

PARK BOARD

September 9, 2024

The September 9, 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, Jennifer Banta, Dean Leonard, Kate Niederkohr, and Bill Sturgeon. Bob Blocksom was 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 \$125,354.65 was presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Blackburn, seconded by Mr. Sturgeon, for the approval and payment of bills totaling \$125,354.65. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

The minutes of the August 12, 2024 Park Board meeting, having been mailed to each Park Board member, were approved as received.

Ms. Angela Polachek, Pool Manager, addressed the Park Board and indicated that the pool is now closed for the season. A financial report will be presented at the October Park Board meeting showing the final income and expenses for the year. Ms. Polachek noted that the pool staff was amazing this year. Ms. Polachek will be assisting with a layout and plans for a new pool in the future. Ms. Polachek reported that someone threatened the lives of the lifeguards towards the end of the pool season and the police were notified. Following this threat the patrons began watching out for the pool staff. Ms. Polachek suggested changes in the rules and rule placement at the pool that could be considered in the off season. Ms. Polachek noted that retraining pool staff and pool patrons was beneficial this year. Mayor McColly also noted that the financial report will be presented at the October Park Board meeting and Ms. Polachek should begin working on updating the pool rules.

Mr. Niederkohr shared drawings from Mid States Recreation of an inclusive playground in Bicentennial Park showing a spin station. The cost of the spin station is \$13,900.00 and with the site preparation, surface installation, and equipment installation the total cost of this project is approximately \$53,000.00. Mr. Niederkohr indicated that following the donation from Angeline earlier this year for inclusive playground equipment, the City agreed to begin the project this year. Mr. Niederkohr will invite a representative from Mid States Recreation to attend an upcoming Park Board meeting to discuss the project further.

Mr. Niederkohr also reported that construction of the pickleball courts in Bicentennial Park has been completed. Players reported issues with the playing surface having ridges so the contractor came back and used a roller to eliminate the ridges.

Mr. Niederkohr noted that dirt has been hauled into Bicentennial Park and placed near the new pickleball courts and sprinklers have been set up to water the grass seed in this area and around the improved playground wall.

Mr. Niederkohr stated that he received a request to paint pickleball lines on the basketball courts in Bicentennial Park. It was noted that there are currently five (5) pickleball courts in the City parks with there being three (3) in Harrison Smith Park and two (2) in Bicentennial Park, and there are currently four basketball courts in the City parks with there being three (3) in Bicentennial Park and one (1) in Harrison Smith Park. Park Board members agreed to not paint lines for pickleball on the basketball courts in Bicentennial Park.

Mr. Niederkohr requested the October Park Board meeting be held at Bicentennial Park and members of the Wyandot Classics and Cruisers be invited and recognized as they sponsored the improvements to the wall adjacent to the playground equipment.

Park Board members agreed to move the next Park Board meeting to Tuesday, October 15, 2024 due to the Columbus Day holiday, and move the Park Board meeting in November to Tuesday, November 12, 2024 due to the Veterans Day holiday, and that there will be no meeting held in December 2024.

Mayor McColly reported that he just emailed Mrs. Nickie Coppler, City Auditor, to see if a line item can be set up for playground equipment in Bicentennial Park.

Mr. Niederkohr noted that the Upper Sandusky High School Cross Country Team will host their annual Elks Invitational meet in Harrison Smith Park on Thursday, September 19, 2024. Volunteers will be collecting money at the park entrance for those attending the meet.

It was noted that there will be a meeting with Peterman Associates on Wednesday, September 11, 2024 at 3:45 p.m. at the Municipal Building to discuss future pool operations.

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

Sarah J. Bennett, Clerk

Kate Niederkohr, Chairperson