

VERMILION PARKS & RECREATION BOARD
Minutes of June 16, 2020 - 6:00pm | Zoom Meeting

Roll Call: T. Parker (Chairman); B. Scholtz (Vice-Chair), W. Warden, D. Brudney, J. Keck. Not Present: E. Cann

Also, Present: C. Kuhns, RECREATION DIRECTOR; Tony Valerius, SERVICE DIRECTOR; Mark Weisenberger, PARKS SUPERVISOR; B. Holmes, COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

Guests: Mayor Forthofer, Homer Taft

Terry Parker, Chairman called the June 16, 2020 meeting to order.

RECREATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

C. Kuhns reported that baseball started today for the older boys and girls league. They are playing with Avon and Avon Lake. The younger leagues will start the week of June 29 and will finish by July 31 for those who have fall sports with the schools. They did have about 100 participants sign up for baseball/softball and last year they were around 220, but with the circumstances, parents had mixed feelings about playing.

He said they are still continuing on with football meetings on a monthly basis and they are planning on starting on time, but they will follow what the Ohio High School Athletic Association is going by as far as their timeline with the Lake Erie Football League they're participating in.

He said that Hot Stove has always taken care of Showse Park and they do an outstanding job keeping the field in shape. They had to purchase some equipment and asked if the Parks Board could pitch in to pay half for an infield drag. The total cost is \$651.08. He asked for the Parks Board consideration for pitching in as Hot Stove keeps those fields in good shape for the City. D. Brudney asked if Hot Stove was not having their summer leagues and C. Kuhns confirmed this was correct but the President of Hot Stove is still taking care of the fields as they will have something next year, and if they just let the fields go, it will take a lot to get them back to normal. Additionally, there is a different league they joined that was practicing on the fields. He said the City gets plenty of use out of those fields, so this is one reason they should pitch in to help them out.

J. Keck said the fields at the high school were let go because they did not have spring sports, but he thinks the maintenance guys are back, but they are still not in good shape. C. Kuhns said his summer worker started today and he knows they were out in the fields working on them. He said Bill was going to do what he could do to help with the fields since Brad will be out for a few weeks. J. Keck said the girls' softball field looked pretty good today. C. Kuhns said they will do what they can to get those fields in playing shape.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

B. Warden MOVED: J. Keck seconded to approve the meeting minutes of May 19, 2020. Roll Call Vote 5 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

CORRESPONDENCE/AUDIENCE/COMMUNITY GROUP USE PERMIT:

T. Parker said they heard from the Lighthouse Committee by email and they are sandblasting it and the painting project is moving forward this week.

Anne Naugle of the Vermilion Beach Market said she is moving forward with the market event and has been in weekly contact with Craig Ward of the Erie County Health Department. He is making sure she is following the Ohio Health Department guidelines for outdoor retail, so she wanted to reassure the board she is being diligent about this.

Secondly, she conveyed that in the spring she was granted non-profit status (501C3) and her reason for doing this is to partner with other non-profits. One, is a grassroots environmental non-profit called 'Alliance for the Great Lakes' and she would like to partner with them to do a private beach cleanup at Sherod, not big logs or driftwood, but plastics and small items. She asked the board for their approval. The board gave their approval. A. Naugle said it is a way for them to keep track of plastics on their beaches.

She said if by chance the Vermilion Beach Market event is cancelled by the Governor, can she have her park fee redirected to next year. B. Warden and T. Parker said it would make sense as they didn't have a policy on this during these circumstances, but it was noted. B. Warden asked if she preferred the fee to be refunded or rolled over. A. Naugle said it didn't matter to her. She said she promised her vendors a 100 percent refund if this event was cancelled, but she's perfectly fine with the rollover to next year. T. Parker said they will take this under advisement and let her know.

Mayor Forthofer said if anyone has questions on how this event fits into the general gatherings on public property, they can ask him. He said he spoke with Anne and she is anticipating attendance of anywhere from 1,000 to 1,500, which is in the outer range of what he thinks is acceptable. They want to have some events in Vermilion this summer, but they cannot tolerate 10,000 people, but a rough limit is around 1,000, which would include Third Thursday and several other things that are manageable. This is his way of dealing with things based on the Erie County Health Department. A. Naugle indicated that Craig Ward had said that he was comfortable with this as it's located in an expansive lakeside park, but he simply recommended that she space her vendors as much as possible. He felt there was great airflow and they were not in a congested area and they were not a fair or festival by doing up close face painting or rides. They are strictly retail, so he felt comfortable moving forward. B. Holmes said he received comments on the fact that if they are going to cancel one event, then

