

## VERMILION PARKS & RECREATION BOARD

Minutes of June 15, 2021 - 6:00pm

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

*Also, Present:* Marc Weisenberger, PARKS OPERATION DIRECTOR

*Guests:* Mayor Forthofer; Jean Habermehl (Pool Manager)

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Terry Parker called the meeting of June 15, 2021, to order.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**B. Warden MOVED**, B. Scholtz seconded to approve the meeting minutes of May 18, 2021. Vote 5 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

### **Correspondence:**

T. Parker reported he received an email from Betsy Wakefield reminding the Parks Board that there is a camera system for Harbor View, but understanding that until they get a design, they are not sure where they will put it.

### **Community Event Group Use Permits:**

*-Vermilion Area Republicans (First Amendment Rally) – July 4 – 1-3pm (Victory Park)*

Glen Boatman submitted a Community Use Permit to use Victory Park on July 4, 2021, from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. He noted they did not plan on using the gazebo.

**B. Scholtz MOVED**, D. Brudney seconded to approve the Community Event Group Use Permit as submitted. Discussion: B. Warden said he was curious if there would be speakers or a program. G. Boatman said they will have speakers who will recite the Declaration of Independence and Bill of Rights of the Constitution, and they will have patriotic music and speakers to talk about the foundations of the country. They are planning to make this available to various people, so it is non-partisan. Vote 5 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

*-Tranquil Lake Yoga (Megan Lake-Smith) – Yoga in the Parks – Various Dates/Times*

T. Parker reported that Megan Lake-Smith submitted her yoga schedule as follows:

Victory Park -

Mondays at 8:30 a.m. from 5/31 – 8/23  
Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. from 6/1 – 8/24 (except June 16)  
Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. from 6/3 – 8/26 (except June 17)  
Fridays at 10:00 a.m. from 6/4 – 8/27 (except June 18)

Showse Park –

Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. (June 12, July 10, and August 14)  
Sundays at 8:30 a.m. (June 27, July 25, and August 29)

He noted she has also made payment in the amount of \$400 and has submitted her insurance documentation. She has also checked with Maria Santoferraro to make sure their schedules do not conflict with each other.

**B. Warden MOVED:** L. Elden seconded to approve the yoga schedule as listed above for Tranquil Lake Yoga (Megan Lake-Smith). Vote 5 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**Vermilion Community Pool:**

T. Parker introduced Jean Habermehl as one of the three pool managers. J. Habermehl said she is a resident of Vermilion and started swimming at a very young age and became a lifeguard at the age of 14. She is very passionate about the swimming pool and married Chris Habermehl who grew up in Vermilion. She said she put her children into the YMCA swimming lessons and they were running Red Cross. Therefore, she helped them develop their program as a volunteer and eventually became their Aquatic Manager and Program Manager, and then she became a Lifeguard Trainer. She said currently she is a Critical Care Nurse and has been for 12 years and is equally passionate about Critical Care as she is about the swimming pool. She said she had been doing a COVID Crisis Contract in Texas as a traveling nurse and came back to Vermilion for the summer. She said her father in-law has been promoting and painting the pool and told her they were looking for a Pool Manager. She said she is passionate because they live in a community that is on the lake and next to a river, with several other ponds and swimming pools, so there is no reason that a child in the City of Vermilion should not know how to swim. For safety reasons if nothing else they should be able to get out of a body of water should they get in. She was grateful that the Rotary has continued to donate money for a Water Safety Course.

She provided the pool schedule/Water Safety Course and Swimming Lessons as follows:

**Pool Hours:** Monday – Friday – Open 12 to 5pm / 7pm – 9pm  
Saturday/Sunday – Open 12 to 6pm  
11am to 11:45am and 5pm to 5:45pm – Adult Swim

**Rotary Water Safety:** Monday – Friday (June 21-25) – 10am / 6pm

(She has been in contact w/Coast Guard to try to have somebody present, if they are not available, she will approach somebody within the Police Department or Harbor Patrol to see if anyone would be willing to come in uniform)

**Swim Lessons:** June 28 – July 9 – 9am / 10am / 6pm  
July 26 – August 6 – 9am / 10am / 6pm

**Lifeguard Certification:** 7-12 – 7-16

J. Habermehl said the Health Department cleared them and said the city has a beautiful looking pool and everything they are doing is right. They have had 47 resident family memberships sold at this time, four individual memberships, and one non-resident. She expects they will continue to have people sign up.

