

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

Wednesday, July 12, 2017
City Hall Council Chambers

MINUTES

Members Present: Terry Leasure, Larry Logan and Saunie Hinton; Clerk Kim Hunter

Visitors Present: Larry Olson, Jim & Ramona Edman, Tom Davis, Scott Gaskin, David Canan, Ann Canan, Jason Coatney, Simon Coatney and Don Sherman

Chairman Terry Leasure called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and announced new board members Saunie Hinton and Larry Logan.

Approval of Minutes

Saunie Hinton motioned to approve the April, 2017 Meeting Minutes, seconded by Larry Logan. All in favor, minutes approved.

Service Director's Report

- We now have the drawings complete for the extension of the road through Ted Lewis Park. I don't have a time frame, but the International Operator's Engineer's Union has offered to provide the labor and equipment to do the work.
- We have three requests for to waive rental fees.
 - Pickaway County FCFC – TL Park Shelter #1
 - FOCP – MVCH Park Pavilion
 - Kids and Badges – MVCH Park Shelter #2 and Pavilion
- We received a \$1,000.00 Grant from Pickaway County Parks and that is to replace picnic tables at Barthelmas Park.

Larry Logan asked what is the estimated cost of renovations at Ted Lewis Park?

Don Sherman replied \$2,000,000.00. We are starting Phase #1 and City Council budgeted \$100,000.00.

Larry Logan asked is this money already available?

Don Sherman replied yes. We have it in this year's budget.

Larry Logan asked is this from fundraisers?

Don Sherman replied no, this is from our regular budget.

Larry Logan asked where is the money from the fundraisers?

Don Sherman stated the money is in the fund. The Park Board hasn't decided what to spend it on yet.

Larry Logan asked how much is in the fund and is that separate from what came from the city?

Don Sherman replied I am not sure what the current balance is, but maybe \$15,000.00 to \$20,000.00. That is the city budget for park improvements. It was earmarked for Ted Lewis Park this year.

Larry Logan asked will that money go towards the road?

Don Sherman stated yes, it will go towards the road. If the International Engineer's come through we won't spend all of the money on the road, then we can start on the engineering for Phase #2.

Larry Logan asked where are the International Engineer's from?

Don Sherman replied they are all over Ohio. I think their headquarters is in Columbus.

Larry Logan asked who has indicated that they would do this for us?

Don Sherman stated their main office and management team.

Larry Logan asked would this be Gratis?

Don Sherman replied yes. They have training facilities all over Ohio and they tend to do ballparks and things like that. They will be grading of the road, putting the gravel down. I am not positive that they can pave it, because they do not have pavers at this time. However, that is part of their program. They are working with Shelly, Shelly & Sands and Kokosing and they might be able to pave it with their help. All we will have to buy is the gravel and the asphalt, if that is the case.

Larry Logan asked in which account is the \$15,000.00 located?

Don Sherman stated it is in the Ted Lewis Park Trust Fund. Last year we talked about replacing the concrete bleachers, but with the lack of funds we couldn't make it happen. I did not want to use the money for the Capital Improvements. I would like to use that money for something specific in the park, like bleachers or shelter house upgrades. Then you can say that is what the money went towards. To throw that money in on the road project is not a good idea.

Larry Logan stated I was concerned that the money was being used for the road project.

Don Sherman said no.

Larry Logan asked has anyone checked to see what the cost of a new skate park would be?

Don Sherman replied, no. A skate park is not in the master plan for Ted Lewis Park.

Terry Leasure stated what Don and Larry were discussing, the road that used to be around Ted Lewis Park, is coming back. We feel that it is important for safety reasons. We have a gate in the back that is locked and the police officers are not able to go back in that area. It gets very congested out there with girls softball and pee wee football. It is hard to get out of there one way. We would like to see the road come back around, like it used to be. It is still there, but underneath the dirt. It is a good start when you have people volunteering to do this for us so it won't cost anything. Anytime you have someone willing to do something that won't cost us anything, it makes a big difference on the budget we don't have available. We have a budget, but there isn't a lot of money. We have to deal with what we have.

Don Sherman stated I have what Council approved as a master plan.

Larry Logan said I would like to see the master plan.

Don Sherman stated Phase #1 is putting the road back and improving the parking area over by the concession stand. Phase #2 is removing the basketball and tennis courts and the skate park, replacing it with a playground and a small splash pad. I am trying to remember information about Phase #3 and #4. Phase #4 was the amphitheater, which will be in the previous swimming pool location.

Larry Logan stated if you are going to have a splash pad in Ted Lewis and the splash pad out at MVCH Park, my guess is we will get to the point where we will be running out of money for water and utilities in the parks along with the maintenance of the yards, etc. If that is the case and we add another splash pad where will we get the money?

Don Sherman replied that is the ongoing battle. The key is bringing more business to town and increasing our revenues.

Larry Logan asked has anyone written any grants trying to get money for this sort of thing?

