

## VERMILION PARKS & RECREATION BOARD

Minutes of April 20, 2021 - 6:00pm

Roll Call: Terry Parker (Chairman), Dennis Brudney (Vice Chairman), William Warden, Brad Scholtz, Liz Elden, Kate Repola. Absent: Jeff Keck

*Also, Present:* Marc Weisenberger, PARKS OPERATION DIRECTOR; Tony Valerius, SERVICE DIRECTOR

*Guests:* Mayor Forthofer

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Terry Parker called the meeting of April 20, 2021 to order.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**K. Repola MOVED**, B. Scholtz seconded to approve the meeting minutes of March 16, 2021. Vote 6 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED**.

### **SERVICE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

T. Valerius updated the board on the demolition of the Inland Seas Maritime Museum and Wakefield House. The demolition will be this Thursday and they are expected to have to down in one day. By the end of the week, they will remove the Pilot House from its foundation and will set it off to the side. This auction will be advertised the first two weeks of May and then a bid opening will follow in mid-May, and it will be removed from city property by May 28, which is the end date of the demolition as well.

### **PARK'S SUPERVISOR REPORT:**

M. Weisenberger reported on Saturday, April 24 the track team will be doing a beach cleanup at Sherod Park from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. On April 27, the high school tennis team will meet at the community pool to do a two-hour cleanup from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

He updated the board on park maintenance equipment upgrades. They will continue the annual trade of the John Deere Tractor at \$1,500 per year. The equipment previously used to clean the beaches has been replaced with a new sand groomer tractor attachment. It does not collect a lot of sand and it is doing a nice job sifting out the driftwood, rocks, etc. They will use this equipment at the beach once or twice a week during the summer. He provided before and after pictures of the landscaping trailer as structural issues were repaired over the winter. They replaced tires, installed new lights/wiring, and a new toolbox, which was fabricated by the mechanic in the Streets Department. He said last year the Erie Metro Parks cleared the trees at Sherod Park and they had a 17' Bat Wing Mower Deck they have not used

for years as they replaced theirs with a front mount model. Therefore, they donated this equipment to the city, and they were able to use it for the first time and mowed almost all Sherod Park in a day's time, so this will be a valuable piece of equipment for their department. He said they also traded in their 2017 Hustler 72" for a new 2021 model, so they are in good shape with their mowing equipment.

He provided the board with a proposed fee schedule for the 2021 summer season at the Vermilion Community Pool. He noted the Mayor had reviewed the fees. He said they did a comparison of memberships around the area and in their survey, it was mentioned the pool fees were high, which they found was correct after doing a comparison. Therefore, the proposed fees for 2021 are as follows:

### **Plan A – No or Limited Covid–19 Protocols/Restrictions**

#### **Vermilion City Residents**

Individual Season Membership - \$75

Family Season Membership - \$150

(Family of four, \$25 for each additional family member)

#### **Non-Vermilion City Residents**

Individual Season Membership - \$90

Family Season Membership \$175

(Family of four, \$25 for each additional family member)

#### **Daily Admissions**

Ages 2 and Under – Free

Ages 3 to 17 - \$4

Ages 18 to 64 - \$5

Age 65 and up - \$2

**Punch Card** – 10 Visits for \$35

### **Plan B – Covid-19 Protocols/Restrictions Remain in Effect**

No Season Memberships Offered – Daily Admissions and Punch Cards Only.

#### **Pool Party/Rental Rate**

Two Hour Rental - \$150

### **Proposed Opening and Closing Dates for 2021**

Opening Day – Saturday, May 29, 2021

Closing Day – Sunday, August 22, 2021

D. Brudney explained the punch card for 10 visits is \$35 and if someone wants to bring a family member or friend that does not have a family membership, then they can use the punch cards. You can purchase the punch cards and memberships online on the city website, but daily admissions will need to be paid at the pool.

M. Weisenberger reported they had an interactive ball/wall visit in Vermilion and when they had smaller groups, they were able to get engaged. He said it would be a large investment if they went with it, but it is a very pricey piece of equipment and it would take several groups working together to be able to do it. He is working on getting feedback from the schools.

#### Budget/Finance Subcommittee Report:

L. Elden said she touched base with the finance director and as of right now they do not have anything unusual on the expense side, but it was mentioned the real estate collections have been solid. T. Parker said the board received the closing financials today from March and they have \$173,000 unencumbered in the Capital Fund and \$357,000 in the Operating Fund.

