

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE MTG MINUTES

JUNE 9, 2021,

7:00 PM

Barthelmas Park
830 Kingston Pike Shelter #2

Meeting Called By	Chair Sheri Theis
Clerk	Linda Chancey, Clerk
Members Present	Cmte members present: Jeff Hallinin and Tom Klitzka. Others present Michelle Blanton. Invited guests Mayor Don Mcilroy, Service Director Terry Frazier, Pickaway County Park Director Tom Davis
1. Minutes	Klitzka motioned to approve the April 13, 2021, meeting minutes. Hallinan seconded. Motion passed.

2. Old Business – Charter Ordinance

	An Ordinance To Submit To The Elector Of The City Of Circleville The Question “Shall A Commission Be Chosen To Frame A Charter?” And Declaring An Emergency. Theis stated that Strategic Planning Cmte and Council have endorsed the proposed charter for the August 3rd Special Election. We are asking if the different leagues would show support for the Charter, also seventeen citizens have taken out petitions that are running for the proposed Charter Commission, the August 3rd Special Election will be asking voters The Question “Shall A Commission Be Chosen To Frame A Charter?” This forms the charter commission which is a plan for the city. This will give the city more flexibility to manage the city.
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2. New Business -

a. Circleville Youth Baseball Proposed Improvements – summary sheets were provided.

	Theis explained that the Circleville Youth Baseball League submitted a list of proposed improvements they would like to see for the parks at no cost to the City and done in a timely manner throughout their term. The list of ten (10) proposed improvements was read by Theis. The proposed lease terms if approved would need to go to the law director to be drafted and forwarded to City Council for approval. Terry Frazier stated the proposed request is in exchange for certain investments by the leagues. They are asking for a 10- 20-year lease for exclusive use of the City’s ball diamonds from April 1st to November 1st. Other users outside of the baseball league would need to ask for permission to use the diamonds. Frazier continued, before moving forward there needs to more specifics such as timeline, press box dimensions and more clarity. There is a due diligence process before a lease or long-term contracts with the City because this is a City owned park. Beth Mason, Park Board Member and Secretary of Circleville Baseball League, explained that they are willing to give more information to the Service Director when needed. Frank D’Aiello, 315 East Main Street explained the league has already invested money and time into the parks for upkeep. Some of the upkeep and maintenance includes (remove trash, cleaned bathrooms, mowing, upkeep to the all the diamonds. Klitzka asked where would the press box be located? D’Aiello explained the size of the press box is estimated at 10 feet up and in the main field where the score board is located, like the Circleville High School, but not that high. We are ready to move forward and do more, but the league needs security from the City with a lease. The Mayor asked Beth Mason how important is the lease is to league, is that deal breaker for the league? Mason stated the league has worked extremely hard on the fields and in the parks to keep them nice, then it is leased to other organizations that have damaged the fields that needed to be repaired by the league.
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Tom Spring, Attorney, and citizen, stated if the City and the league enter into an agreement to use the diamonds, will there be other diamonds available for other groups to use or is it exclusion use to the leagues or is it first come first serve and where will the baseball schedule be published? Website?

Randy Brown, 184 Madison Ave. explained it is not our intentions to run off families or other groups using the diamonds, but if they are damaging the field, we will have asked them to leave. Brown continues there are other diamonds available for use too. the Mayor stated Smith Park or the City Schools too, but you need to apply to schools to use their diamonds.

Nathan Rosier, 2964 Penny Royal Road, asked, in two years the City might not have another baseball league, what will that look like? Theis stated that is a good question that is why we need this meeting to ask the questions.

Caryn Koch, 1455 Stoutsville Pike, stated the girls do not have a field, are you willing to share with girls? They only have two diamonds that are not that great, I do not want to see the girls get the short end of this deal. Theis explained, the City School built new school campus and we lost a lot of diamonds, we going to discuss the adjacent land next to Barthelmas Park that maybe could be more diamonds available to the girls.

Jose Travis, 336 East Franklin St. Tiger Youth Softball League, we currently have twenty-two teams we are responsible for plus a travel league. Our league currently has a contract with the city schools other than variety field and we split the diamonds with leagues at Ted Lewis's Park. The Tiger Leagues was started from scratch and have worked to improve the diamonds. Our concerns are as the leagues grow, we are seeking use of more diamonds and the purchase of new land that will support new diamonds.