Don Sherman replied grant money is for capital and not for operations. There are very few operational grants available, if any. You can get capital grants fairly easily.

Larry Logan asked have we written grants?

Don Sherman stated yes. We have received some grants over the years. Unfortunately, that is part of the problem with the county park board levy. They are tying it to only capital also. We need money for operations. I anticipate that we will get \$100,000.00 a year towards parks, the first few years will be geared towards Ted Lewis Park. This is part of that .5% tax increase that was passed four years ago. They have taken part of that and earmarked it for the parks. This is the first capital money we have had for parks for a number of years. I can see that \$100,000.00 continuing, but unfortunately the way that money was set up was strictly for capital not operations.

Terry Leasure stated what we are talking about at Ted Lewis Park is still down the road. There is still a lot of money we still don't have to get that up to date. The nice thing about the park is that it is in town. People can walk or ride their bikes to the park and that makes it nice. If anyone has been down to Ted Lewis Park,

you know that shelter house #2 has a new roof, gutters and a new floor. The new floor elevates it up so that it doesn't flood anymore. We all know that Ted Lewis Park is in a flood zone. The bleachers he is talking about are pretty bad. They are starting to crumble and bricks are starting to come off. We thought it might be better to tear them down and start with metal bleachers.

Don Sherman stated we could use the metal bleachers in other places too. They could be moved from the ball field to pee wee football. It gives us more flexibility. In regards to the skate park, maybe after they get Ted Lewis started and we have the funding, I can leverage that \$100,000.00 a year in to some grants. I couldn't do that before. One year council may say we are going to purchase this piece of property to put the basketball courts and a skate board park. I know it has been discussed, we will just have to see what happens.

Terry Leasure stated we have been asked many times by certain organizations if we would waive the rental fees for them to use the shelters/Pavilion. In the past we have done it without any problems. I have no problem with it personally, but I know we do get a lot of requests to waive the fees and this is something we need to look at. You are waiving money away, but you could also help an organization without charging them.

Larry Logan mentioned what is the possibility of, if an organization is using it to raise money, then we don't waive it. If they are aren't raising money, then we could consider waiving it.

Terry Leasure stated I think that is a good idea. If you waive the fees for an organization they need to take care of the facility, clean it up and put everything back to the way it was prior to their event.

Don Sherman stated there has been discussions that you only waive fees for organizations and groups that are supportive of giving back to the parks, city and community. There are a lot of options here. We have pulled ideas from other cities to possibly get other ideas.

Terry Leasure stated the event held by Pickaway County FCFC has already taken place.

Don Sherman stated we have waived the fees for this organization in the years past, so we went ahead and waived them for this year.

Larry Logan motioned to approve waiving the fees, seconded by Saunie Hinton. All in favor, motion approved.

FOCP Report

Larry Olson was present to represent the Friends of the Circleville Parks and reported the following:

- We held our most recent meeting in June and there are a couple of items we are working on. Jim will make a presentation later that we can discuss at that time.
- There is a concern about the ash trees that are dead in the park. We have marked over thirty trees. The research on this says that they fall down about two years after they die. We have had reports in other areas of people getting hit by limbs, thankfully not in our park. This might need to become a specific effort in the near future, probably in the winter when the park is less in use.
- We are trying to determine how to maintain the grassland management areas. It is wildlife cover, wildflowers, along with warm season and cool season grasses. One of the ideas is a burn-off. We

could not pull this off in the spring. It was too wet and we couldn't get the permits. We are now exploring the idea of doing this in late October or November. The guidance that we have from ODNR says that a burn-off eliminates that saplings. I am hearing various things from farmers that we have some trees in there that will have to be dealt with another way, the burn-off won't handle them. However, with the new stuff it will. We are looking in to that idea.

Larry Logan asked about the removal of the ash trees. What are your thoughts on how that would be done and who would pay for that? Isn't it illegal to burn the ash after we bring the trees down?

Larry Olson replied my thought is that it needs to be done professionally. I don't know that it is illegal. They have eliminated the transportation restrictions on trees. We do not have the personal to take the trees down. I think it needs to be someone who knows what they are doing because there are some massive trees. Part of the philosophy for the park is that it remains a natural area. Some of the logs could be left in the park, others that would end up crossing the trail should be eliminated and a few logs could be cut and split for firewood to use at the fire pit. It doesn't have to be a real expensive venture, but I think it needs to be professionally done. For payment, I don't know for sure, but we do have the Mike Harrison Fund that is available for maintenance, upkeep and upgrades of the park. The PCCF would have to approve spending Mike Harrison Funds to eliminate those trees.

Terry Leasure stated Larry Olson to answer your question, I know a few people that have talked about taking trees down and helping with that sort of thing. His name is Mike Hardesty and he is down on Washington Street where the old mill used to be. They have a wood pantry and they give the wood away to people.

Larry Olson mentioned there was one point that they were coming in and clearing out some of the dead wood. However, they were creating problems in the trails. The city said they would get the wood out for them and then they could come and cut the wood up in a more accessible area. They were basically dragging the logs out and the Hardesty boys were moving in to cut them up and haul them away.

