

**Park Board
Meeting Minutes
November 4, 2015
City Administration Building**

Present: Terry Leasure, Steve Tobin, John Ankrom, Larry Olson and Becky Staresina

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

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made to approve the minutes of the October 7, 2015 meeting by Terry Leasure. It was seconded by Steve Tobin. All in favor. The motion carried.

Larry Olson's Report: The next Friends of the Circleville Parks meeting is scheduled on Monday, November 9, 2015 at 7PM at Berger Hospital. Olson requested Steve Tobin attend since they will be conducting their annual elections. Tobin confirmed that he would attend.

Olson has a meeting next week to finalize what goes on the MVCH Park signage plan signs and everything should be finalized by December. He'll forward an invoice when he receives one. Both PCCF and the City will need this to claim their grant money from the county.

There is some confusion from the various parties that were involved in accepting donations for MVCH Park so it is difficult to know who should be recognized in the additional display case that will be added to the existing structure at MVCH Park. The Pickaway County Community Foundation wants to recognize those who contributed at least \$500.00. He is trying to coordinate this with Bob Sneed and Gayle Spangler.

John Ankrom's Report: Steve Helber will be done cleaning restrooms at the parks at the end of this week. Our service guys will maintain the Splash Pad restroom, which remains open year round and the restroom in the Pavilion that will be open only when we have rentals.

The Ted Lewis Master Plan dated 8/12/15 created by G2 Planning & Design will be discussed again during the November 18, 2015 Long Range Committee meeting at 7PM at City Hall. The goal is to get a Resolution to approve phase 1 of the work at Ted Lewis Park, which most likely will be the removal of the basketball courts, skate park and tennis courts. The fate of the road in phase 1 is still unknown. More will be known after the November 18th meeting.

Leasure added that he is not in favor of removing the basketball courts and skate park from Ted Lewis Park unless they are going to be placed somewhere else in the park. He is okay with removing the tennis courts.

Ankrom asked if Leasure was okay with placing the skate park by the pool, but Leasure preferred that they were apart.

Leasure wants a caretaker in the park to monitor the park. He thinks the caretaker should have a radio to the Police Department to report suspicious activity.

Steve Tobin added that he thinks volunteers similar to those with the FOTCP at MVCH Park could accomplish a similar role.

Leasure wants to keep the football fields and softball fields intact.

Becky Staresina's Report: The restrooms will be closing this week at Barthelmas Park, Ted Lewis Park and at the Starkey Pavilion.

Invoices were sent out to the three youth leagues for Pumpkin Show Parking. I received payment from Girls Softball, but still need checks from Pee Wee Football and Youth Baseball.

Staresina inquired if the Board needed to vote on the addition of the information case at MVCH Park, but the Leasure confirmed they approved the possible addition of panels when they voted to approve the Information Station.

Kevin Keaton's Report: Not Present

Steve Tobin's Report: Nothing to report.

Terry Leasure's Report: This year, Pee Wee Football had problems with people parking on private property and then property owners parking along the road in the Park. Leasure had to call the police.

They also had little participation in the Sunday clean-up. He said Youth Baseball did not show up to help at all and Girls Softball showed up at 9AM and only had 2 people. Leasure stated he was there at 8AM as always and that he won't do it again next year.

The locks on the storage until in the rear of Shelter #1 have been rekeyed so Terry's key no longer works. He needs a key to the storage area for Pee Wee Football. However, Pee Wee Football has concluded their season so it is not an immediate issue. They had a good season.

Leasure stated he thinks a city our size needs a pool. Ankrom asked Leasure what he thought about a pool being located south of Corwin. He also asked him about his thoughts on the Skate Park being located there too. Ankrom likes the idea of them both being located there. Leasure preferred separation of the two, but would think about it since the pool season is brief.

Leasure mentioned the Mill Street Gym property and his wish to use it for Pee Wee Football and for fundraising through Bingo. He questioned if the Mill Street property could be considered part of Parks & Recreation.

Ankrom stated that the building needs a lot of work, which would cost something in the 6 or 7 digit area. Ideally, Council wants someone to come in with a lot of money to run the building so the city doesn't have to fund it. The city cannot contribute any money, but they can give the building to an organization. The organization would need to present a strong business plan to Council.

Ankrom stated that the idea of a Park Levy was brought up in Committee, but the idea did not make it out of Committee. The County is also discussing Park Levy.

The Pumpkin Show Parking form needs altered to include language about clean-up reporting time of 8AM and if at least 4 volunteers from each organization don't show up, their league will lose parking privileges the following year.

Leasure stated that he gets negative comments about the park all of the time. He hears complaints about smoking, drinking and dirtiness. He feels enforcement is always the issue. He gets guff from people when says something and when he doesn't regarding enforcement of the rules.

Ankrom stated that maybe we should consider changing the Park Board Structure. Ankrom asked Staresina to locate Park Board bylaws.

Larry Olson suggested adding At-Large positions and increasing the size of the Board to 6. Each existing member would be the leading entity for the At-Large positions. Offer the new members an opportunity to vote and make a difference.

Leasure stated that he'd like a City Council member to be on the Board. Olson stated that Julie Strawser would be a good choice since she is a newly elected Council person. She was a dedicated person when she taught.

Olson asked Leasure to write down his vision for Ted Lewis Park and share it with City Council. Terry stated that he wants the park to be safe and full with families enjoying themselves. He wants it to be a fun place to take children with activities such as Friday in the Park. He wants caretakers back in the park to maintain it and keep it clean and safe. Having caretakers return to the park would be his #1 goal. He also wants the road reopened and wants to keep the football and softball fields at the park. He wants to make people feel appreciated for the work they do at the park, both volunteers and paid staff. The city deserves that Ted Lewis Park, as the city center park, is a fine park again.

Ankrom stated an ordinance may need to be revised to accomplish this.

NEW BUSINESS: We will not have any meeting in December 2015 or January 2016. The next Park Board Meeting will be scheduled for February 4, 2016

OLD BUSINESS:

DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS:

MEETING ADJOURNED: Leasure adjourned meeting at 5:20PM