She noted the students will return back to school on August 23 and they have the opportunity to do three two-week sessions of swimming lessons, and the third one would be in August, which will be done by need. She said they will have progressive swimming lessons and she will have cards made up for the level of children – it will not be by age, but by level. She said children that are three and four years old will be instructor led and the parents will be in the water with their children. Children that are five and older will be in progressive swimming lessons. She explained the junior lifesaving class. She said they would like to hold another week of lifeguarding training. She said they have a great group of new kids that are lifeguarding, so they have a soft opening this week from 12-5pm.

B. Scholtz asked if the hours would be posted on the fence or social media. J. Habermehl said as far as Facebook she was of the understanding there was a community pool website, and she does not want the opportunity for anyone to post anything negative about their pool. She would like it posted on the city FB site. She asked if there was a way to start a new community pool website and stop the admin of the old one. B. Scholtz asked if the city was on top of the water loss and the chemicals; is it better? J. Habermehl explained the PH has been normal and they are testing the water every four hours. Mayor Forthofer said they would have to ask the admin of the community pool website if he would close down his site. He said they can post the hours on the city webpage.

J. Habermehl said they would like to have two steps going into the southwest corner of the pool as many people enjoy water activities, but they need a way to get in and out of the pool, so this is on her wish list.

M. Weisenberger thanked Jean, Kate, Molly, and Dennis for all their work in recruiting lifeguards. J. Habermehl said their goal is to have 12 lifeguards and possibly three or five more when school time approaches. She said she had three people who were interested in renting the pool for private parties. M. Weisenberger said they have not established a rental rate, so

the board would need to do this. J. Habermehl said the rental rate they had seen before was \$150.00 for a couple hours, but they have limited time for rentals, and she is telling people they are looking at a 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. rental time for Saturday's and Sunday's. She would like to increase the rental rate for the three hours, which would include two lifeguards and a manager to open and close. L. Elden said she contacted the finance director and as far as the cost, one manager and two guard gets them to \$50.00 an hour in costs. J. Habermehl suggested \$300/\$350 as the rental rate. She suggested this rate would be for up to 25 people, and possibly an additional cost for greater than 25 because they may need additional lifeguards, and they are using more chemicals and paper products.

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

M. Weisenberger asked the board if they would consider the purchase of a Wave 100 Robotic Pool Cleaner in the amount of \$3,100. It cleans when you are not at the pool, and it saves on labor. J. Habermehl said this system is phenomenal and it can climb up the walls at the pool. She said Garth Grob has been taking his scuba mask and cleaning the bottom and sides of the pool by hand. D. Brudney said the pool is located near a lot of oak trees and you get a lot of things falling into the pool. It was noted they do have a cover for the pool, which has been pressure washed and rolled up.

M. Weisenberger said they received \$9,000 between two grants to do the electrical upgrades in Exchange Park and the total project cost was \$15,000. They will work around the downtown events to get this project started. He asked the board to consider covering the balance of the project by approving \$6,000 from the park capital fund.

Mayor Forthofer reported on behalf of the Service Director by mentioning the Canopus will be leaving Vermilion on Wednesday around 8:00 a.m. He said it requires a police escort and coordination with ODOT. M. Weisenberger corrected the mayor by saying it is not leaving until Thursday morning.

Mayor Forthofer asked if Judge Wakefield was referring to the security cameras or the beach camera in her email. T. Parker said it was the security cameras. Mayor Forthofer said they will be running cable to the pump house and eventually to the new restroom, but they are not doing this until the Canopus leaves Vermilion.

### **Pool Subcommittee Report:**

D. Brudney said that Jean Habermehl is one of the pool managers as they hired four. Three are active doing different segments of managing the pool and the other is the lifeguard instructor. She certified five lifeguards for their opening, and she is doing five or six more this coming Friday. They ended up getting 12 lifeguard candidates to pay the money to get trained and they already had one lifeguard that was certified. He said the restrooms got painted and

epoxy paint was put on the floor, and they look really nice. They addressed carpenter bees and addressed a big tree by having Ohio Edison remove it. It was noted that Jerry Western from the Tree Commission set this up for them, which was nice of him to make all the arrangements. D. Brudney said they have running hot water in both restrooms and the landscaping was spruced up as well. He said Jean did a fantastic job with prizes and decorations on opening day. J. Habermehl explained some lifeguard safeguard techniques they are doing to make sure the lifeguards are doing a continual scan of the pool. She addressed the phone system as they are not able to dial 911 without going to the general dispatch center. The general dispatch does not recognize the pool's phone number or address. D. Brudney said he contacted Tony Valerius about this issue, and he said he would have Anne Maiden contact the IT department to get this resolved.

