

VERMILION PARKS & RECREATION BOARD

Minutes of August 17, 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 Manager; Tony Valerius, Service Director

Terry Parker called the meeting of August 17, 2021, to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

B. Warden MOVED; L. Elden seconded to approve the meeting minutes of July 20, 2021. Vote 6 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

CORRESPONDENCE:

T. Parker read a thank you note submitted to the Parks Board from Anne Naugle thanking the board for their continued support of the Vermilion Beach Market. She said Sherod Park has looked so beautiful this summer and she appreciates the work that goes in to making it a Vermilion premier lakeside park. T. Parker said she also sent in a check.

Community Event Group Use Permits:

-Vermilion Beach Market 2022 – Sherod Park – August 5 – 6, 2022

Anne Naugle said Anne Maiden had suggested that she partner with the Erie County Community Foundation out of Sandusky, Ohio for filing grants. She said she is a non-profit, so she needs to get started on grant writing for help to put this event on. She gave an in-person thank you to the Parks Department; in particular Marc Weisenberger as Sherod Park looks gorgeous. She said she walks the path pretty much every day all summer and it is a real joy to host an event there and it really is Vermilion's premier lakeside park, and it is nice to show it off. She said the path is wonderful and it is nice not having wood chips anymore as it is easy on the ankles, and it is nice not seeing the big wood chip pile. She thanked the City, Mayor Forthofer, and Anne Maiden in particular as she helped her coordinate getting cones over to the park so she could block off the fire lane, garbage cans, electrical cord covers, and so on. She said she donated \$100 to the Parks Department to show her gratitude and wanted to give a small token of her appreciation. She asked the Parks Board if they would consider her event for 2022 as she is a good steward of the park and she tries her best to walk every inch of this park after the event is over and during the event to pick up trash, and to make sure there are no divots left in the park. She said she partnered with another non-profit out of Chicago (Great Lakes Alliance) and she hosted a beach cleanup through them at Sherod Park, so a

week before her event she collected litter and then the Great Lakes Alliance wanted her litter data forms which they use for research. She said she picks up trash at Sherod Park throughout the year and keeps an eye on the beach as well. She said she loves hosting this community event and loves showcasing Vermilion, and above all she hopes the event brings in a lot of people in town and there is added commerce to the downtown businesses as well.

M. Weisenberger thanked the Parks Board, Tony Valerius, and Mayor Forthofer for allowing them to purchase the equipment to be able to do what they do, as it helps keep things mowed on a weekly basis.

T. Parker said he went by the park fairly early Sunday morning, and it was spotless, so he thanked Anne Naugle for that.

B. Scholtz MOVED, B. Warden seconded to approve the Community Group Use Permit for Anne Naugle for the Vermilion Beach Market 2022 from August, 5 – 6, 2022. Roll Call Vote 6 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED**.

T. Parker advised the board that another event hosted by the Harbourtown Fine Arts Center was given administrative approval at Village Greens on Saturday, September 18, 2021, as they needed to get started with their publicity. He said Anne Maiden checked the calendar to confirm availability and the administration granted approval.

Service Director's Report:

T. Valerius reported that D&R Excavating who did the demo of the museum planted all the grass when the property was done. Recently, the owner was in Vermilion with his family, and he did not like how the grass came in, so he wants to reseed the area for free. They have discussed a type of grass seed that will best fit there. He said this should happen mid-September.

He thanked everyone who helped with the cleanup after the storm, especially M. Weisenberger, the parks department, the streets department, the distribution department, and Erie Metro Parks for cleaning the beach and removing a lot of debris off the beach.

Recreation Director's Report:

G. Fisher reported on behalf of the Recreation Director per his report sent via email. As reported, there are 65 football participants and 22 cheerleaders. Practice started August 2 and games will start August 28.

Parks Supervisor Report:

Marc Weisenberger said they are looking at submitting an ODNR Coastal Management Grant application that is due in October. He will be looking at four access areas in Sherod, Showse, Nokomis, and Main Street in regard to shoreline erosion . They help fund studies or plans

when it comes to applying for the bigger grants. He will give more specifics to the board in September.

B. Scholtz asked if there was an opportunity to do expedited permitting like what they did at Showse. M. Weisenberger thought it was still available, but it will depend on the scope on how they address the erosion. He said they will probably do the full permit process based on a conversation he had today.

