they are not sure yet where the money will come from for the renovation. He stated they have to get a plan on what they are going to do and the approximate costs before we can decide where they money will come from. Currently City Council is putting \$100,000 toward the parks. So far, it has all been air marked for Ted Lewis.

Beth asked if the ball diamonds at Ted Lewis were coming out and coming to Barthelmas.

Don Sherman stated at this time, the master plan shows them still at Ted Lewis Park.

Mr. Logan stated that it also shows PeeWee Football staying there at Ted Lewis.

Don Sherman stated the Operating Engineers have in the past helped with the leveling, etc. for no charge and used it as a training session.

Beth stated that she has parents that are willing to help work the dirt, etc. as needed. She stated she would like to see the concession stand put in the middle and the fields around it and then everyone can see everything.

Scott Gaskin stated he is confused because he was told by John Ankrom that the Barthelmas property was being purchased for girls.

Mr. Logan stated that is old history and that is why we are meeting today to get input on what is wanted now.

Mr. Gaskin stated he lost diamonds at Ted Lewis which with lights is 4 games per night. He stated he would like 4 diamonds with clover leaf. Nets would have to go up for foul balls.

Beth stated concession sales is what pays the umpires.

Mr. Logan stated he encourages everyone to come to the Park meetings and continue to give us input and notify us of any issues.

Mr. Gaskin stated the Health Department now requires "Safe Serve" certification. It requires the volunteers training and certification. Those that work would have to miss work in order to get certified and would like to have it scheduled for in the evening or a Saturday morning. Concession licensure will be pulled if they do not become certified.

Beth also stated that when they are fixing the fields and make corrections, they are using their money. She feels they should have a say in who uses the fields. She stated in the past there was one group that used the fields and did not take care of them and those should not be able to use the fields again.

Mr. Sherman stated anyone using the fields has to do a Request for Use application and those have to come to the Park Board for approval. We can deny use but we have no control over who goes out there and uses the fields without permission unless someone sees it. We don't always know who is out there using the field without permission.

She also stated she would like to see the time for the Park Commission meeting changed to a later time so that everyone can attend.

Mr. Logan stated they cannot move it to a later time on Wednesday because there are other meeting after this meeting.

Terry Leasure stated the football participation has been down the last year or so. He stated he is for buying the additional land at Barthelmas. He stated that football has the fields and concession they need. They use concession sales to pay their referees also.

Don Sherman stated that Council will also request a plan for Barthelmas just like they did for Ted Lewis Park. It has not be determined that it will be "sports only". He stated he has a feeling that is where it will go. He stated he has done some layouts where they have done a parking lot and 8 ball fields and a football field.

He explained that when they bought the land for MVCH, they farmed it for five years before they developed it. If finances are tight, they can do the same for Barthelmas. He stated he would rather everyone meet and develop it correctly now.

Saunie Hinton stated she had one concern and that was if we purchase the land and we don't have the money to take care of it, who will take care of it. They also do not have the volunteers to take care of it.

Cat Cameron asked, what can the community do to help to get the funds to move forward?

Mr. Logan stated communication is the big thing right now. We cannot do anything until we know how we are going to lay it out, what the total cost will be and how we can get donations or other sources to run it.

Tony Miller stated he agrees with the purchase of the additional acres.

Mr. Logan told those present they need to meet as a group and then have a sole representative to speak at our meetings and tell what you think and what you want to see happen.

Saunie Hinton stated they have ground moles from where AEP disturbed the ground when they come in. They have someone roll the soccer field every year.

Color Race:

Brenda Short explained she received a request for an organization to do a 5k Walk/Run where they hit with color balls. This is a powder that washes away with the rain or it can be washed away quicker with soapy water. They are aware they have to rent all three shelters and provide a liability insurance form. They completed a Request for Use application and stated the paint they use is water soluble and meets the guidelines.

Mr. Sherman stated anyone wanting to use a park for a community event must rent all shelters and they are aware of fees associated.

Larry Logan made a motion to approve the use and Saunie Hinton seconded. Motion carried.

Adjournment:

Saunie Hinton made a motion to adjourn and Larry Logan seconded. Motion carried, and meeting was adjourned at 4:40 pm.

The next meeting will be May 1st at 5:25pm.

Submitted by Brenda Short

DRAFT