#### Community Relations/Publicity:

K. Repola deferred her comments to the Pool Subcommittee report.

#### Erosion:

B. Warden said when he was at Sailorway the other day with Marc he mentioned there apparently will be some funding for erosion. M. Weisenberger asked if the Western Reserve Land Conservancy is moving forward with the Coastal Management grant. B. Scholtz said they were planning to apply for this. B. Warden said this is good news as financing has always been a problem, but if they are going to pursue it with their contacts this is great. He understands the priority is to put it at Main Street. B. Scholtz said if it is through Western Reserve then this is correct. B. Warden said this would be a good test case as far as the cost and the installation difficulty and so forth.

#### Main Street Beach Revitalization Project:

B. Scholtz reiterated that the demo company will be done and out of there by Memorial Day. The beach will be open and the whole area should be open to the community. They are on track for the acquisition of the Stuchal home, which is the house closest to the pump house. They did not get one of the grants, but they are back to fundraising. He said 12 months from now, they should be starting construction on the new restroom. T. Valerius said hopefully

they will start the restroom at the very end of this year or the beginning of next year. B. Scholtz said hopefully by next summer they will have the restroom operational. He said they met with the architect Poulos and Schmid Design Group and now they will put together a group of residents to represent the public and community, so they can give feedback to the architect so they can start putting together a plan. Once they receive some drafts, they will bring them to the Parks Board for their review.

Recreation and School Relations: No report.

Sherod Playground: No report.

Vermilion Community Pool:

D. Brudney reported on the overall update on the Vermilion Community Pool, which was submitted in a report that is on file in the clerk's office. He said most of the items listed in the report have been completed and they are waiting to install the new water heater and a few other things. They just need to get the pool up and operating and to do this they need to replace a pipe that was taken out when they did a pressure test. He said Pool Tech will come in and do the start up of the pool. They want to make sure the pool heater is heating and if it will be leaking water or not. If it does not leak and the pool heats, then they are in good shape. They will be removing some bad concrete around the pool deck and ADT will remove the concrete and will pour the new concrete. He said the Erie County Health Department did not see the pool project being an issue. He said the new light pole will be an issue and they will need to have an engineering study done, so at this point, they will keep the light pole closest to the pump house, and Garth will put new light fixtures on the top that will be brighter than what is there now. They were looking at purchasing portable pool steps that have weight bags and two rails. It is approximately 46" wide and it is 42 ½" high. The gentleman at the state did not know if this would be a problem or not, so they will send him pictures along with a description. If it is an issue, then they will not proceed, but if it is not, then they will ask for approval to purchase the steps. If they do a start up and everything runs well, then they will announce the open positions at the pool. The projected staffing levels and costs were attached to the report. He said there are people interested in the lifeguard positions and as soon as the positions are announced, they should not have trouble getting people hired.

D. Brudney said they identified in the report the volunteers and/or donations to date. They also identified the expenses to date which total \$7,100.25. If they do not get the steps approved, then they can subtract \$446.25 from the total. He said at the last count they have received \$3,995 in pool donations. He said they would like a formal vote on the proposed pool fees for the season. He said the last page in the report identifies the positions and pay rate for

a pool manager, assistant pool manager, and lifeguards. He said in 2018 they paid \$8.55 for lifeguards and they are proposing \$9.50 per hour this season as many other places is paying \$10.00 per hour. He said the season will consist of 12 weeks and hours per week is based on swim hours. Therefore, they are projecting \$1,339.50 per week for the lifeguards – total of \$16,074 for the season; the assistant pool manager will have 28 hours a week at \$11.00 per hour, and the pool manager will have 40 hours a week at \$13.00 per hour. The subtotal is \$26,010 and with the 17% for payroll/benefits the total ends up being \$30,712.50. In 2019, the total was a little over \$27,000, so they are only increasing around \$3,000, which is two years later. They will end up with a pool manager and assistant manager with set hours. This does not include any swim classes or parties where they will have income. They are expecting to save on chlorine because of the improvements they want to make.

M. Weisenberger said there is a Pool Chemical Controller System that helps to automatically feed the chlorine into the pool rather than doing it manually. The system including installation/training through OP Aquatics would cost \$2,995.00. They could save as much as 35% between the Chemtrol and repairing the leak, and not continually treating and heating fresh water all the time. D. Brudney said that Amherst has a lot larger pool than Vermilion and they only spent \$2,500 - \$3,000 for chlorine and Vermilion spent over \$13,000, so obviously the extra water that was being treated cost them a lot of money. He said this Chemtrol system can be transferred if they decide in the future to do something different with the pool. This money would come from the capital levy.