Don Sherman said part of forest management is leaving that to decay. Some logs you may want to get out but a lot of them I would just drop them where they are at, if they cross the trail just cut both sides and throw them out.

Larry Olson stated we did drop a couple on Community Action Day and just drug them off of the trail and left them laying.

Don Sherman stated really from forest management that is really what you would want to do. We can look at dropping some of the smaller ones, but the bigger ones we aren't touching.

Terry Leasure stated I understand where you are coming from on a safety standpoint.

Jim Edman reported the following:

- The park was meant as a place you could go and commune with nature with peace and quiet. Because of the trails and the pavilion, it has become a place for events and a lot of people would like to use it. The real question becomes how do you balance that? When you drive in to the park, what do you want to see? Do you want to see signs, or do you want to see flowers? The Park Board actually dealt with this June 3, 2015 when you put in place a limitation on the number of signs and how long they could be there. You have as many as nine different groups using the

park and they can have their signs there 45 days ahead of time, which can make it pretty cluttered. We are proposing a couple of things. First of all, that the 45 days be changed to 30 days. I believe the 45 days came from how long you can erect signs for a political campaign. I believe you are free to set a different time limit in the parks. It was interesting this weekend, there was a group in the park that had signs with arrows up for their event. When the event was over they took the signs with them. The next item you had was to remove them within three days. If you want to change that to have them take the signs down as soon as the event is over. The maximum number of signs and size of the signs looks fine. David Crawford has examples where people have hung things with wire, so he is really concerned about using wire in the construction of the signs. We would like to add to that, no wire construction that can become a projectile during mowing. When you drive in to the park today, you are really met by the signs. We would like a designated area where the signs would be placed. Have the signs be something people read when they leave the park, so it reminds them of what you are trying to tell them. At MVCH Park it is pretty straight forward on the 188 parking lot if you had a sign there, it would be on the right hand side. On the Pontius Road exit, there is a space between the parking lot and the wooden fence that serves the splash pad area, then rows of trees. Designate that as the area where people can place their signs, rather than having them scattered all over in different places. Ramona has made a drawing showing our proposal.

- The next item I would like to discuss is amplified music. There will be some groups that come out and you can hear the music from across the street.
- The final thing I wanted to address is that a park can only handle so much. We have talked, at length, as to whether there should be a maximum number when you look at parking on the field or restroom overload. What the FOCP are suggesting is that with the City Park Board, let's form a little sub-committee and look at that. Is there a maximum? These fundraising efforts want to keep growing. At what point do you say, look 300 cars, you need to rent somewhere else. As far as setting the number, I am not proposing that we do that. I think we need to work together to do this.

Larry Logan stated I know that this Saturday is the Circleville City School Run and typically they have a fairly large sign out there right by the corner of 188 and Pontius. What you are saying is that you would like to eliminate that?

Jim Edman replied if you have rented an event space at the park and you have signs advertising that event, they would be located in the yellow area as you exit the park yes. They currently have two signs. One is on the corner where you turn in to the parking lot at the pavilion. The first thing you see is the sign. I believe the other one is in the grass area between the road and the parking lot for the splash pad. Interestingly, it is a 5K run, but they also have a walk. They have separate signs for the walk. These signs are all over town so isn't like this suddenly inhibits their ability to advertise. Earlier this year, when you had signs for three different events, they are scattered all over. We propose that they be placed in the area that is marked yellow on the drawing.

Don Sherman suggested there only be one sign allowed on the corner of St. Rt. 188 and Pontius Road. If you have a two-sided sign at the corner people driving by the park would see it, not just the people going to the park.

Jim Edman stated right now 188 is tricky. I think they have one out there now.

Don Sherman replied they have one out there now. Instead of allowing them in the park, just limit them to one location.

Jim Edman stated if the Park Board wants to eliminate them in the park, believe me I would not object to that.

Don Sherman stated if you are already going in and out of the park, then for the most part you know about the events. I am just thinking that is really your advertising point out on the corner.

Jim Edman stated if you want to make it more limiting than we are proposing, there will be no objection on our part.

Terry Leasure stated Jim and I talked about this recently. I had no problem with the 30 day limit on the signs, instead of 45 days. I think the signs would not be a problem if you just stuck it in one spot, because that is the spot that you want to see them. If you ever noticed, everything is always on the corners when you put out signs. I don't have a problem with that part.

Larry Logan stated that way there is no restriction at all when you come in to the park and parking lots, because there would be no signs. The only place for the signs would be on that corner. I would be all for that and I think that makes a lot of sense.

Jim Edman asked this would be on the left or right off Pontius Road?

Don Sherman replied right by the monument.

Larry Logan stated I like the idea of them taking the signs down as soon as the event is over. I get tired of seeing political signs all over town for months afterwards.

Terry Leasure stated whoever rents the building or has an event and puts signs out must have them picked up when the event is over that day.