Kera Scaggs, 2150 Arapaho Drive, asked has the adjacent land been purchased? Where does the football league stand in all of this? is there plans to incorporate football into Barthelmas plans or talks incorporating football into it? Theis explained we are talking about the land next and asking for feedback from everyone here.

Blanton stated there is Tiger league and Girls' softball league, Circleville Youth Baseball League and the Circleville Red Hawkes are there any other leagues? Mason stated "No, that is all."

Theis stated the Peewee groups and Youth Soccer program were invited tonight for this discussion, we are not ready to move forward yet, but Ted Lewis is starting phase 2 of improvements to the park.

b. Vision for the 21-acre addition to Barthelmas Park

Theis gave a brief history how the 21-acres were bought thru a grant. Last fall a landscape architect was hired to explore possibility of that could go into the new park. Theis showed the proposed site plans for the land adjacent to Barthelmas Park with diamonds and ball fields, new parking was included in the plans. Mason stated we need four more diamonds. That would satisfy a lot of leagues.

Hallinin asked if the leagues could write down your questions that will help this cmte to go forward. Brady asked for more handicap parking plus more parking in this area because people are parking in the grassy areas, Mason stated, if you could come out and see the baseball and soccer leagues at the same time you would see what we do with the seniors, wheelchairs and how we use Gators to bring them to the fields so they can see the games.

Theis explained the city hired a planner to draw the site plans, but we need the leagues input for more of what you want to see in this new area or have a walk thru the land for more ideas.

Kera Scaggs stated the problems with football at Ted Lewis we can only get 80-yard fields. We have tried to fit that in, but we are cutting into the diamonds because we need a 100-yard field.

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Other leagues will not play us because of the 80-yard field. If we had a football field out here, but we need lighting out here too, then they can have two more diamonds, our season ends in October. There are different options for lighting such as renting lighting.

The Mayor asked the leagues where do you see more parking, Mason showed the Mayor where more parking could be included in between the diamonds and on the backside hill.

Marsha Cumming asked, if possible, could your designer come back maybe have one representative from each of the leagues explained what we are looking for or what we can and cannot do? Theis stated excellent idea.

Tyler Cruz, President Circleville Youth Soccer League stated the parking is terrible out here, I have run the numbers, about 300 kids turn out for soccer games plus we would like to have tournaments. That is a good revenue for the city. if the leagues had more fields for youth leagues?

Koch stated most of leagues must travel out of town to be in a league because there are not enough fields for everyone, we need the younger set to come and play. What about tennis and basketball courts? The mayor stated that there are basketball courts here over the hill and the City school is in the process of adding more tennis courts.

Klitzka asked are there is enough coaches? Travis stated that if you build it, they will come, and I coach 2 to 3 teams already. Mason stated we can get the high school kids involved in the leagues.

Jeff Phillips, 9700 US Rt 22 East Stoutsville, YMCA Director, explained the Y would like to have the city build a facility on the 21 acres to be operated by the Y, there was a needs assessment survey done and there was a need for families to have activities. The Y asked what can we do for the community? We want to operate a community center complex that would include a pool and have fields. How can we make this work and run the programs in the building? To do this right the Y needs 6 -8 acres for the facility and parking.

Cumming asked about the facility and cost to rent it or least like the current one is? It is hard to get in the current on and people have dropped memberships because you cannot get in. Phillip stated that is the challenge to have a multi-use facility for everyone. Brady asked what will happen to the current facility? Phillip stated that it will become a childcare facility for the city schools.

Koch stated this is affects people in the middle to get another membership it costs \$268.00 for one child and is cost prohibited for us, some kids cannot afford that. Theis asked are their other areas that would hold a new facility because we have a lot of sports that need those acres. Phillip stated "No, there is not, we have looked at other sites."

Cruz asked Phillip, is there going to be a cost to access for the leagues to work with the YMCA using the fields at 21 acres? Phillip stated the only thing the Y would manage is the building or facility not any of the fields around it... it would be what is in the Y that others could use. Cruz stated our league does not want to get involved with the Y because of past experiences with them. The audience stated it takes four acres to make a one diamond.

ADJOURNMENT

Hallinin motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 pm. Klitzka seconded the motion. Motion passed.