

PARK BOARD

November 12, 2024

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

Others present included: Keith Niederkohr, Parks Manager; Nick Sanchez, Mid-State Recreation; Jennifer Craig; Nicole Garvin; Jayne Bramel; Erin Smith; Grayson Smith; Ann Gile; John Walker; Scott Moore; Brian Hemminger, Daily Chief Union; and Sarah Bennett, Clerk.

The summary of bills totaling \$52,640.88 was presented.

A motion was made by Mrs. Banta, seconded by Mr. Sturgeon, for the approval and payment of bills totaling \$52,640.88. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

The minutes of the October 15, 2024 Park Board meeting, having been mailed to each Park Board member, were approved as received.

Mr. Nick Sanchez, Mid-State Recreation, addressed the Park Board regarding the playground area in Bicentennial Park and the addition of inclusive playground equipment. Mr. Sanchez explained the spin station equipment and noted that the cost of the equipment is \$15,375.00 with an approximate eight (8) week delivery date. Discussion was held regarding inclusive equipment available, the layout of the playground, ground surface options, and drainage. Park Board members inquired about other locations that have similar equipment so they can visit and view the equipment. Mr. Sanchez noted that he will provide points of reference of projects in the area so Park Board members can visit, including Mohawk School. Parent visitors expressed their gratitude for this project and shared their concerns regarding the ground surface and the need for a fence. Mr. Niederkohr noted that the \$15,000.00 in grant funding received in June 2024 must be utilized before the end of the year and a purchase order being issued for the purchase of this equipment will fulfill this obligation.

Mr. Niederkohr presented a letter of resignation from Mr. Matthew Patchett, full-time Parks Department employee, effective immediately on October 17, 2024. Mr. Niederkohr noted that since it is currently the slow time of the year for the Parks Department, advertising for another full-time employee can be addressed in February or March 2025.

A motion was made by Mr. Leonard, seconded by Mr. Sturgeon, to accept the resignation of Mr. Matthew Patchett, full-time Parks Department employee, effective October 17, 2024. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Acting Chairperson declared the motion carried.

Mr. Niederkohr reported that the Winter Fantasy of Lights (WFOL) displays need to be set up by Monday, November 18, 2024 for inspection. Mr. Blackburn noted that the WFOL walk-thru will take place on Wednesday, November 27, 2024 and Thursday, November 28, 2024, and the park will open to vehicular traffic on Friday, November 29, 2024 thru Monday, December 30, 2024 and be open on Christmas Eve and Christmas day.

Mr. Niederkohr stated that the pickleball courts in Harrison Smith Park will be closed within the next week. The pickleball courts in Bicentennial Park will remain open.

Mr. Niederkohr also reported that the concrete sidewalk at the Dog Park has been laid and graded as the City was awarded grant funding in the amount of \$2,600.00 from the Wyandot County Community Foundation for this project.

Mr. Niederkohr further reported that a drawing of a new proposed pool and pool house was recently presented to City Council and some revisions are being considered with the revised drawings to be presented at the January Park Board meeting. Mr. Niederkohr noted that funding options for the project are still being discussed including the possibility of a levy or an increase in the City’s income tax collections.

Park Board members reviewed the Swimming Pool Financial Report for 2024 showing a loss of \$29,403.75 for the swimming pool season.

The Park Shelter Reservation Income Report was distributed showing income for 2024 was \$4,135.00. Mr. Niederkohr noted that the income from the shelter reservations is justified as it covers the cost of one employees to come in on Sunday mornings during the summer months to empty trash, clean, and address any issues in the parks.

It was noted that there will not be a Park Board meeting in December 2024, and the next meeting will be held on Monday, January 13, 2025.

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

Sarah J. Bennett, Clerk	Jon Blackburn, Acting Chairperson