Jim Edman stated this will be new now for people renting that there is only one sign allowed in the one location.

Terry Leasure stated this will have to be added to new information, because it isn't in there now.

Don Sherman stated we have a rental application form that covers a lot of the rules on it. We are working on a city-wide special event process that will dictate all of these things. There are special events that require insurance. It won't just apply to the park, it would be consistent with downtown events, Ted Lewis events, etc. so we can have the consistency. A lot of the rules we can address with the new process.

Terry Leasure stated what Don is talking about is pee wee football, softball and soccer have to have insurance to utilize the parks. We have to pay for the insurance and it isn't cheap.

Don Sherman stated in regards to the amplified music, no one can use the park and have music without a permit. That is already in the city code. There is a permitting process on that.

Larry Olson asked is there a decibel level?

Don Sherman replied honestly I don't know the details.

Jim Edman asked is there an enforcement in any way? It was interesting in the process of putting this together, we have read up on what other parks are doing. In order for you to have amplified music in any of the Metro Parks you need a special permit. If you can hear it more than 50' away, you are in violation.

Don Sherman replied I have spoken to the Police Chief about this in general. For him to enforce how it is currently written, it is decibel based and you have to have a certified decibel meter, which we do not have.

Jim Edman stated, what we are proposing is specifically for MVCH Park. For example, they will be having a race event this weekend. Verbally you do need a megaphone to get people lined up, etc. and we understand that. However, amplified music is not allowed, period. Some of the groups play their music pretty loud. Enforcement is an issue and the way to deal with it is to not allow it in the first place. I go back to when you would have performances at Ted Lewis Park, and it would be a special permit in conjunction with performance events rather than a CD player or something like that.

Terry Leasure stated there is a rule set for that with specific times you can do it or shut it off. If we don't have a rule that says anything about the level of loudness, I don't know what we could do as far as the noise.

Jim Edman stated what I am suggesting is that the Park Board, in the rental agreement, amplified music at MVCH Park is not allowed. If for some reason you had a special wedding and you were going to have a bag pipe, you would need to get a permit. The office would then have to pass judgement on whether it would be allowed or not. Some groups come in and literally crank up the loud speakers and you then have music that you can hear all up and down Pontius Road. This is the kind of problem that we want to eliminate.

Terry Leasure stated we are all on the same page here. There are other people that use the park that don't want to hear the music.

Larry Logan stated if we don't like it then we have to have perimeters that say this is the rule. We will have to print those and make them part of the information that goes out to the consumer at the park.

Jim Edman stated there are still some green areas from a few years ago. Ace will be running a big race this weekend. He uses lime powder and it washes away. There is powdered chalk dust that you can buy commercially. The Pumpkin Show people know how to mark things and gets washed away. We are not going to tell the event what to do, but if they permanently leave markings, I don't really want to see them again.

Jim Edman stated when you hold events like Ace will have this weekend for the Alumni Association, it takes over the park. What we are suggesting is that the time be restricted to at least one weekend a month be free of any event, so if grandparents want to take their grandkids to the park they have a parking place. Right now I guarantee on Saturday morning you will not be able to find a parking place. If you go out to walk the paths, you will constantly be dodging people. Keeping it free from events one weekend a month, starting in 2018, I would suggest is part of what Valerie would have on her bookkeeping schedule.

Larry Logan stated Valerie has a lot of her plate. She does a lot of things for a lot of people. It is very difficult unless this whole scheduling thing is computerized, that mistakes can be made. My sense of it is I think that a new scheduling process would have to be put in place. To do that, it would probably require some help from someone with an I.T. background that could do that at a very low rate, if not free. I happen to know people who do that sort of thing. We might want to consider that for 2018.

Don Sherman stated we utilize a software program through a third party for scheduling.

Larry Logan asked is it working. It's not overwhelming Valerie or causing problems?

Don Sherman replied yes it is working. Actually Kim is doing most of the scheduling.

Larry Logan asked Kim, what are the problems associated with the program?

Kim Hunter replied there are some problems with the website. The one thing that we are noticing is you will get all of their information entered into the system and it won't save their information. When you go in to double check that it saved the reservation, it shows the date is reserved but there is no information as to who made the reservation. When making reservations over the phone, you lose their information unless you take the time to write the information down. The other problem we are having is not getting a call back from the software company when we do have problems.

Jim Edman stated when you make reservations online, you have no way of knowing if there are any other events going on at the same time. If people had that information, they might decide that they don't want to compete with the event and not have any parking. Having the information available to people making the reservations, in person at the Service Director's office or online, is really critical.

Larry Logan stated the other side of that is if you go in to enter a request for use of the park, it should not only tell you about other events going on in the park, but also the rules and regulations. You should also have to check a box stating you agree to the conditions and submit, then you would have a record that the person making a reservations is aware of the rules.

Don Sherman stated you cannot complete 100% of the rental online. You have to come in the office to fill out the reservation form. They receive a copy of the rules at that time.