how do they allow these other events to go on. He said he appreciates the Mayor explaining this and advising they are not talking 10,000 to 30,000 people. Mayor Forthofer said he talks to the health department sometimes three times a day and they are projecting a spike now that things are opening, so they must be particularly diligent. He said Vermilion and Erie County have a very low incident of COVID-19, but every other community has a higher incident. Therefore, if they have people come in and they're injecting themselves with the potential contamination to the community, this is why he wants to keep it at a 1,000. He said protests are a different exercise of the First Amendment of the Constitution, and they have an exception. It's really difficult to restrain Freedom of Speech, so this is why they can protest. However, as far as commercial opportunities he is capping it at around 1,000. B. Holmes said he personally would like to continue moving forward with opening things back up and getting their kids back in school in the fall.

A. Naugle said the 1,000 people she is expecting is over a two-day period and not at any one time. At any one time they probably have between 300 to 500 people in a wide-open area with lots of airflow.

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS:

Tony Valerius, Service Director mentioned the Lighthouse Project is going on and they started sandblasting the structure yesterday and they will be priming it with industrial primer, and then they will be painting it. He said that Sherwin Williams will be donating 20 gallons of paint for the project and it should be completed by the end of the week.

He said that John Landoll approached Bill Warden about possibly pairing up with him. He is having revetment work done by Mark Haynes, so they asked him to give the city a quote to do a section of the city's portion at Showse Park and the city received a quote for \$35,450, which would include revetment work from the western border of Showse Park to the pier, and then beyond another 40 feet. This meets recommendations of the Army Corp of Engineers who met with Marc Weisenberger a year ago this spring. He said the price isn't bad and the equipment will already be on site. This protects the park and the future of the park from erosion. T. Parker said they will address this under new business.

M. Weisenberger reported that outdoor playgrounds are now open in the parks. They took down all the signs and tape, but he noticed at the Sailorway playground that it's still taped off at this point. He said they are recommending that when people use the parks, they take hand sanitizer with them.

He said they talked about the Sherod Park Conceptual Plans at last month's meeting and in talking with Larry it was conveyed that he was looking for aerial photos they could utilize and have access to electronic mapping through Erie County Conservation Soil and Water. He said the Conservation office is going to be able to share this with Larry to help draw plans for the park, which will give them some very nice detail. He is expecting the first draft of the plan sometime this week of which he will pass along to the Parks Board.

He reported the gazebo project is 90 percent completed. The painter and the roofer are working together on this project and if everything goes well, the painting and the roof will be completed by the July 4 weekend.

He said at East Exchange Park the ramp that runs along the east side of the park used to be a railroad tie retaining wall, which has now been transformed into sandstone, which looks nice. They are going to be doing a landing area at the bottom of the ramp in sandstone with landscaping on each side to eliminate using mowers next to the sandstone.

B. Holmes said he has a scout group that would like to participate in moving the mulch at Sherod Park. He will get with Troop 447 to coordinate getting this spread.

Budget/Finance Subcommittee Report:

B. Scholtz said he will be getting together with Marc Weisenberger and he will have something to present next month.

Erosion:

B. Warden said that he along with Marc, Homer Taft, John, and Sandy Landoll met to discuss the erosion problem. They surveyed the site and agreed there was a problem. He said Marc was offered the opportunity to get in touch with Mark Haynes, which he did. He said Homer brought up good points worth mentioning on the fact that any work that is done there should include restoration of any landscaping that may be altered or damaged because of the heavy equipment. He wasn't sure if this was included in the quote from Mark Haynes, but he thinks it should be considered. Also, he asked if the blocks down there would be utilized or removed or used further down the beach for future use. It seems like the price quoted is reasonable if they can do what they described.

Main Street Beach Revitalization Project: No report.

Recreation and School Relations:

J. Keck said they just need to make sure they get the fields ready for the summer league teams. T. Parker asked if employees were laid off. J. Keck said they have been back for the last two months taking care of the grounds and they are doing the best they can being short staffed.

Sherod Playground: No report.

Vermilion Community Pool:

D. Brudney conveyed the pool subcommittee met earlier to discuss the current condition of the pool and what needed to be done for the summer to keep it from becoming unsanitary. Basically, Pool Tech had advised Bob Cunicella that if the city did nothing this summer and they had to come next spring to do something with the water, then it would cost probably

\$2,500 initially to get the water in shape. The better plan is to have somebody come every other month from Pool Tech to treat the water this summer from keep it from turning black, and this would cost roughly about \$400 an application. They would probably treat it about three times, so it would cost around \$1,200 this summer, which would prevent them from spending \$2,500 next spring.

