

VERMILION PARKS & RECREATION BOARD

Minutes of February 15, 2022 - 6:00pm

Roll Call: Kate Repola, Dennis Brudney, William Warden (late arrival), Bill Malin. Absent: Liz Elden, Jeff Keck, Tina Swinehart

Also, Present: Marc Weisenberger, Parks Operation Manager; Tony Valerius, Service Director; Teresa Mayle, Council Representative. Mayor Forthofer - Guest

Kate Repola, Chairwoman called the meeting of February 15, 2022 to order.

City Council Representative Report: No report.

Recreation Director:

C. Kuhns reported they had 34 kids participate in basketball in the 2nd – 4th grade group, and 9 kids participated in the 5th – 7th grade group, so they had one team. He contacted the Firelands Recreation Department and they had three teams, so they played with them. They split the cost of referees, and everything worked out well.

He asked the board to consider an increase in pay for their field worker. He said currently the pay is minimum wage, plus \$2.50, so he thought it should be minimum wage, plus \$3.50. K. Repola asked how many hours they work per week. C. Kuhns said it is usually 20 hours. K. Repola asked how many employees. C. Kuhns said it is one employee. He said it seems that other hourly wages are increasing and to be competitive and get reliable workers, he would like to give them an increase. G. Fisher advised the Parks Board they would need to make the recommendation to City Council as they would need to amend the Recreational Programs ordinance for 2022, as long as the Mayor was in agreement with this recommendation. The mayor had no objection to this recommendation as he feels in order to attract people it is the necessity of the day.

Service Director's Report:

T. Valerius thanked Marc Weisenberger and the Parks Department for helping with the snow clean up on February 3 and 4 in preparation for the Ice-A-Fair. He mentioned they hired another part-time parks employee (Bob Kowalski) who is a retired NASA employee who has great interest in the parks. He is interested in working about 20 hours a week and he will be starting next week. B. Malin asked if he was a local resident and T. Valerius said he lives in the township. M. Weisenberger said he is also interested with helping with the pool, downtown landscaping, etc.

Parks Supervisor Report:

Marc Weisenberger said the parks department has been working on snow removal in the last few weeks and they have taken down almost all the Christmas lights and decorations. He reported he would like approval from the parks board to approve two purchases from the parks operation fund which include a new bagger system for the smaller mower, so it collects the grass clippings and leaves in the small parks downtown, so they're not blowing grass into the streets or flower beds. Additionally, a year ago they had to take the spring system off the tailgate of their trailer, so they will replace the spring system on the gate to make it go up and down a lot smoother and safer to handle. The bagging system is \$4,000 and the spring system for the trailer is \$492.00. He

said they have more room in the parks operation budget for equipment purchases than what they have in the capital budget because of the Main Street and Harbor View projects.

Budget/Finance Subcommittee Report: No report.

Community Relations/Publicity:

K. Repola said they will be removing this subcommittee for now and if they feel they need to revisit it at a later time they can.

Erosion:

M. Weisenberger said he along with T. Valerius and C. Howard met with some folks from Coastal Management two weeks ago to review a couple projects with Jim Park from ODNR. He said C. Howard is in the process of putting together some engineering and permit costs for the revetment work they need to do at Harbor View (former museum area) and the other for the work they want to do with their neighbor at Showse Park. He reported the preliminary estimate for Harbor View came in at \$558,525.00, which includes the material, engineering permits, labor, etc. B. Malin asked in simple terms what they were doing. T. Valerius said they want to maintain the northern line of the stone that is there and fill it in and add additional armor and toe stone, and then they will put in sand refill where required. K. Repola said there will need to be further discussions about this as this amount is significantly more than what they had anticipated. B. Malin asked what the previous number was that was kicked around. M. Weisenberger said based on what the city did at Showse Park a year ago, they were looking between \$50,000 and \$100,000. T. Valerius said the city engineer had mentioned to him that the price of stone has gone way up. B. Warden asked if there was any funding through the State of Ohio. M. Weisenberger said this is something they will need to take a look at through the capital bill. Mayor Forthofer said there were couple of requests with the help of the Western Reserve Land Conservancy for use of the capital budget. Everyone gets in line and sometimes you get a piece. T. Valerius said this price did include a 10% contingency.

B. Malin thought there was conversation at the last meeting about a grant for erosion across all three phases or one of the phases. M. Weisenberger said the state capital bill was what they were referring to. There was a section under the bill just for erosion control, so this was the funding source they were looking at.