Larry Logan stated my point is if you didn't want to do that then you could do it electronically. I think that probably brings us in to the twentieth century with upgrading the park issues.

Jim Edman stated the pavilion has to be reserved in person because a deposit is required prior to the reservation. Beth Starkey-Hill has had more bad experiences with this than Ramona or I have had. When people misuse the facility or don't leave it the way they found it, there should be some type of penalty. We suggest letting the people know upfront that we will be charging you for taking care of what you leave behind. If there is a history here, then we suggest you rent somewhere else.

Don Sherman stated the pavilion does require a deposit and if it doesn't get cleaned up we do keep the deposit. I think we may want to look at deposits for the shelter houses too.

Larry Logan stated I came out one day and someone had a grill on under the shelter by the dog park. I was just waiting to see how long it would take to catch it on fire.

Jim Edman stated the other thing they do is dump the briquettes out in to the grass.

Don Sherman stated one of the things we are working on is comparing other cities and their rules. The problem is, the way the rules are written are as civil suit. This makes enforcement very difficult. Several communities have an enforcement that is a citation process. An officer can write a citation just like he could write a speeding ticket. That is the only way to really enforce it in a timely manner.

Jim Edman stated there needs to be people walking around every so often so they can do that.

Don Sherman stated obviously the park is heavily used. It is also one of the reasons I have a part time park person in my office. Reduction of rental, most likely, will result in a reduced income for the department. Therefore, will result in reduced staffing. With almost every major event planned, we make them rent all shelter houses for the whole day. It gives us some good income and it keeps the problem of someone else trying to rent one of the shelter houses when there is a big event going on. We are trying to balance it. I think in almost every case they rent the pavilion and the shelter house next to it. I think when we set up our city event application, we should make that a requirement.

Jim Edman stated I appreciate the challenge you have when it comes to budgets. I believe that parks are part of a quality of life that is why people live in a community. If you get more people living here, your tax base goes up. However, they will never be money makers. When you look at the water, mowing and trash pick-up, are they going to break even? There has to be an underwriting that comes from somewhere and the possibility of getting additional help when we get this tax levy passed is real. That is why it is very important. Grants for capital are one thing, but management help is another thing.

Don Sherman stated unfortunately the county park has not come out and said that you will be able to use the money for operations. It has only been for capital and it is limited to the first five years of the ten year program.

Jim Edman stated it is not etched in stone.

Don Sherman replied I understand that. This is something that they need to address pretty quickly because that makes a big difference. We all need operational support, not just capital support. This is something that the Park Board really needs to address and put out in the levy information. For me personally, I can support it much more if it allows us to do operational.

Jim Edman stated Tom realizes that. What is potentially real is having some of this supervision in place on a county wide basis. This will help everyone so that each entity doesn't have to duplicate what someone else is doing.

Don Sherman stated I appreciate everything you guys are doing in MVCH Park. You are friends of the parks, we need help in all of the parks. Whether it would be rules or guidance, we really need help with all of the parks. If something would happen to FOCP, I don't know what would happen to that park. We do not have the funds to even come close to doing what you do.

Larry Olson stated we have had glimpses of opportunity to maybe branch out. When FOCP was first created, the Mayor at that time asked that we include all of the parks. We would need volunteers to take on each of these parks with a chairman of each park. It is going to take some volunteers and a person with the passion for an individual park to head up that wing of the FOCP's. We are hoping this will happen. We have so many things going on that we are not able to recruit those folks, but that is the dream.

Larry Logan stated I have the same concerns as Don. We have Smith Park, Ted Lewis Park, Barthelmas Park and Garden City Park. We have all of these parks and friends of the MVCH Park. Where are the friends of these other parks? There are people out there who care a lot about them. I would like to see people that have a park that they really care about to come forward, put a group together and start figuring out how to raise money or at least help to take care of those facilities.

Larry Olson stated we can create that under the umbrella of FOCP. We need a champion for each of those parks.

Larry Logan stated I think you need somebody for each park, to come together to make that happen. I spent the last forty years of my life driving all over the Midwest and Canada with what I do for a business. I have been in a lot of towns that were a lot bigger than Circleville, Ohio. This town has some of the nicest parks you will ever see in your life. I remember back, close to 40 years ago, when we started the soccer program and our fields were just miserable. Mike Harrison gave us the Coke Plant. We played down there a year. We finally got some things put together. Those fields out in Barthelmas Park are every bit as good as Avery Road Park facilities up in Dublin. That was all done by people getting together and making it happen. That could happen with each of these parks, and it needs to happen.

Terry Leasure stated it is happening with organizations like girls softball. They take care of the diamonds/fields when they play down there. We take care of stuff when pee wee football is down at Ted Lewis Park. At Barthelmas Park, soccer takes care of the front and baseball does it in the back of the park. No one takes care of Garden City and some people don't even know that it is there. Smith Park is nothing now. It is in a bad area.

Don Sherman stated it gets used and does get reserved.

