



**Parks & Recreation - Minutes
Wednesday, September 05, 2012**

Park Board
Meeting Minutes
September 5, 2012
City Administration Building

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

Present were Terry Leasure, Kevin Keaton, John Ankrom, Larry Olson, LeaDawn Scott, Josh Ford and Becky Staesina.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made to approve the minutes of the August 1, 2012 meeting by Kevin Keaton. It was seconded by Terry Leasure. The motion carried.

LeaDawn Scott: They hope to begin work on field 5 within the week. Volunteers will strip field and make improvements. Baseball season is over and they will begin prepping for next season. Keaton suggested contacting Bobby Lombardo, Circleville Varsity Baseball Coach to see if he can help with the project.

On another note, Scott mentioned that the musical instruments at MVCH Park are out of tune. The one that has letters was installed backwards.

Josh Ford: He has been making calls and trying to recruit help. He contacted Kiwanis and Sunrise Rotary. So far, he has received no response. Ford suggested a once a week clean up at Ted Lewis during the months of March through November. He mentioned that April 14 & 15 are Community Action Days and he'd like to implement something similar to this model. Ford reiterated how disturbed he was by Leasure's comments about the activity at Ted Lewis.

Ankrom added that ODOT would be using prison laborers the week before Pumpkin Show on US23. They can bring in a large crew. He suggested contacting them to clean-up Ted Lewis Park. You can also check with Bill Cunningham, the local Manager of York Street Garage. Jason McGowan in our Probation Office may be able to get some day reporting offenders to do public service work. Leasure thought welfare recipients have to do so many community service hours in order to receive their benefit so they may be a resource. They would need somebody present to oversee their work. Keaton suggested contacting Ron Edwards, Superintendent of the Circleville Juvenile Correction Facility as another resource. Leasure said he has four home schooled kids that he takes out at noon and makes them work. Other possible resources are the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts. Jeremy Turner's father may be a good contact.

Larry Olson's Report: Monday night, September 10, 2012 is the next FOTCP meeting. Beth Starkey-Hill, Ned Reigel and Bob McCrady are working on a heating solution for Starkey Pavilion. They have secured funding and are getting quotes for radiant electric heating.

Olson is seeking the Board's approval to continue to pursue this endeavor. The heating source would be similar to what is in the restrooms. Leasure suggested locking the thermostat. Another suggestion was to put a timer on it. They have a design they want, but no vendor selected yet. The four overhead fixtures would be installed overhead in the light gaps. Keaton moved that the FOTCP continue with the process and learn more. Ankrom said it should have a thermostatic control.

Is there an electric service available to support this?

Olson said they found a stone contractor that has the stone to match existing chimney. The foundation has the money to fund the extension. All of the funds go through the foundation. The pad for the exercise equipment for adults is in. Susan Strawser is waiting to hear from the Foundation that the money is there and available for distribution. Once it is there, the installation will be scheduled. Ankrom said we would need a few days to finish the site work too. Berger Health System and the vendor's name will be on pad.

The Foundation paid Chuck Boltenhouse to attend Playground Inspection training on September 18, 2012 – September 20, 2012 in Westerville.

John Ankrom's Report: The site work was done for the exercise equipment at Mary Virginia Crites Hannan Park.

The city will not fund the pool at Ted Lewis Park next year. There is a grass roots effort to raise funds to operate it. Stephanie McConnell had one meeting and Doug Stickel was there. Where does this effort sit? Mike Logan is working with City Council on this. Keaton asked the cost to operate the pool. \$35,000 this year with \$8,700 being the cost of water. Estimated funds needed raised would be \$25,000 if city pays for the water and the YMCA operates the pool. We need to get the final bills to know the true cost. We need to find someone to operate the pool 3 months a year. The YMCA mows during their lease time. Ed from the YMCA checks the pool chemicals at the YMCA's pool.