M. Weisenberger said the grant they already received through Erie Metro Parks to remove the old electric receptables and put in new ones has been addressed as they have removed the old receptables. He said Satellite Electric is finishing up projects and then the city is next on their list. He said the definite deadline is the Woollybear Festival.

He said he worked with the Tree Commission over the last month to trim trees prior to events at Sherod. They worked out a system with the Tree Commission as to when they trim trees the parks department will clean up after them. He said they did Harbor View Park today, so they will clean it up in the morning. He said they are putting together their fall planting list and he feels they have money in the operating budget to plant a few trees and he would like to do this again. They are also working on a stump removal list.

He reported he met with folks from Rotary today and they are looking at Saturday, September 18 at 8:00 a.m., which is International Adopt a Beach Day, so they want to do a cleanup of driftwood off the beach at Sherod Park. B. Warden asked about the driftwood at Showse Park. M. Weisenberger said they removed the pile from the parking lot, but there is still some down below they have to pull up yet. B. Warden said he noticed the resurfaced access pad to the pier is now undermined or washed behind it – is there any way to get gravel there which is more permeable?

M. Weisenberger said the four trees they discussed at a previous meeting will be removed and this is one of the spots where they may replace these trees.

T. Parker asked about the parks truck. T. Valerius said it is in the Service Center and they are putting the old bumper back on it, and then it will be ready to go.

Budget/Finance Subcommittee Report:

L. Elden said on August 10 the subcommittee met via Zoom to discuss the numbers behind making the position that Marc Weisenberger holds full time. It was anticipated in 2018 when the job was developed, that they would eventually go from 28 hours to 40 hours per week. She said the board received a summary of the talking points and the current rate will not change, but will allow for him to become full time, which makes him eligible for any of the benefits that are afforded to a full-time non-union employee of the city. T. Parker said this salary will continue to be paid from the Operating Levy in which there is plenty of cushion to add these hours and benefits. He noted that Marc is already giving the city much more than 28 hours.

B. Warden MOVED, D. Brudney seconded to recommend to Council to authorize Marc Weisenberger to become full time and eligible for all benefits afforded to the full-time non-union employees of the city and to authorize Gwen Fisher to prepare the legislation to come before Council. Roll Call Vote 6 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Community Relations/Publicity: No report.

Erosion:

B. Warden said it is encouraging from what he heard from Marc's report and if they can get funding it will be great.

He asked T. Valerius about the barge and what is being dumped to the west of Showse park, and how it may affect anything as it is pretty close to shore. T. Valerius said this is an ODNR project and they are dredging from the mouth of the river to the bridge to the depth of 12' in some spots and 8' further upriver. They are taking the dredging's and dumping them out near Showse Park. They call it near shore dumping. He said they have received complaints about the debris that is coming from the dumping and there has been a few dead fish that washed ashore, so he contacted ODNR on more than one occasion and he has stated that the EPA is certainly in the loop, and they are following all of EPA's recommendations and demands with the near shore dumping. B. Warden asked if this would continue through the fall. T. Valerius believed this should be done by the end of September. B. Warden asked if it was essentially the dredging's from the river that are going over there. L. Elden said in conversation she had with the Parson family it is the sand at the mouth as opposed to the mucky stuff in the river, which has to go out to the other site. T. Valerius said some of the dredging's will be at the near shore and it is probably the sand, but once they get to the maximum amount allowed near shore, then the remainder of the dredging's will be taken offshore. L. Elden said hopefully the sand nourishes Tiki beach too. B. Warden said there has been no sand at Tiki Beach for the last couple of years, but if that happened that would be terrific.

Main Street Beach Revitalization Project:

B. Scholtz said Poulos & Schmid Design Group is really close to a rough draft footprint and they should be able to discuss something by the next meeting. They will turn their focus on getting the restroom done first and then they will need to get construction drawings and then be prepared to go out to bid. T. Valerius said the location on the lot is yet to be determined and Bramhall surveyed there today, so once the survey is done, they will create a topographic drawing to see where it will go on the lot. B. Warden asked if they were talking about a free-standing building because at one time, he thought they talked about something partly embedded in the hill. B. Scholtz said they had three different scenarios and one was putting the restroom in the bank, but this is 100% freestanding as they acquired two lots down by the existing pumphouse – one they are in the process of buying and one they purchased and razed the home on. It is actually the one further to the east (Reisinger property), so it will be freestanding, and the subcommittee and engineer agrees this is the best location. They will have better drawings to show everyone. T. Valerius said there was some discrepancy whether or not permeable pavers would result in using up some of that 1,000 square foot they were

