

PARK BOARD

August 12, 2024

The August 12, 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 Jennifer Banta, Dean Leonard, Kate Niederkohr, and Bill Sturgeon. Jon Blackburn and Bob Blocksom were absent.

Others present included: Kyle McColly, Mayor; Keith Niederkohr, Parks Manager; Angela Polachek, Pool Manager; Rachel Pool; Brian Hemminger, Daily Chief Union; and Sarah Bennett, Clerk.

The summary of bills totaling \$115,490.67 was presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Sturgeon, seconded by Mrs. Banta, for the approval and payment of bills totaling \$115,490.67. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

The minutes of the July 8, 2024 Park Board meeting, having been mailed to each Park Board member, were approved as received.

At this time Mrs. Rachel Pool, on behalf of the Wyandot County Board of Developmental Disabilities (WCBDD) Project Life which provides adult clients with a transition to work program, requested permission for Project Life clients to work in the parks again this year beginning Monday, August 26, 2024 for ten (10) to twelve (12) weeks, Monday thru Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. These clients would be supervised by WCBDD employees. Mr. Niederkohr indicated that this is a great program for the clients and the work they do is appreciated. Park Board members voiced no objections to this request.

Ms. Angela Polachek, Pool Manager, addressed the Park Board noting that four (4) lifeguards have left for the summer as they have moved to begin college. Ms. Polachek reported that the Family Fun Fest was held in Harrison Smith Park on Friday, August 9, 2024 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. with there being 146 daily admission swimmers this year compared to 50 daily admission swimmers for the event last year. General admission swimmers from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. were charged at the twilight rate of \$3.00, and the event sponsors, Wyandot County Prevention Coalition and Public Health Department, agreed to cover the admission cost of swimmers entering the pool between 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Ms. Polachek requested the Park Board authorize an invoice to the event sponsors for \$300.00 based on last year's daily admission to this event, and consider the remaining \$138.00 an in-kind contribution from the City. Park Board members voiced no objections to this request. Ms. Polachek shared a schedule of the pool hours through Labor Day, Monday, 0September 2, 2024, noting that the pool will be open under regular hours on the weekends, and will be open on weekdays from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. once Upper Sandusky Schools begin on Wednesday, August 21, 2024, and the pool will be closed on Friday evenings due to high school football games. Lifeguards will be available for the remainder of the season including the after school hours, guppie swim, and water aerobics. Ms. Polachek asked for continued flexibility on scheduling guppie and water aerobics times and rentals through the remainder of the season. Park Board members voiced no objections to this request. Ms. Polachek indicated that the Wednesday evening pool rentals have been successful. Ms. Polachek stated that numerous individuals are interested in showing their support for the future of the swimming pool and she asked if she could begin forming a contact list of individuals interested in helping with improvements to the swimming pool. Mayor McColly voiced his support of Ms. Polachek to continue to gather resources for this project and the Park Board also voiced their support of this effort.

Mr. Niederkohr reported that he received a call from Richland Seal Coat and they will be at Bicentennial Park tomorrow to paint and stripe the new pickleball courts and these courts should be ready for play by the end of the week. Mr. Niederkohr shared a sample of signage for the pickleball courts including the hours that play will be permitted from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., with those hours matching the Bicentennial Park basketball court permitted hours of play. Mr. Sturgeon inquired as to if court etiquette signage should be posted including a time limit if there are people waiting to play. It was noted that enforcement of those rules could be an issue as there is no one there to supervise the courts.

Mrs. Niederkohr inquired with Mr. Niederkohr about the suggestion received from Mr. Tom Martin at the February 12, 2024 Park Board meeting to plant the center areas in Stepping Stones Park with tall grass and wild flowers and not be mowed to save time and labor for Parks Department employees and wear on City equipment. Mr. Niederkohr stated that the Parks Department employees continued to mow all of Stepping Stones Park as there was little flooding in the park this year and he never had the opportunity to meet with representatives from Pheasants Forever this year to find out what type of grasses and wild flowers would work best for this project. Mr. Niederkohr noted that in his opinion overgrown areas look unkempt but he will consider this suggestion again next spring.

Mr. Niederkohr indicated that he has not heard from Precision Concrete as they will be grinding of the ramp at the walking bridge in Stepping Stones Park to make the transition from the walking path to the bridge smoother, as reported at the July 8, 2024 Park Board meeting. Mayor McColly will follow up with Precision Concrete regarding this project.

Mayor McColly presented an application from Miss Katherine Polachek who is available to work as a lifeguard at the pool through the end of the pool season. Miss Polachek worked at the swimming pool in 2023.

A motion was made by Mrs. Banta, seconded by Mr. Leonard, to hire Miss Katherine Polachek as a lifeguard at the swimming pool for the remainder of the 2024 season with her pay to be at the rate of a second year lifeguard. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

Mr. Niederkohr reported that Mizick Miller & Company, a local accounting firm, heard about the grant funding received for inclusive playground equipment to be located in Bicentennial Park and they would like to assist with this project. Mizick Miller & Company has a fundraiser (Pedal for a Purpose) in conjunction with the Upper Pedal Car planned for Thursday, August 29, 2024 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. to benefit the purchase of inclusive playground equipment for Bicentennial Park. Donations are also being accepted by Mizick Miller & Company staff members and at several area businesses. It was noted that Mizick Miller & Company does an annual fundraiser and in the past they have raised between \$6,500.00 and \$8,500.00. The possibility of setting up a special fund within the City's budget for inclusive playground equipment was discussed as there could be additional donations to the project. Mayor McColly will discuss this suggestion with Mrs. Nickie Coppler, City Auditor.

Mr. Niederkohr noted that the Upper Sandusky High School Cross Country Team will host their annual Ice Breaker meet in Harrison Smith Park on Tuesday, August 20, 2024 beginning at 5:30 p.m. The entrance to the park will be restricted to those attending the meet and volunteers will be collecting money. Swimming pool patrons will be able to enter the park at no charge and directed to park near the pool.

Mr. Niederkohr explained the improvements taking place to the wall around the playground in Bicentennial Park. Mr. Niederkohr thanked the Parks Department employees for their assistance with this project.

Mayor McColly reported that a representative will be in the City on Thursday, August 15, 2024 programming the City's new landline phone system.

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

Sarah J. Bennett, Clerk

Kate Niederkohr, Chairperson