Terry Leasure stated we need more volunteers. The problem is, all of us are getting older. People don't jump in to help like they used to. There are a handful of people that do everything. In every organization and in every park, there are certain people that take care of that park because that is where they participate more. We all know that certain parks were made for certain reasons.

Jim Edman stated if you look at the original purpose when Ted Lewis donated the land, he had something in mind. The same is true for each of these parks.

Don Sherman stated we need to reach out to girls' softball and pee wee football for Ted Lewis Park. That is your core to get started. Barthelmas would be the soccer and baseball organizations. Barthelmas will be the sporting area. With the changes going on at Ted Lewis Park, it will be a more passive recreational park. They will keep two of the fields, but it will still be secondary to what the park is about.

Larry Olson asked could I and some members sit down with you guys and map this out, get our structure together and with your help identify champions for each park? That is a dream of ours and we want to work with you guys to make it work.

Terry Leasure stated we will make a recommendation to look in to these. If anything needs to be changed we will have to have a meeting to discuss that.

Don Sherman stated the city is trying to roll all of these in to one package.

Larry Logan asked Kim, do you know how many funds were raised by renting shelters in 2016?

Kim Hunter replied we can find out and let you know.

Jason and Simon Coatney came to speak on behalf of the skate park at Ted Lewis Park.

Simon Coatney stated yes, we just want to make the skate park better so we have a place to skate.

Larry Logan asked how many kids would be interested in this?

Jason Coatney replied I would think around 30-40 kids and if you add kids with bikes, that would add more.

Larry Logan asked how are you going to raise money to make this happen?

Simon Coatney replied I haven't thought about that yet.

Larry Logan stated do me a favor and think about it.

Ann Canan came up to speak on behalf of the skate park and stated, my husband Dave and I were in on the original skate park. I have a fund of over \$4,000.00 that I still have in the skate park account. Dave and I, along with my son Matt, have been maintaining that equipment at Ted Lewis Park. I know it needs some repair now. We are going to fix the rails that are broken on that ramp. There are a couple pieces of equipment that is in storage. They had taken the equipment away from the kids because they kept moving it to a smoother surface to skate. Hopefully somewhere there is a box and a rail from our original purchase. Part of that equipment came about from a grant from the Tony Hawk Foundation. We received \$1,000.00 from that foundation and the rest of the money was raised by our Circleville Skate Park Committee. We attended every meeting for Ted Lewis Park. At every meeting we stood up and told them that we needed to do something for the teens in Ted Lewis Park. Your plan is no basketball and no skate park. You will have the playground for the little kids, soccer, softball, an amphitheater and a walking area, but nothing for the teens. We have this young man here that wants a little bit more to do in the city of Circleville and I applaud him for coming up here and addressing this committee. Council had said that they would not move our equipment until they had a place to put a skate park for our children. I don't know what is happening with that, but I know the plan is to tear it down and there will be no skate park for these kids.

Terry Leasure stated as the Park Board, we stated nothing should be moved until we have another place for it. We did not ever say that we was not ever going to have a skate park.

Larry Logan asked have you figured out how much it costs to do what you want to do?

Ann Canan replied no we have not.

Don Sherman stated unfortunately that is not the direction that Council has given us.

Ann Canan stated it is not in the master plan. I attended every meeting and it was also stated that the master plan could be altered.

Don Sherman stated yes. However, we can't alter the plan. That can only be done by City Council.

Terry Leasure stated we have always said nothing is to be moved until we figure out where to put it.

Don Sherman stated unfortunately they have given us the funds to start the Ted Lewis renovations, but no funds to put the basketball courts, tennis courts or skate park anywhere else.

Jason Coatney stated they gave the funds to the park board. Don't you get to make a decision on what it goes towards?

Don Sherman stated no. That money was not given to the Park Board.

Jason Coatney asked then what is your purpose? If you are so servant to them, what purpose do you serve when they say here is the funds? You are talking about reopening that road and that it will all be done for free?

Don Sherman replied it is not all being done for free. Only the labor for the project is free. I have been given the direction by Council. We have \$100,000.00 to spend in Ted Lewis Park to start the master plan.

Ann Canan stated but that is supposed to be for the road.

Don Sherman stated no, that is where we are starting. This a five phase program. Phase #1 is getting the road in. If they give me another \$100,000.00 next year, I will move on to Phase #2.

Ann Canan stated that equipment was purchased by grant money and donations. So who does the equipment belong to?

Don Sherman replied it was donated to the city, so it belongs to the city. It doesn't really matter who paid for it. For it to be in the city park, it had to be donated to the city so they retain title to it.

Ann Canan asked so I need to talk to Council to make sure they have a place to move the equipment? They all sat up there and said we are not going to do anything until we move the skate park equipment.