allowed to use. They can put in boardwalk and so forth. They will figure out the logistics of bringing the sanitary laterals over from those homes to tie into that lift station and where the best spot on that lot will be to do that. B. Scholtz said they are still toying with how big they want something down there as they know they have 1,000 square feet in the actual easement in the restriction that Erie Metro Parks holds, so they know it will not be any larger than that, but obviously they do not want it to take up too much space down on the lake. B. Warden asked the status of the pump house – is it staying the way it is? B. Scholtz unfortunately said it absolutely has to, so they are trying to put a face on it that will be architecturally incorporated into what the restroom looks like, so they are not just staring at a brick wall.

L. Elden believed they had previously discussed the need for a landscape architect. B. Scholtz said with Marc's assistance they are going to reach out to landscape architectural schools to see if they can use this as a project for students. M. Weisenberger said they may be able to use Bowling Green potentially because there are not many landscape architectural schools. He said Ohio State has a nice program on their website and they list projects the students do for communities, so he will try to take that angle and figure out who the contacts are. B. Scholtz said they will explore contacting local landscape architects to see what is involved as far as costs.

Recreation and School Relations: No report.

Sherod Playground:

L. Elden reported she has a meeting scheduled with Marc Weisenberger for August 31 to revisit the master plan. She said Debbie Zanglin will be joining them as she is a liaison between the parks and the donor who wants to make a substantial donation for a high impact playground at Sherod.

Pool Subcommittee Report:

D. Brudney said it has been a good summer and a learning process at the pool. Obviously, they have had bad weather, so they have had to close the pool a number of times and make the day shorter, so this could affect the bottom line a little bit. As far as monetary – if the program they have this Saturday at the pool works out the way the managers are planning, they said they can see up to a \$5,000 profit on Saturday's program. A lot of people are donating time and effort to help feed people. Everyone is welcome to attend, but they will only allow 150 guests into the pool.

He said there have been a few accidents at the pool with people trying to get up and down the ladders. One lady skinned her shins pretty bad and another lady climbing up the ladder fell and broke her thumb, and they had another person fall down and get their arm caught in between the ladder and wall, but it did not create any serious problems. He said it is becoming an issue and they need to get some steps in the pool which are portable ADA steps

that they can drop in. He said nobody seems to have the small steps they need for the shallow end of the pool. M. Weisenberger said most steps are set up for 3' to 4' of water and ideally, they would need two steps in a foot and a half of water. L. Elden thought it would be a huge liability for the pool with an entrapment risk. M. Weisenberger said the ones they are looking at are enclosed and this may be part of the reason why they are hard to find. L. Elden asked if the steps could be poured concrete in the off season and Marc said it could be. D. Brudney said he contacted local companies that make concrete and fiberglass steps, and nobody wants to do a project this small. K. Repola asked if they could put steps in the 3' area. Marc said they could, but it takes up a lot of space, so they prefer not to. D. Brudney said they did find a company and he tried calling them four times today, but they make steps exactly to specification and it is ADA compliant and safe.

D. Brudney provided the board with a list of ideas/planning for 2022 that was discussed. It is attached hereto and incorporated herein as part of the official minutes. He addressed number 7 on the list and referred to the new life ring with rope. He said Lifecare came in to look at all the equipment to make sure everything was up to standards, and the life ring with rope needs to be replaced. Additionally, they talked about the ambulance because if there was an emergency – how would they be able to get the ambulance in because the existing gate opening on the southeast corner is too small and the ambulance will not fit, so they feel the city needs to open this up. T. Valerius said he talked to Marc about this. D. Brudney said the curb needs to be taken out because the ambulance cannot egress into there. Also, the ADA machine was not working. Marc said they need to look at a charging station moving forward. They switched out the battery and it is now working, but long term they need to look at the charging station. D. Brudney said they are still having an issue with the phone not ringing loud enough. Marc said the phone is near the pump room and you cannot hear the phone ring when you're on the pool deck, so it is a matter of coming up with a bell to make it louder for the staff.

