

VERMILION PARKS & RECREATION BOARD

Minutes of May 18, 2021 - 6:00pm

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

Also, Present: Marc Weisenberger, PARKS OPERATION DIRECTOR; Tony Valerius, SERVICE DIRECTOR; Brian Homes, COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

Guests: Mayor Forthofer

Terry Parker called the meeting of May 18, 2021 to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

B. Warden MOVED, K. Repola seconded to approve the meeting minutes of April 20, 2021. Vote 5 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Vermilion Community Pool:

Suzanne Zadell and John Hill of the Vermilion Rotary Club said they were glad to help support the pool fundraiser and they did not benefit one penny from this. S. Zadell mentioned that Marc Weisenberger donated his winnings back to the pool. They presented a check in the amount of \$11,268.90 to the Mayor. John Hill said the Rotary Club will be donating \$1,000 for 'Learn to Swim' in June and July.

CITY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:

B. Holmes thanked the Rotary, D. Brudney, K. Repola, the Parks Board and the community for a wonderful fundraiser. He said City Council is very pleased with this board and what they are doing to get the pool open. He said they are pleased as well on what is going down at the museum and how it is coming along.

RECREATION DIRECTOR:

C. Kuhns said they finished up their tackle football program that was supposed to be in the fall but got moved to spring. He said they had two teams in their tackle division and one of the teams won the championship and the other came in third place. They had a flag football team that participated as well. He said baseball started a couple weeks ago and he has around 200 participants this year. They are looking to start games the week of May 24 for some of the leagues. Other leagues will begin June 2. He said he received great sponsorship support from the businesses, and they appreciate them supporting the recreation program.

SERVICE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

T. Valerius said the city held the bid opening last Friday for the Pilot House auction and they received one bid which was under the minimum requirement of the price, so they could not accept it. Therefore, they will put it back out for auction and they are suspending the minimum bid. They will advertise this for two weeks and they will be opening bids on June 4.

He said they hired summer help for the parks department for five days a week. This individual worked last year for the parks department.

T. Parker said they are finishing the grading by the Pilot House and asked if this will get torn up if somebody moves the Pilot House. T. Valerius said they will deal with this when the time comes, but he thinks they will be able to stay off the area where the museum was by going around the western side. He said they will need to use a crane to pick it up.

PARK'S SUPERVISOR REPORT:

M. Weisenberger reported on Saturday, April 24 the track team (50 kids) performed a beach cleanup at Sherod Park. They still need to get the chipper at the park to clean it all up, but they cleared the stream and the beach. He said they did a great job, and it was well organized by the coaches. He said they had four adult volunteers help as well. On April 27, the high school tennis team cleaned up the community pool by painting the barn, power washing the deck furniture, and cleaned the bathrooms. He thanked the schools for doing this work for them.

He said they applied for the Erie Metro Parks Grant and their application was approved for \$6,500, which will go towards upgrading the electric outlets and so forth at Exchange Park. They found that a lot of the wiring was not in conduit, so they will start from scratch. He said this is a \$15,000 project and Vermilion in Bloom is going to donate \$2,500. They will check to see if other groups want to get involved. This should be a late summer or fall project as they will work around the different events.

He said Third Thursday is this week and the Shore Thing purchased and is donating three fiberglass umbrellas that will go on the wood observation deck at Main Street Beach, which will be put up on Thursday afternoon prior to Third Thursday.

He said the parks department is slowly moving into the old fire station. He said Vermilion in Bloom has their watering truck stored there.

He reported the John Deere Tractor was delivered last Friday.

B. Warden asked if the electrical upgrade at Exchange Park will include the electrical for the clock. M. Weisenberger said yes, and the thought is to run a dedicated electrical line.

Budget/Finance Subcommittee Report:

T. Parker reported there is \$128,751 unencumbered in the capital levy fund. There is \$332,709 in the operating levy.

Community Relations/Publicity:

K. Repola said she contacted the Photojournal to put in advertisements for lifeguards, a pool manager, and a pool assistant. She stated she received the bill for the advertising. G. Fisher asked her to provide T. Valerius with a copy of the invoice so he could submit a requisition to the finance department. T. Parker said they have advertising in the budget under the operating levy. K. Repola said she is working on a flyer for pool memberships.

Erosion: No report.

Main Street Beach Revitalization Project:

B. Scholtz said the museum is down and they are finishing the grading, so the grass should be planted hopefully next week. The intent is for the public to have access to this area as soon as the grass is growing. As of right now, the next step is to begin the restroom, so a subcommittee has been formed to start the planning. They engaged Poulos and Schmid Design Group to do the design. The committee should be meeting within the next week or two. He said construction of the new restroom is slated for spring of 2022. He said they are still on track for acquisition of the Stuchal property in the fall of 2021.

Recreation and School Relations: No report.

Sherod Playground: No report.

