

PARK BOARD

July 8, 2024

The July 8, 2024 Park Board meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers by Jon Blackburn, Acting Chairperson. Park Board members present were Jennifer Banta and Jon Blackburn. Bob Blocksom, Dean Leonard, Kate Niederkohr, and Bill Sturgeon were absent.

Others present included: Kyle McColly, Mayor; Keith Niederkohr, Parks Manager; Angela Polachek, Pool Manager; Karin Donohoo; Cory Ring; Taylor Donohoo; Charity Basinger; Austin Basinger; John Walker; Brian Hemminger, Daily Chief Union; and Sarah Bennett, Clerk.

The summary of bills totaling \$50,057.49 was presented.

A motion was made by Mrs. Banta, seconded by Mr. Blackburn, for the approval and payment of bills totaling \$50,057.49. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

The minutes of the June 10, 2024 Park Board meeting, having been mailed to each Park Board member, were approved as received.

Mrs. Karin Donohoo addressed the Park Board on behalf of the Apostolic Gospel Church and presented a schedule of events for the church's Community Block Party to be held in Harrison Smith Park on Saturday, August 17, 2024. Mrs. Donohoo also requested permission for the addition of a 3-on-3 basketball tournament as part of the event. Mrs. Donohoo stated that they would like to advertise the event on the digital sign at the entrance of the park for two weeks ahead of the date of the event and hang a banner facing East Wyandot Avenue on the chain link fence at the basketball/tennis courts. Mr. Niederkohr indicated that there would be no issues with the banner being hung but he would only guarantee the announcement of the event on the digital sign for one week in advance. Park Board members voiced no objections to the 3-on-3 basketball tournament.

Mrs. Charity Basinger, Open Door Resource, addressed the Park Board requesting permission to hold a Fun Walk in Stepping Stones Park on Saturday, November 9, 2024 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Mrs. Basinger indicated that they would like to line the walkway with milk jugs lit with candles that for a small donation participants could write the name of a veteran on a milk jug. Park Board members voiced no objections to this request.

Ms. Angela Polachek, Pool Manager, presented a summary of activities at the swimming pool in June including a week with an excessive heat wave and Open Door Resource purchasing one hundred sixty (160) daily admission passes for visitors that were handed out at Trinity Evangelical Church. Ms. Polachek noted that over two hundred (200) children were registered for swim lessons, the swim team has one more week of practice before their final meet, Guppie Swim started today with participants paying \$3.00 for admission and Aquatic Fitness will begin on Monday, July 15, 2024 and both of these activities are scheduled to take place Monday through Friday from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Ms. Polachek also noted that there are seventeen (17) private pool rentals scheduled for July and ten (10) private pool rentals scheduled for August, she is going to do her best to stay open during the entire month of August, and various organizations are planning a Family Fun Fest to be held in Harrison Smith Park on Friday, August 9, 2024 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. with the Park Board agreeing to allow free swimming during these hours. Ms. Polachek inquired if she could approach possible sponsors to cover the admission of swimmers during these hours of the Family Fun Fest and Park Board voiced no objections. Ms. Polachek stated that the swimming pool's Facebook page is the community's primary source to obtain information about the swimming pool.

Mr. Niederkohr reported that Mr. Gary Huffman laid asphalt recently for the pickleball courts in Bicentennial Park and Richland Seal Coat will soon be striping and sealing the courts and following that work the Parks Department will regrade along the edges of the courts.

Mr. Niederkohr noted that the Parks Department employees have been doing tree work around town including grinding stumps.

Mr. Niederkohr indicated that the wall project near the playground equipment in Bicentennial Park will begin soon.

Mr. Niederkohr also reported that the splash pad in Bicentennial Park was closed temporarily today due to a waterline issue.

Mr. Niederkohr will be meeting soon with Mr. Todd Dilley, Angeline School, about inclusive playground equipment that could be purchased with the \$15,000.00 of grant funding the City received from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities.

Mr. Niederkohr stated that mowing in the parks has slowed a little.

Mr. Niederkohr thanked the Parks Department employees for working during the week of excessive heat in June.

Mrs. Banta inquired about the request earlier in the meeting from Mrs. Karin Donohoo, Apostolic Gospel Church, to hang a banner in Harrison Smith Park for their Community Block Party event in August. Mrs. Banta asked if anyone can hang a banner? Mr. Niederkohr indicated that banners are only permitted to be hung for park activities.

Mayor McColly reported that more information will be presented at the next Park Board meeting about a grant for a small project at the City's Dog Park.

Mayor McColly also reported that an application will be submitted to West Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization (WORPO) for funding to repair the walking bridge in Stepping Stones Park.

It was noted that Precision Concrete will be grinding the ramp at the walking bridge in Stepping Stones Park to make the transition from the walking path to the bridge smoother.

Due to a lack of quorum, the Acting Chairperson declared the meeting adjourned.

Sarah J. Bennett, Clerk

John Blackburn, Acting Chairperson