

**Park Board
Meeting Minutes
August 5, 2015
City Administration Building**

Terry Leasure called the meeting to order at 4:05PM.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made to approve the minutes of the July 1, 2015 meeting by Kevin Keaton. It was seconded by Terry Leasure. All in favor. The motion carried.

Scott Gaskin's Report: Scott Gaskin had concerns about moving the playground at Ted Lewis Park. Gaskin questioned if ground would be broken soon and if it would affect Pumpkin Show parking. Ankrom stated that the demolition would begin after Pumpkin Show. City Council wants to start demolition this winter.

Leasure commented that one of the softball diamonds could be removed within a year or two. Two softball diamonds would remain.

Gaskin said Girls Softball would be okay if they can use the two fields by McDonalds. Leasure also suggested using Smith Field, but parking could be an issue. Keaton added that Rob Bastion could be contacted about parking.

John Ankrom added that the revised Ted Lewis Master Plan will be presented to City Council on Wednesday, August 12, 2015 at the Long Range Committee Meeting.

Gaskin mentioned that the power by field 3 was installed by Girls Softball. He would like to store the power items if and when the field is demolished.

Larry Olson's Report: Olson received a copy of the Health Department complaint about MVCH Park and the noxious weeds in the Grassland Management area. Seth Rankin, the biologist with Pheasants Forever (PF), met Olson at the park on July 15, 2015 to assess the status of the Grassland Management area. He noted a problem with Canadian Thistle and some trees growing within the management area. He suggested that they will have to mow it in August and spray it at the end of September/October to get it under control. They have to get licensed sprayers to do this and are working on it. It will require monitoring to keep the undesirable weeds in control.

Thistle is also in the area of the dyke of the wetland and in the area where the skating rink was to be. It was part of the berm and needs mowed now.

Olson also requested a red PF sign from Rankin to be placed in the grassland areas.

The area by Tim Housh was to be warm season grasses only. That area will probably need mowed & sprayed, but Olson is waiting on Rankin's guidance on that area.

Josh Ford's Report: Ford has been in touch with Sean Hampton, Pastor of the Nazarene Church. The church wants to pass out popsicles and bottled water while doing their volunteer days. They want to bring a freezer and plug it in. At Ted Lewis, there are plugs at the Shelter Houses and at the Pee Wee Football concession stand.

Ford inquired where the electric would be available at MVCH Park. They would also like to pass out popsicles and bottled water at that park too.

Leasure commented that there were two guys living in the Park, but they appear to be gone now.

John Ankrom's Report: The three Master Plan schemes that were originally proposed for Ted Lewis Park have been boiled down to 1 scheme. First steps would be to move the playground equipment up front. The current plan places the playground equipment and potential splash pad up front. The pool would be removed. An open area would be created with a band shell, along with additional parking in the area where the pool is currently located. The existing shelters would stay in place. The road would get reconnected. The restrooms would be new and would be relocated and the Monument area would be opened up. This would be a multi-year/multi-phase plan.

Most likely year one would involve relocating the playground and year two reconnecting the road.

Theoretically, phase 1 would address the playground; phase 2 incorporate band shell; phase 3 moving the ball fields. We would also introduce the walking trail.

Leasure asked if the Pee Wee Football concession stand can be torn down and replaced. He'd like to see an updated stand with storage areas located on the hillside to help limit flooding issues. Leasure stated that he wants to keep Pee Wee Football at Ted Lewis Park forever.

Keaton commented that it would probably be less expensive to update the existing concession structure.

Ankrom stated that lighting is already in place at Ted Lewis Park and there is no urgency in changing the softball or football fields.

Leasure stated that he has 11 football teams this year, which includes 2 out of town teams. He will coach 2 teams this year. He stated that he appreciates the park letting them use the fields to practice and play.

Leasure stated that he wants to keep the street as a one-way only as it once was. Enter onto Rosewood and travel counter-clockwise. He urged that the road needs reopened as soon as feasible.

Keaton asked if there will be any fencing between the new playground and the alley. He wants the area to be safe and to also look nice. Ankrom stated there is a natural barrier, but shrubbery may be added to accomplish the task.

Ankrom suggested that Gary Smith move the playground south and away from the corner of the park, where the plan currently has it. The Board asked if a shelter could be added and potentially a bathroom.

Ankrom asked how they felt about Shelter #1 becoming the new concession stand. It could be located where the current storage area is located and a window could be on the south side. Another option would be to add a four-season shelter. Ford asked what would be used for storage. Ankrom responded, possibly the old concession stand or another building built on higher ground off Rosewood. Leasure stated Pee Wee Football could use the existing storage area in Shelter #1 for concessions. Keaton stated that a window could be added on the north side with some picnic tables.