D. Brudney said they made a list of recommendations from the pool managers and the administration on what they would like to do for next year and told the board to review them as they will discuss this as time goes on. They want to make sure the lifeguards are covered much earlier. Next year they want to use the Red Cross Lifeguard Certification Program. He said Jean Habermehl and Ryan Myracle were both certified this year and they would like to be certified as Red Cross lifeguards next year and instructors, so they can actually do the teaching of the city's lifeguards, and then maybe they can offer this service to the boat club and other folks, so maybe they can make some money for the city.

He said he went with Marc last week to visit eight different splash pad areas and pools, including the Health Plex, Amherst Pool, Splash Zone, Norwalk, Bellevue, and a couple in Sandusky. They were able to get an idea of what looks the best and who has the nicest stuff and what will be appropriate for Vermilion if they want to pursue this in the future. They even discussed where they would put this near the pool to work it in with the landscape. They think this will be big draw for the people as many seem very interested.

D. Brudney said this Sunday is the last day for the pool to be open, but they will extend it two weeks because they were two weeks late in getting the pool opened. However, it will only be

open Monday – Friday from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from noon to 6:00 p.m. They will operate with one guard and one manager.

He said next year they want to promote the 60th Anniversary of the Community Pool and they found out that Hot Dog Heaven has a food truck and the person that owns this is moving to Vermilion, and they did a promotion for Amherst, and they donated to the pool and brought in giant bags of popcorn to donate. He said they talked about having a food truck night once a week at the pool next year.

M. Weisenberger said they need to address the early renewal passes – if you buy your membership for 2022 by December 1, then the price will remain. D. Brudney said they do not know if there will be a price increase next year on season memberships. Marc thought they could sell memberships for next year at Woollybear.

B. Scholtz asked if they knew where they would end up financially for the year. D. Brudney feels they will come out around even. B. Scholtz said he wanted to know this if they are committing to selling early renewal passes. D. Brudney said in 2019 they only had 32 family memberships and two single memberships. This year they had 87 family memberships and like 14 – 16 individual memberships, and they had a lot of punch cards. He thought the daily admissions were up too. D. Brudney believed they had donations around \$22,000. Marc said the wages threw their budget off when they went from \$9.00 to \$12.00 and \$15.00. He said sometimes they have more than one manager at the pool at one time, but that is because of swimming lessons as both Jean and Ryan instruct these lessons. They are generating more in lessons though.

B. Warden asked if there is a study of who uses the pool and what part of the city they come from. D. Brudney said they keep good records as far as who is coming in and where they live. He said Ryan Myracle did a survey at Bowling Green and wrote a grant through the Bill Gates foundation and got multi-millions of dollars for Bowling Green. They want to do a survey of all the people that come to the pool, and they would like Ryan to do the survey. B. Warden asked if they are serving the whole city or are they focused on serving the people of Valley View. They are putting this information together, stated Repola. D. Brudney noted the managers have good ideas and they even discussed ways of handing the nightly deposits to eliminate the running around at night.

K. Repola MOVED; B. Scholtz seconded to authorize early renewal passes for 2022. Roll Call Vote 6 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Public Art Subcommittee:

L. Elden said she met with Laura Gongos and Debbie Zanglin and the committee has decided to not go forward with the art installation at East Exchange as there are issues with the trees that would cause a maintenance problem with stainless steel, so they will would like to focus on Harbor View and possibly mimic the old arch sign that said, “Inland Seas Maritime Museum” and maybe incorporating some of the elements of a mock up with fish or other

things that represent Vermilion. The artist has done other arch projects in parks and roadways, and it would eliminate the touch factor. She said she spoke to Dana Corogin before the meeting, and it turns out that Dana rescued the rod iron sign prior to demolition which is available if they want to incorporate it.

D. Brudney said the finance subcommittee was to discuss a person local where they could get supplies for the pool and a small fund for this. T. Parker said petty cash can be messy, but if they have an open purchase order at True Value or something like this it would allow them to track the purchase, then they don't have to worry about the money. T. Valerius said he is sure Amy would prefer this. Marc said they can set up purchase orders at some places. D. Brudney noted that he is going to donate a toolbox of tools for the pool.

ADJOURNMENT:

B. Scholtz MOVED; L. Elden seconded to adjourn the meeting. Vote 6 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday – September 21, 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*