Don Sherman replied absolutely. Unfortunately, half of the City Council members that said that are gone. There are a lot of new people on Council now. There has been discussion of trying to get the Corwin Street lot from the schools and put a swimming pool in down at that location. It is really not big enough for a swimming pool. There has been discussions that it would be a great place to put a skate park and basketball court. I now there has been discussions with the school. I also know that PICCA is interested in it. The last I heard from the schools is that they were going to go out for request for proposals, to see who could utilize that property. Of the parks and land that we have at this point. If it isn't in Ted Lewis, we really don't have a place to put a skate board park or basketball courts. As far as the funds, we are struggling to keep things mowed and cleaned up. We are fighting a losing battle, but to take on additional park land is going to be really tough under the current conditions that we are under.

Jason Coatney stated but you can cut down trees. The skate park committee did their part. They raised \$20,000.00. They city said here is the place to do it, you build it and we will take care of it. It has never been resurfaced. I have talked to the Mayor about it for three years and he keeps saying let's get it included in the next road deal. There is going to be a road going through Ted Lewis.

Don Sherman stated you cannot spend road money on a park.

Jason Coatney stated fifteen years ago Circleville was the destination for skateboarding, before all of the parks popped up in Columbus. It had a vibrant skateboarding scene and there was a big sense of community. We were the friends of the parks. We policed it, maintained it and cleaned it because it is where we had to go. As the skate park has deteriorated and disappeared, nobody goes there. The surface is horrible and it is a pretty big ramp for little kids. I understand that everyone is cash strapped. However, if a little bit of maintenance would have been done back then, everyone would be in a better spot now.

Don Sherman stated I agree with everything that you are saying. My direction is from Council and they are the ones that you are going to have to convince.

Jason Coatney asked what if we fundraised to improve the park? Could you leave that section alone as you move forward? I know that it is difficult, but it seems like we already had this fight once and then a second time when the skate park was moved. Now it is just going to be eliminated?

Don Sherman replied it has to come from Council. The master plan can change, but Council has to be the ones to change it.

Jason Coatney asked will you guys come to the Council meeting with us to try to reroute that plan to include a skate park?

Saunie Hinton asked what size of an area does that require?

Jason Coatney replied it is there right now, about the size of the tennis courts. It is the old tennis court.

Larry Logan stated I will come with you. I personally think that it needs to be a skate park and basketball courts.

Terry Leasure stated I will go to the meeting too.

Jason Coatney stated as far as the basketball court, I have had city officials say that they would help try to save the skate park if we could get some businesses to publicly denounce the basketball courts. That is just crazy. The problems at the basketball court are bad parenting and lack of police.

Saunie Hinton stated I know the basketball court at Barthelmas doesn't get used that much because they have to be old enough to drive to get out to the park.

Terry Leasure stated, we were going to move the basketball courts at Ted Lewis, but it is not a good spot for them. It would be right beside the skate park. Then you have a playground that is setting over away from the shelter houses, where the parents can't see them. We decided to put the playground up on the north end and to move that stuff somewhere else. Not that we said to take it out, we just said to move it to a different spot. We talked about the basketball courts being where the playground is located. Get those idiots away from everyone. They get carried away. I have been here over twenty years. Dave, Ann and I have talked about this for years. We couldn't get anything done with it, we tried. Dave offered to put \$5,000.00 in to it and we couldn't do it. It was going to cost more and we didn't have the funds. I will come help you. You have new people on the board. I think if we hit the new people, you could get some changes and make it work right. That is my opinion.

Larry Logan stated we have to approach them to where it makes sense and include the costs.

Jason Coatney stated I have had two professional estimates on the resurfacing.

Larry Logan stated I am not just talking about the resurfacing. I am talking about the ramps and everything else that goes with it, in writing.

Don Sherman stated I would suggest asking them to use part of the amphitheater area, since that is down the road. I would look at a more permanent skate board park with all concrete and in the ground. You don't have as much maintenance with that. Yes, it is more costly up front. You would be much better off long term.

Ann Canan stated we have done all of the maintenance over there, the city has done none of it. Dave and Matt were going to fix the rails.

Jason Coatney stated the ramp being repaired is a step in the right direction, but the surface is completely unacceptable. The minimum for 3/4" of asphalt would be around \$17,000.00. The tennis courts barely get used. Can we have one of the two remaining tennis courts to put skateboarding obstacles on, like the box and the rails that Ann was talking about?

Don Sherman stated if Council gives me another \$100,000.00 for next year, both of those surfaces are being removed.

Jason Coatney asked where does the ramp go when the surfaces are removed.

Don Sherman replied I agree they need to do something, but I have been given direction to do certain things with the money.

Terry Leasure stated more than likely what you are going to see is the road.

Jason Coatney asked I am just asking if we could use one of the two tennis courts to place the obstacles at Ted Lewis?

Don Sherman replied I think the park board would have that authority.

Terry Leasure stated yes we would. I have a suggestion as well. Did we talk about sweeping off the parking lot near the swimming pool? The parking lot is not being used. Could you live with that parking lot being swept and using that as a skate park for now?

Jason Coatney asked could you move the ramp over there for us?

Terry Leasure replied, that is something that I cannot answer because I am not a city employee. If there are ways of moving it, I would think that someone would help out.