He said they also talked about the roof of the building at the pool as it needs repaired due to a bad leak which is over the heater. They said the \$2,500 estimate to get the roof done is probably the best way to do this rather than patching it. T. Valerius agreed they should repair the entire roof rather than a small patch, depending on the price. He thought \$2,500 is worth it if they keep the pool there. He said they will get a price to repair the entire roof and he will bring it back before the board for approval.

D. Brudney said they got prices what it would cost to replace the pool deck and hook up the heater, but the other problem is that they have a leak and this is water that has to be treated, so it could be a fair expense. He asked Marc if he obtained three bids on finding the leak. M. Weisenberger said he does have companies that can do this, and he can get pricing on what they would charge. T. Parker said one comment that Mike Rini had is that to really find out where the leak is you need to be circulating water and the pool needs to be operating. He said this might be worth looking into.

D. Brudney said these are the three areas they need to spend money on this summer to keep it from deteriorating any more. The leak check, pool building roof, and the chemicals to keep the water in decent shape until they can come up with a long-term plan.

He said the subcommittee also discussed a program that is run by Bowling Green State University. He said M. Weisenberger has been in contact with Dr. Shannon Orr and they are looking at a master's Intern Program and those folks participating in the broader spectrum of figuring out what the community needs. M. Weisenberger said the public administration from B.G.S.U offers an internship and Dr. Shannon Orr is a big part of it as well as she offers her expertise in several areas; one being community surveys. He thinks they need to find out a little more from the community as to their thoughts and input. He said most master plans emphasize community input, so he thinks they can gain some expertise from this program and be able to do it economically. They would not only look at the pool, but they would be looking at the entire parks system and the recreation programming as well.

D. Brudney explained this is a full internship program and Dr. Orr would be heavily involved. The cost of the internship program is roughly about \$15 per hour and the minimum number of hours they would require for an intern is 100 hours. The pool subcommittee agreed that if they did 200 hours then not only would they be able to address the pool, but they can address the parks in general as to what the community wants with their parks. They can tilt this

internship program for whatever needs they have. M. Weisenberger said Dr. Orr said she would get with them to discuss the goals of what the city wants, and she would offer her services in doing public forums for the community to gather input through surveys. Also, they would determine their strengths and weaknesses and once they determine this with a facility, location, or program they can have a discussion setting the direction moving forward. He said they originally were looking at a summer internship but now they are looking at a fall internship which would work well for Dr. Orr's program. D. Brudney said the interns have parks and recreation experience. M. Weisenberger confirmed these are master courses and some of these people are already in the professional business world and some are in Parks and Recreation, so Dr. Orr thinks she can provide the city with a good intern. D. Brudney said they already did a program for the City of Norwalk and they are working with Toledo and Bowling Green, Ohio, so they seem to be well-versed in what they're doing. He said the pool committee agreed this would be a good idea. He said they would be looking at a \$3,000 investment, which they think is inexpensive with the information they can provide through surveys, demographics, etc. He noted that M. Weisenberger has received information on splash pads and they are still trying to contact the school system to see if they want to participate, but it may be difficult as funding for the schools from the State of Ohio has been cut, so they're not sure what their participation would be. They need to figure out if they're going to keep the pool or not keep it, fix it, add to it, use property on the school system and put a feature there. They will continue looking into this. M. Weisenberger said one thing they can include in the scope with Bowling Green is to look at not only the capital cost of whatever direction they determine, but they could include operational costs. Also, he said in an email Dennis sent out to the board there was a job description for the intern, which Dr. Orr would need to advertise to her students in filling the position, so he asked the board if there were things that need to be added.

Financial Report:

T. Parker said they received the month end reports for May and the capital levy fund has an unencumbered balance of \$147,000 and the recreation fund has \$1,738, and the operating levy has \$233,000.

Old & New Business:

B. Warden MOVED, D. Brudney seconded to approve the expenditure of \$326.00 from the capital fund to reimburse Hot Stove for half the cost of a new infield drag. Vote 5 YEAS.
MOTION CARRIED.