Vermilion Community Pool:

D. Brudney said American Leak Detection tested the pool plumbing for a leak and they found one in a return water line. Therefore, they shut it down and epoxy sealed it. He hopes they now have a leak-free pool. The pool has been running with the heater on and it seems to be working well. Also, they installed a new chlorine distribution system, and it seems to be working well also. He said Marc talked to Jim Pajk about the concrete and he will be pouring the concrete on Friday of this week. He said he called Paul Habermehl to see if he would volunteer to do some painting and he agreed and has done an excellent job with additional volunteers who have been painting the restrooms. They were going to have them paint the

floors with an epoxy, but Paul volunteered to Marc today to talk with someone to see if he is willing to donate maybe \$3,000 to do a nature stone floor in the restrooms. If not, they will continue with the epoxy floor. He said Marc will get some touchless dispensers for the restrooms so they can socially distance. They still need to install the tankless hot water heater to supply the restrooms with hot water. He said Garth Grob has been outstanding helping them at the pool. He has cleaned part of the pool liner and he will finish the cleaning of the liner. He also has patched the roof and other items. He said he contacted 17 potential candidates for pool positions through email and by phone, and Anne Maiden has sent out information to the four pool manager candidates and three lifeguards, and they have received no replies, so they could be in trouble. Currently, they have a lady who is training to be their lifeguard instructor and they are talking to Lifecare to see if they can help with the CPR, AED, and First-Aid Training and they said they would be willing to do this as they are contracted through the city to do the city employees, so they will see if they can help speed up the process when they get their candidates. M. Weisenberger said they will be able to certify their own lifeguards rather than finding classes for all these kids to go to. D. Brudney said there is a shortage of lifeguards everywhere and getting a pool manager on board, so if anybody on the board knows anyone that would be interested to please let them know. He said they originally scheduled to open the pool on May 28, but it may not happen as it may have to go another week. T. Parker said once this person is certified as a trainer, they can continue to train their own people. D. Brudney said if she is willing to train people from other cities and get paid for it this is an option as well. T. Parker told the pool subcommittee they are doing an awesome job.

OPEN TO THE AUDIENCE:

Bart Barna of 836 Gardner Road said he texted his nephew in Cuyahoga Falls who makes \$13.00 per hour as a lifeguard and his daughter is a lifeguard in Port Clinton and makes \$12.00 per hour, and his sister was a lifeguard in Lakeside and was making \$13.00 per hour. He said there are plenty of jobs out there for \$12.00 per hour for a kid and therefore this may be the reason they are not getting people. He thought the board should reevaluate this, especially with being close under the gun. D. Brudney said Cedar Point is paying \$15.00 per hour for their lifeguards. B. Barna said that Wendy's is hiring for \$14.50 and unfortunately this is the new norm, and nobody is going for the minimum wage jobs, and everybody is begging for employees.

B. Warden asked if the Parks Board would need to do something to adjust these pay rates. G. Fisher said the Parks Board would need to make a recommendation to City Council to amend the ordinance adjusting the rates. She said Council does not meet again until June 7, so she may need to ask the President of Council to schedule a special Zoom meeting on this matter.

K. Repola said obviously a pay increase would help and asked if this is the main issue because the pool has not been opened. It is just coming out that they are opening – kids are jamming in as much as they can in school these last few weeks, so she is not sure if the kids are focused on summer jobs yet and is not sure if parents are focused on pushing their kids to get summer jobs yet. It would certainly help. D. Brudney said he talked with four kids that said they already had summer jobs, and two were lifeguards at other pools. He said if they raise the fee for lifeguards, then they will need to raise the rate for the pool manager and the assistant. B. Scholtz said for the amount of labor hours relative to the amount of capital they have put into the pool – this is cheap money to have gone this far to not bump it to \$2.00 or \$3.00 an hour. He thought it was a good idea because they have already spent so much from the capital standpoint that to spend \$2,000 or \$3,000 more in terms of the labor hours. Mayor Forthofer said this could keep them from opening the pool if they do not have lifeguards. B. Holmes questioned if the Relief Act money could be used towards the extra compensation. Mayor Forthofer said this could be perceived as health, so there could be. He would talk with the finance director about this.

T. Parker said if they raise the rate for the lifeguards then they should raise the rates for the pool manager and assistant. The board agreed.

D. Brudney MOVED, B. Warden seconded to recommend to Council to amend the ordinance establishing the compensation for the pool staff as follows: \$15.00 per hour for the Pool Manager, \$13.00 per hour for the Pool Assistant Manager, and \$12.00 per hour for the lifeguards. Discussion: G. Fisher said she would work on scheduling a zoom meeting with City Council as soon as possible and she will prepare the legislation. Roll Call Vote 5 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED**.

OLD & NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Forthofer mentioned that Matt Mars at Chez asked him about parking at the museum for his employees, and he advised Matt that May 28 is when the project is supposed to be done, and they could probably arrange something for his employees to park there so it leaves more available parking on the street, even if it requires another chain deal. B. Warden asked how the chain deal is working. Mayor Forthofer said the area is currently closed off, but when it was still in place it worked well. T. Valerius said it worked well until somebody stole the chain.

C. Kuhns said they need umpires, so if anyone is interested, they should contact the Recreation Department. Additionally, he said the basketball backboard/hoop and pavement at the high school is drawing a lot of kids, so the Parks Board should consider putting in

another one at another park, so they have something to do on a regular basis since this is some of the best money they have ever spent. T. Parker said it is good to see people getting out and going to the parks.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday – June 15, 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*