Don Sherman stated I would think there would be a way to move it.

Terry Leasure stated if you are asking me that I will go to the city and ask them.

Jason Coatney stated yes, I am asking you that.

Don Sherman stated I am sure we could figure out how to move it.

Ann Canan asked would you have to take it apart?

Terry Leasure replied you might be able to put it on skids.

Don Sherman replied you may be able to just put it on a trailer and move it.

Jason Coatney stated for now that would be very acceptable.

Terry Leasure stated I have no problem asking the city to sweep it really good and use it as a skate park. Let's do this now, while we have a chance to get that.

Don Sherman stated if you do something like it will buy us anywhere from three to five years before we get to that phase. That will also give you time to work on Council. Phase #2 is ripping that stuff out and I would hate to see you spend money when I am being directed to rip it up next year. If we can move it, it will give you time to get Council to change the master plan. I will do what I can do to help.

Ann Canan asked you say some people use that tennis court? I never see anybody over there.

Terry Leasure replied I go down there for lunch pretty much every day and there are people that use it. Here is what I am trying to work out. If you take the tennis courts away, then you are taking away something for you guys to have. We are trying to get you something else right now, to fit your needs. So why take the tennis courts out when we have people that play on them.

Ann Canan stated I thought if you went with his idea we could leave the ramp where it is and just have the extra stuff on the clean tennis court.

Terry Leasure stated in my opinion let's buy the time on the other side.

Don Sherman stated as long as your Park Board is in favor of it, I think we can just do that.

Terry Leasure asked are we all in favor of temporarily moving the skate park over to the parking lot?

Larry Logan stated my suggestion to you all is to start an ongoing fundraising issue to help yourselves as well. Then if we get the okay and we could put in a proper place for you, you will have the money to contribute. I know you have some now, but it would go a long way to getting it done if you had more that you could bring to the party.

Terry Leasure stated the skate park was over there first, in that one area. That is where the park began. Let's go back to that for right now, work on some funding and work on Council.

Ann Canan asked can someone check to see if we still have that stuff?

Don Sherman replied I will. I wrote it down. I take notes on what I need to do.

Terry Leasure stated Scott Gaskin is here in regards to softball.

Scott Gaskin stated I guess I just want to interject on my previous offer to try to get engineer fix the bleachers. I wanted to reiterate, that we can get it done.

Larry Logan asked what was the original purpose of taking out the road?

Terry Leasure replied too many kids going through there at the time when gas was cheap.

Scott Gaskin stated they took it out because of safety issues.

Don Sherman stated at that time that they took it out, there were games being played in there every night. That park was heavily used and the focus of the master plan is to get away from the active recreational, to a more passive.

Scott Gaskin asked what are you going to do with the lights?

Don Sherman replied at this point they are staying right where they are at. They are still in the master plan, but unfortunately I am not sure how we are going to be able to afford them. They are almost twenty years old and they will need to be replaced. The electric bill on those lights is horrendous. I would love to be able to change them out to LED at some point.

Scott Gaskin stated I would like to reach out and try to get help from the community, if it is through FOCP or whoever. I think we can get it done, but I am not allowed to. I wanted to fix the bleachers and they said no.

Don Sherman stated if you guys work together with FOCP and want to upgrade the lights. I think the lights cost almost \$250,000.00 when they were put in around twenty years ago. While the light upgrade is not part of the long-term master plan. If you would raise \$25,000.00 towards upgrading the lights, you could go to Council and ask them to earmark part of the \$100,000.00 to upgrade the lights.

Scott Gaskin stated but I am saying we could get them done for nothing. They want to take a ball diamond out that we paid to have put in, all for a road. When the school came in that started the avalanche. The school came in, so we lost those diamonds. I have had to reach out to check in to the diamonds out on State Route 22, those diamonds are not ready and they do not have lights.

Don Sherman stated I was in the same boat fifteen years ago with my kids. We had three great big, beautiful diamonds that we probably put a lot of money in to. When the school came in they ripped them all out and built the new school. They never did put them back.

Scott Gaskin stated I was told the same thing. They wouldn't be torn out until they have someplace else for us to go.

Terry Leasure stated not on your project.

Scott Gaskin stated I was told that by Mike Logan.

Terry Leasure stated we have always been honest with you and we have always said that road coming in is going to take that diamond. We have always said that. I don't know what he told you, but we always told you that it had to come out if the road came through. Am I correct?

Scott Gaskin stated I have been disputing that, but yes.

Don Sherman stated we have one more item on the agenda. We had a request to do park improvements at Smith Park. Crossroads Church has come in and they want to do some maintenance on the basketball court, on the court itself and the backboards. They are also looking in to doing some landscaping at the park.

Larry Logan stated sounds like a friend of Smith Park to me.

Don Sherman stated yes. This group, Crossroads Church of Circleville, is sponsoring it. They are actually doing this in various locations. The board will need to sign the approval.

Larry Logan motioned to adjourn, seconded by Terry Leasure. All in favor, meeting adjourned.