Gaskin asked if it would be 1-2 years before field #3 would be removed. Ankrom stated he did not know the timeline yet. Currently there is no proposal to buy the land adjacent to Barthelmas Park. AEP has a lease on it for 2 years. Gaskin suggested moving field 3 to the NE corner of the park. He said they really want 4 diamond, but need 3. Ankrom suggested using Smith Field, Corwin Street or the fields by McDonalds. Gaskin reiterated that he wants to keep all the fields together. He stated that he has his eye on a church which has a clover leaf set-up that has grown over. He thinks the city is missing out on an opportunity to make money from hosting tournaments. Asheville has 7 fields and they are doing well with this.

Keaton stated that if the city purchases the land adjacent to Barthelmas Park and puts in 4 fields and a concession stand as they hope, tournaments could be brought in. He asked Gaskin if he could get by with using 2 diamonds at Ted Lewis. Gaskin said it would be really rough. Girls Softball invested \$14,000 in Field 3. Ankrom stated it would be easier to create 4 fields elsewhere. Gaskin stated it would be nice not to deal with the train or the flooding issues. Ankrom stated he can't speak to the time frame or the time gap in replacing the fields at this point.

Keaton stated that Girls Softball once played at Barthelmas Park, but wanted out. There were scheduling and concession stand conflicts. Gaskin said the lights they need to play are located at Ted Lewis Park. Leasure added that Pee Wee Football uses the lights at Ted Lewis Park too. There are currently 5 fields at Barthelmas Park. The mounds are raised, but Girls Softball play on flat mounds. Keaton stated Girls Softball played at both Ted Lewis and Barthelmas at one time. Keaton added that Girls Softball use to play all over, but Gaskin prefers they play at one place. Gaskin said they play 5:30PM & 7:30PM games, Monday through Friday.

Keaton asked to table the discussion until the next meeting. He would like to invite Youth Baseball to weigh in on topic. **Invite Tami Clark to next meeting and let her know why.

Ankrom stated that the shelter is now up at Garden City Park.

Ankrom stated the city will pursue a Trail Grant through OPWC (Green Ohio Conservation).

Ankrom mentioned that the Circleville Printing sign is still up at Barthelmas Park. Youth Baseball was to remove it based on conversation at last Park Board Meeting.

Becky Staresina's Report: During the month of August the Nazarene Church is looking for volunteer projects at the park.

Pickaway County YMCA is seeking a comp of the Pavilion & Shelter #2 for cancer awareness 5K being conducted on 11/14/15. Keaton said yes if Pavilion isn't rented and based on time of year. Leasure also approved.

Ace Elsea is seeking a comp of the Pavilion for the evening of Thursday, 7/14/16 for packet pick-up. He has already reserved and paid for the Pavilion for 7/15/16 & 7/16/15. Keaton approved and Leasure approved.

The Park's Department received a complaint about vehicles driving directly to Shelter 1 off SR188. He also witnessed people driving to Shelter #2. The person also complained about dog waste on the walking path. Board suggested placing big rocks to along there to discourage driving to shelter house.

The Red Cross called to offer up to 20 basketball backboards, hoops & balls from 3-on-3 tournaments. Olson stated that OCU agreed to take some. The YMCA was also offered these items.

Kevin Keaton's Report: Keaton is trying to get fireworks back in Circleville again. He is meeting with the Fair Board on Friday night, 8/7/15 at 7PM. The man that did the Laurelville Fireworks is licensed and could do them. Keaton would seek donations to pay for them. An 18-20 minute show costs approximately \$18,000. The Fair will be over and fireworks could occur on Saturday, July 2nd. The Fairground would also charge a fee for use.

Keaton asked Ankrom if the Circleville Fire Department could help. Ankrom said he doesn't know. Ankrom asked about what Ashville's fireworks and Keaton indicated that he's only concerned about getting them back in Circleville.

Keaton would want to advertise and set-up stuff around the Fair Board's Pavilion.

.

Steve Tobin's Report: Not present

Terry Leasure's Report: Leasure asked how the creek bed would be handled in Ted Lewis Master Plan. Ankrom stated that the designers want to remove the levy & clean up the creek bed.

Leasure also suggested moving diamond 3 since it appears larger than needed. Gaskin said it is 35' so it is the correct size. Plus when the other diamonds flood, they can play on field 3. If more lights were installed at Barthelmas Park that would help create playing opportunities there. Ankrom stated that he thinks night games are played by Youth Baseball so there may be a conflict.

NEW BUSINESS:

OLD BUSINESS:

DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS:

MEETING ADJOURNED: Leasure adjourned meeting at 5:10PM