There is capital improvements needed. The mushrooms pumps need repaired. We had someone approach the city about buying the slide from the big pool. If we sold it, we could put the funds into the small pool. The big pool cannot be opened again and should be filled in. Ankrom asked Doug Stickel from the YMCA for pool numbers, general admission numbers verses members that used the pool.

Ford asked what we'd put in the place of the pool? We would most likely put grass in the area.

Ankrom said the Splashpad costs exceeded \$20,000 for 3 months. We will have to reduce the hours next year. It closed as of Labor Day.

Leasure suggested putting a park levy on the ballot. Keaton said we need to choose between the pool and the splashpad.

Ankrom said he is trying to get a handle on the energy costs at Barthelmas Park since the installation of the new ball diamond lights and security lights. Melanie Strassel is pulling some AEP numbers for us to review.

We may be getting some FEMA money from the June 29, 2012 storm. Since the umbrella at MVCH Park was damaged by the storm, we may be able to replace it from these funds. We need to let Larry Olson know the results.

Brent Rhoads approached the city about the farm south of Barthelmas Park. He made offer to sell the property to the city. We need to explore this further.

Ankrom said some OCU students have discovered Garden City Park. Leasure mentioned that many residents don't know about Garden City Park, Smith Park or Watt Street Memorial Park.

Becky Staesina's Report: Staesina shared the draft of the Pumpkin Show Parking agreement. Neither Pee Wee Football nor Youth Baseball wants to do parking on Tuesday. They said Girls Softball could do Tuesday solo. Leasure and Scott signed the parking agreement. Chris Caudill needs called to sign it too. Leasure said every organization gives \$50 to Gayle Sherritt for the arrow sign on her property for the five days. The group agreed to have four port-a-johns delivered 10/16/12 -10/21/12 and split the cost. The pool lights

will be used to illuminate the parking area again this year. Dane's crew will install the steel doors in the Ted Lewis restroom during Pumpkin Show and remove them for the Pee Wee Football Superbowl before closing them for the season.

Chris Caudill had mentioned charging sports teams a fee that could be used towards capital projects. Staresina confirmed with Gayle Spangler that there are three Capital fund accounts already established for Ted Lewis, Barthelmas and MVCH Park and any funds could be deposited into those and left to accumulate until enough funds were available for specific projects.

TOSRV is scheduled the same weekend Chris Caudill mentioned a potential Logan Elm tournament and he is aware of this.

During the summer shelter season, several people requested alternate weekend rental times for Starkey Pavilion. The current rental times are 9A-2P and 4P-9P. Let's revisit the hours and see if a change would be beneficial.

Kevin Keaton's Report: What is the status of the basketball court lights at Ted Lewis Park?

Terry Leasure's Report: Leasure said he understands we need to cut costs to make it fair for everyone. Council needs to make some decisions about the parks. Leasure suggested that the city consider securing contracted caretakers for the five parks. He said it would be ideal for retirees where you could pay \$8-\$10 an hour with no benefits. A 1099 could be issued.

Keaton cautioned that the cost of contractor insurance could be an issue. We currently pay a contractor to mow and clean the restrooms. The city still pays for the Toilet paper, soap and other supplies. The city picks up trash on Mondays and Fridays. The caretaker could clean the shelter tables, blow the shelters out, mow a little each day and does this for 9 months of the year. Just a suggestion to consider.

Steve Tobin's Report: Absent

DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

Scott suggested securing some grants to aid the parks. Keaton suggested Sharon Schall might be able to help. Ankrom said she is currently working on the Moving Ohio Forward Grant. Olson asked what does it cost the city to maintain the parks. He asked what the Foundation could do to supplement the parks.

Olson mentioned seeing a homeless man that takes baths at MVCH Park every Sunday. He will get Staresina the license plate information.

Ankrom said he would pull the cost of operating the parks together so we can discuss at a future meeting.

Kevin Keaton motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:30PM. Meeting adjourned.