Erosion Mitigation at Showse Park – T. Parker said they received a quote for \$35,450 and it does say restore the slopes, but he didn't feel this addressed the question about landscaping. M. Weisenberger said after meeting with Homer and Bill he apologized that he did not get back with them on the quote beforehand as the quote just came in this morning. However, he appreciates their time in meeting with them last week. H. Taft said no apology was necessary

but did note for the record that the landowners did discuss their willingness to contribute \$8,000 for doing something on the city land and he wasn't sure this was included in the \$35,450. He asked if their contribution was in addition to this. M. Weisenberger said it was not part of this number, so this could help. T. Parker said his understanding is that the \$8,000 is what it will cost to just cover the corner of this property. B. Warden said it would be that corner and up to the pier and past the pier. H. Taft said the so-called corner is on city property. M. Weisenberger said they would need to clarify with J. Landoll on what they meant. B. Warden asked if they were going to use those blocks or will they stay down there for future use. M. Weisenberger said those would not be used at this time. They would probably reuse them at the service center to create more bins for storage of materials. B. Scholtz said they haven't purchased those yet. H. Taft said if they kept the blocks down there they aren't something they could use along the shore that well and the only place they would probably fit in is to place them immediately behind the pier to wedge in the eroded area and create a pathway across. It would not be good for erosion unless you were building a significant retaining wall. B. Scholtz said this was not what they were intended for – it was to make repairs for the mistakes that Mark Haynes had made the first time when he poured the wall for the ramps. T. Parker said the timetable mentioned was the end of July or the first part of August when they could get to this work, so he asked the board if they wanted to approve a not to exceed number and get the details worked out. B. Scholtz said absolutely not as they need to get at least one more quote. He said that Mark Haynes stuck them bad during the first phase of this project and he's very much against using him, so they need to at least get one more quote. B. Warden said it would have to be under a similar situation in covering the same distance and repairing it in a similar way. B. Scholtz said it needs to be more well-defined if they're going to do this. B. Warden asked Marc if he could touch base with another company. M. Weisenberger said he can get another quote and will go by the same 190' feet, etc. T. Parker asked him to clarify that anything they damage they would repair within the quote. M. Weisenberger said availability may not be as soon as what they were given, but he will get another quote. T. Parker referred this issue to 'Old Business' at next month.

Internship from Bowling Green

D. Brudney MOVED, J. Keck seconded to approve an expenditure not to exceed \$3,000 for 200 hours of fall internship through Bowling Green State University. Vote 5 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED**.

J. Keck MOVED; B. Warden seconded to approve an expenditure not to exceed \$1,200 from the operating levy to continue treating the water at the Community Pool this summer. Vote 5 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED**.

Skate Spot:

D. Brudney said in the spring of 2018 they put up a canopy at the Skate Spot to provide shade for the kids, but because it's a 10' high canopy and depending on the time of the year, and when the sun goes from east to west, it can filter through the back and underneath the canopy and the stands are in the sun. The kids keep moving the stands around to try to keep it in the shade. He contacted Shade Systems and found out they provide a shade block and he

sent the board members a potential sales order which includes a shade on the back of the canopy. It would be approximately 6'H x 16'W and the distance between the poles on the canopy is 17' and they need 6" on each side. The only thing they didn't do when they had the canopy made is weld hooks on there to hook the shade on. It uses a stainless-steel cable and turn buckle system inside the fabric to hold the shade on. It would cost \$1,600 with \$212 shipping, so the total would be \$1,812. He said the kids move the stands forward or backward and this would take care of this problem. B. Warden asked if there has been any vandalism to the existing canopy and M. Weisenberger said not at all. B. Scholtz asked if the shade can be taken down in the fall with the canopy and D. Brudney replied yes. He said they also would need to purchase four clamps that go around the posts and he estimated about \$50 per clamp, so they would need another \$200.

B. Scholtz MOVED, B. Warden seconded to approve an expenditure from the capital fund not to exceed \$2,050 for the shade system and clamps to be used on the canopy at the Skate Spot. Vote 5 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED**.

T. Parker said a suggestion was made to start the future meeting times at 6:00 p.m. and asked the board if it presented a problem. After consideration, the meetings will be changed to 6:00 p.m., unless otherwise noted.

ADJOURNMENT:

B. Scholtz MOVED, J. Keck seconded to adjourn the meeting. Vote 5 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED**.

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday – July 21, 2020 @ **6:00 pm** at Vermilion Municipal Complex, 687 Decatur Street

*~Gwen Fisher, Certified Municipal Clerk
Vermilion City Council/Boards and Commissions*