

PARK BOARD

June 10, 2024

The June 10, 2024 Park Board meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers by Kate Niederkohr, Chairperson. Park Board members present were Jon Blackburn, Bob Blocksom, Dean Leonard, Kate Niederkohr, and Bill Sturgeon. Jennifer Banta was absent.

Others present included: Kyle McColly, Mayor; Keith Niederkohr, Parks Manager; Angela Polachek, Pool Manager; Brian Schuster; Todd Dilley; Tom Eyestone; John Walker; Brian Hemminger, Daily Chief Union; and Sarah Bennett, Clerk.

The summary of bills totaling \$98,490.01 was presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Blocksom, seconded by Mr. Blackburn, for the approval and payment of bills totaling \$98,490.01. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

The minutes of the May 13, 2024 Park Board meeting, having been mailed to each Park Board member, were approved as received.

The minutes of the May 22, 2024 special Park Board meeting, having been mailed each Park Board member, were approved as received.

Mr. Brian Schuster addressed the Park Board noting that he organized a benefit softball tournament held in Harrison Smith Park last year for Brandy Robertson, who passed away recently, and he would like to organize another softball tournament to benefit her children to be held in Harrison Smith Park on Saturday, July 13, 2024 beginning at 9:00 a.m. Park Board members voiced no objections to Mr. Schuster's request.

Mr. Todd Dilley, Angeline School, and Mr. Tom Eyestone addressed the Park Board indicating that grant funding was received from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities for inclusive playground equipment. In addition to Angeline School receiving grant funds, the Village of Carey, Mohawk School, and the City of Upper Sandusky are each receiving \$15,000.00 for projects. A check was presented to Mr. Niederkohr for the City's project. Mr. Niederkohr indicated that he plans to remove the arched monkey bars in Bicentennial Park, which are deteriorating, and install a merry-go-round which would be flush with the ground and wheelchair accessible and also build sidewalks leading to the merry-go-round.

Ms. Angela Polachek, Pool Manager, addressed the Park Board updating them on activities at the pool and noting that requests have been received for times outside the normal hours of operation for aquatic fitness, infant/toddler swims, and adult laps. Ms. Polachek indicated that following the swim team season the pool would be available from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for these activities and she suggested infant/toddler swims could be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays and adult laps could be held on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays each from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Ms. Polachek suggested that punch cards could be purchased by patrons for these activities and also three hours in the mornings could be treated the same as twilight hours. Park Board members discussed the hours for morning activities and the possibility of allowing Ms. Polachek to set the hours for morning activities. Ms. Polachek also noted that in cleaning out the shed at the pool that they found a volleyball net and she wants to possibly put it up this summer.

A motion was made by Mr. Sturgeon, seconded by Mr. Blackburn, to approve Ms. Polachek's request for morning activities at the pool and have her set the hours and the cost for these activities. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

Ms. Polachek inquired about the placement of flowers at the pool entrance and indicated that the pool staff will maintain the flowers. Ms. Polachek noted that she considered asking the community for planters for flowers and it has been suggested that she reach out to local service organizations for assistance with the flowers. Park Board members voiced no objections. Ms. Polachek will contact local service organizations to see if they are willing to assist.

Ms. Polachek reported that two umbrellas were donated to the pool by a resident.

Ms. Polachek inquired about the rules for consumption of alcohol in the parks as there were visitors at the pool on Saturday who were consuming alcohol and she contacted the Police Department and requested an officer respond to the pool and walk around the area. Ms. Polachek stated that the officer was unsure of the rules for consumption of alcohol in the parks and noted that since there were no rules posted that he was unable to cite these individuals. Mr. Niederkohr noted that alcohol is not permitted in the City's parks.

Ms. Polachek stated that several pool party rentals have been booked for the summer. Ms. Polachek inquired about the possibility of closing early at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays each week to allow for two pool party rentals on this evening, if needed. Ms. Polachek indicated that plenty of notice would be provided to the public of the pool closing early for this purpose through signs being posted and social media.

A motion was made by Mr. Blackburn, seconded by Mr. Sturgeon, to approve the pool to close at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays to allow for two pool party rentals on this evening, if needed. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

Ms. Polachek noted that the pool staff is doing a great job.

Mr. Niederkohr reported on challenges faced this year with opening the swimming pool noting that it was decided not to paint the pool this year and initially thousands of gallons of water were lost due to leaks. Mr. Niederkohr noted that eight (8) to nine (9) leaks were found by a scuba diver and these leaks were caulked and these areas will continue to be checked throughout the summer. Mr. Niederkohr also noted that one (1) of the two (2) filters in the pump house sprung a leak prior to the pool opening and after the Health Department's inspection of the pool and this leak has been temporarily repaired.

Mr. Niederkohr thanked the Rotary and Carmar Gardens for their contributions towards the flowers in the downtown area.

Mr. Niederkohr also reported that Parks Department employees have started working on the pickleball courts in Bicentennial Park.

Mr. Niederkohr further reported that two memorial benches are being donated to the parks with one to be located in Bicentennial Park near the pickleball courts and the second bench to be placed in Stepping Stones Park.

Mayor McColly reported on an inquiry received from a resident about why the City isn't doing anything about the swimming pool's deteriorating condition. Mayor McColly explained the situation to this resident and noted that tours can be arranged if anyone from the public wants to see the pool and the issues being faced.

There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting adjourned.

Sarah J. Bennett, Clerk

Kate Niederkohr, Chairperson