D. Brudney noted that Amy Hendricks had mentioned in 2020 there was a grant (\$1,500 - \$2,000) that came from NOPEC that could be used for some free service to the community, so if the board sent her a couple paragraphs on what they planned on doing free for the community at the pool such as a special night, then she would look for the new grant for 2021. T. Parker said two years ago, they sat down with Main Street as they were going to do a 'Last Splash' which was a free pool event and outdoor movie screen to celebrate the end of the year. Obviously, they were not able to do this, so they may look at doing something like this at the end of this summer.

D. Brudney said they have been announcing at the school the lifeguard and other job openings that will be available at the pool and there are teachers who have shown interest in the pool manager job. They will wait to make sure the pool is operational before they start announcing jobs.

He said with regards to fundraising, K. Repola has talked with the Rotary Club. K. Repola said in accordance with her position on the pool subcommittee, they had spoke about the need for fundraising. She introduced John Hill of the Rotary Club, who came to them with a possible

collaboration to raise funds for the pool. John Hill asked questions to see who the board knew in the city who would be committed in making this happen. He said Rotary is desirous for this to happen. He has been involved in Rotary for years and they are committed to working in collaboration and they want to emphasize they will be the facilitator of raising the funds. K. Repola said they are looking to raise upwards of \$30,000 and they need to sell 400 tickets at \$100 each. John Hill said they have four weeks to do this, and they need to be clear of their goals and expectations. He said Rotary has been involved in the swim program and they will do this again. He said everyone has family and friends, so they have a market to sell these tickets. He believes everyone is committed in making this happen in four weeks as the Reverse Raffle is on May 14. A draft flyer of the Big Splash Reverse Raffle was provided to the board and they will make some additional changes to it. They will put the flyer in the Photojournal and will include it on the city's website and Facebook page. If they do not meet their goal, he is convinced the pool will still open. K. Repola said they thought about doing another in-person fundraiser, but with Prom to Dawn and the Police Department Steak Fry coming up, they thought this Reverse Raffle on Zoom for one hour would be a good option. She said the Rotary Club already owns the software to do this raffle via Zoom. The top prize is \$5,000 cash including door prizes and pool membership giveaways. D. Brudney said the girls' softball team at Vermilion High School had a reverse raffle and they sold 300 tickets with no problem, so he feels this is a good idea. K. Repola said they would like to get the raffle in the Photojournal as many times as they can from now until May 12 as this will be the cutoff for selling tickets, so the Rotary Club has time to organize the raffle. D. Brudney said there is a category for advertising in the budget, so they will need to transfer this amount into that fund once they know how much they need to cover the advertising. T. Parker said the operating budget is an appropriation for the year, so they can move money around as needed.

L. Elden said if somebody cannot swing the \$100 for a reverse raffle ticket but wants to donate, then there is a fund in the city they can donate directly to.

B. Scholtz asked how different the pool hours will be this year from the past. D. Brudney said they are close to what they were. He explained they are looking at finding someone to certify the lifeguards and they will be flexible to work around school and athletics. T. Parker said the pool subcommittee has been doing an incredible job. Mayor Forthofer agreed and thanked the volunteers as well.

### **OLD & NEW BUSINESS:**

**B. Warden MOVED;** L. Elden seconded to approve the pool rates as submitted. Vote 6 YEAS.  
**MOTION CARRIED.**

**K. Repola MOVED**, B. Scholtz seconded to approve a not to exceed of \$2995.00 from the capital levy for a Chemtrol system. Vote 6 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED**.

**L. Elden MOVED**, B. Warden seconded to recommend to City Council to proceed with establishing the rates for the pool manager, assistant pool manager, and the lifeguards. G. Fisher noted she would prepare legislation for the May 3 meeting as this needs to be adopted by emergency so they can hire prior to the season beginning. Vote 6 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED**.

B. Warden asked for an update on moving the parks department to the old fire station. T. Valerius said they should be in by the end of the month.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**B. Warden MOVED**, B. Scholtz seconded to adjourn the meeting. Vote 6 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED**.

**NEXT MEETING:**

Tuesday – May 18, 2021 @ **6:00 pm**  
at the Vermilion Municipal Complex, 687 Decatur Street, Vermilion, Ohio

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