J. Habermehl said the managers are not certain who they should contact during an emergency situation. She stated that Anne Maiden told her they could contact the police department because she did not have any city cell numbers, only office numbers. M. Weisenberger said she could probably check with Garth Grob as he is aware of the maintenance of the pool. T. Parker asked Jean to provide the weekend sign in sheets to Amy Hendricks as there is a NOPEC \$2,000 community grant and they can appropriate funds toward offsetting the costs of being open those two days. J. Habermehl said she would provide them. D. Brudney said Amy Hendricks mentioned they need to come up with a budget for things they may need to buy at the pool. They ran out of umbrellas to go above the lifeguards. T. Parker said this money would need to come out of the operating levy and their finance subcommittee will need to discuss this. J. Habermehl said they need backboard straps most importantly because they are broken and dry rotted. They are currently borrowing a backboard from Lifecare, but they want it back. She said the umbrellas are \$50 each and the straps should not be more than \$50. M. Weisenberger said they used to have a miscellaneous line item for pool supplies. He will look this number up for the finance subcommittee. J. Habermehl said the vending machines were removed from the pool and they have no type of concession. She and her father-in-law donated water as kids come without food or drinks and people are asking for concessions. She said if they have concessions then they would need a license unless they were giving the food away. She said they could possibly use the school's license and donate the money from the concessions to the school's swim team, so technically the city is not profiting from the concessions. They could sell pre-packaged items and not have to worry about cooking and stainless-steel counter tops. She said she can investigate this further. Mayor Forthofer said he was inclined to say, "Just keep it simple this year". If they want to give out water that is one thing. The trade of licenses from the school is something he did not want to get into. J. Habermehl said the city would not accept the profit, so they could possibly utilize it. She said some kids are coming without parents and are at the pool all day and they would like to have something to keep them hydrated. Mayor Forthofer said to allow him to look into this.

D. Brudney said the total amount of donations to the pool is \$17,730.

### Budget/Finance Subcommittee Report:

L. Elden spoke on the donations to the pool and with current revenue, she would imagine they would double the family memberships, which would bring them closer to breaking even, especially with the chemical costs being down.

T. Parker said the Canopus money went into the fund that carried the excess donations from the museum purchase because it was attached to the museum, and this money can be used towards any aspect of the project. The city received \$4,600 for the Canopus and the fund has \$5,681.75 in it. He said after fees the borrowing amount for the project is \$546,000, which is in an account for the bond fund park improvements. Of the \$546,000, the board has already committed \$320,000 to round out their participation in the Main Street Beach Revitalization Project to bring it up to \$500,000, so there is roughly \$226,000 of this borrowed money that they can use at Showse or Sherod. L. Elden said the demo of the museum came in lower than what was estimated. She said they are working on the design services.

Community Relations/Publicity: No report.

Erosion: No report.

### Main Street Beach Revitalization Project:

B. Scholtz reported they have met a couple times to focus on the restroom. The goal is to have a restroom by next beach season and to get the architectural firm kicked off as soon as possible. They should have something over to them in the next couple of weeks so they can begin the design. The final design will be brought before the Parks Board for final approval. They are on track on closing of the Stuchal home. He said the Erie Metro Parks agreed to help them out to finish the acquisition. They will need to pull in private sources or public fundraising, but everything looks good to close this by Fall.

B. Warden asked what they were doing for restrooms at the beach for this season. B. Scholtz said they have one porta potty provided. Further discussion ensued on the restroom design.

Recreation and School Relations: No report.

Sherod Playground: No report.

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

**B. Warden MOVED;** L. Elden seconded to establish the rental rate for private pool parties at \$300 for no more than 50 people for a three-hour rental period. Vote 5 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**L. Elden MOVED;** B. Warden seconded to purchase the Wave 100 Robotic Vacuum Pool Cleaner in an amount not to exceed \$3,100 (capital fund). Vote 5 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**L. Elden MOVED;** D. Brudney seconded to authorize an amount not to exceed \$6,000 for the balance of the electrical work at Exchange Park (capital fund). Vote 5 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

**NEXT MEETING:**

Tuesday – July 20, 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*