B. Malin asked the administration for a copy of the preliminary estimate if they could email it to the clerk.

B. Warden asked if the neighbor at Showse was going to pay for this project. M. Weisenberger said he is looking to pay up to \$50,000. He said the engineer will put together some numbers for the property owners and the parks board to look at, and then they will meet again. B. Warden asked if this is essentially for the outfall. M. Weisenberger said the area they were taking a look at would be the outfall east to the property – just beyond the property line. B. Warden said it is only about 40' or 50' of city property.

Main Street Beach Revitalization Project:

T. Valerius reported he provided the parks board members with architectural drawings of the proposed Comfort Station. He asked the board for permission to go out to bid for this project. They are still waiting on geo-technical borings from the site. However, the plans are 90-95% complete and they would like to go out to bid by advertising on March 3 and March 10, with a bid opening on March 17. He said last week he met with the city engineer, Mark Poulos from Poulos & Schmid Design Group, and Ted Hardesty from the Edge Group to go over

changes for the Harbor View side (west side). M. Weisenberger said they are trying to keep everyone on the same page as eventually all three projects will come together during the planning process.

B. Malin asked if it would be fair to assume that everyone involved in this project has looked at the drawings and no changes will come forward after the fact. T. Valerius thought it was fair to say that the committee has seen the layout and not the actual architectural drawings, but they have seen the interior and exterior layout, and the parking plan. K. Repola agreed and said they also included the non-profit Shore Thing who will be running the concessions out of this facility to talk about what their needs would be in terms of running this successfully and within health codes. B. Malin confirmed they had their input and K. Repola responded, "Absolutely". G. Fisher said they did receive approval from the Historic Design & Review Board as well.

Recreation and School Relations: No report.

Sherod Playground:

M. Weisenberger mentioned they did not meet since last month due to the snowstorm, but they have been basically working with one company, which is normal when working with playgrounds. However, in talking with the Service Director and other folks on the committee, they have decided to get some estimates and proposals from other companies to get more ideas. It will take a little longer to get the project done, but he believes it will be well worth the time to get a couple more opinions and numbers, so they are getting the best playground for their money.

Vermilion Community Pool Subcommittee:

D. Brudney provided the board members with a 10 Year Operations/Expense History from 2011-2021 and a Proposed Fee Schedule for 2022 Summer, which are attached hereto and incorporated herein as part of the official record of proceedings. He noted the wages for the pool employees went up due to an increase of what they were paying the guards and pool managers. He said the natural gas cost decreased significantly due to the fact they found a leak in the pool. The most significant decrease was in material supplies and pool chemicals. The total cost in 2019 was \$13,517.772 and in 2021 the cost was \$5,105.84 due to the new chemical control system and not having all the leaks, so they did not have to treat all that extra water every day. He said the total expense in 2021 was \$56,915.82. The income consisted of membership fees, daily admissions, swim lesson fees, parties and rentals, pool donations (\$24,672.90 in 2021), NOPEC grant of \$2,000, and Lifeguard Training fees of \$2,100.00, which resulted in a total income in 2021 of \$56,993.71. Compared to the costs, they were ahead by about \$78.00.

K. Repola confirmed the Rotary Club did agree to host another fundraiser this year, but the type of fundraiser has not been decided upon as of yet. They will appoint a subcommittee member to be the point person in charge to liaison with the Rotary. She said they are very thankful for the Rotary helping with this fundraiser.

D. Brudney commented on the proposed increases in memberships and other ways in bringing money in with the pool parties and pavilion rentals. M. Weisenberger explained in 2019 they had 32 family memberships and last year they had 84 memberships. He said they had six individual memberships, so it tells them the demographics are probably a lot of younger families based on the fact they had 84 family memberships versus the six individual memberships.

D. Brudney went over the proposed 2022 rates that are outlined in the fee schedule as attached. Upon review by the board, they suggested the Family Season Membership for Vermilion City Residents increase only to \$170. The subcommittee noted the change. K. Repola said when she worked for the City of Beechwood they had a babysitter/governess rate, so she wasn't sure if this will help clarify things if they spell out the family season membership, even if they put a rate for a babysitter per day or for the year. D. Brudney said they also have grandmother/grandfather scenarios who come in from another town and want to bring their grandkids in, but yet aren't listed in the family membership. K. Repola thought this should be considered a daily rate, and if they want to purchase a membership for a caregiver they could. D. Brudney said they would clarify it for this year. It was noted the rates are similar to surrounding communities. He said there are plans for additional aerobics programs, cardio programs run by the pool managers, so they can get more of the older crowd in there. Therefore, they did not raise the rates for Age 65 and up this year, but maybe next year they can increase to \$3.00 for a daily admission. He said they also got a new set of pool steps which everyone is excited about.

M. Weisenberger said they reduced the pool party/rental rate to a two-hour rental after hours at \$175. Last year it was three hours at \$300.00 and they felt it was too high. Another option they will try this year is to rent the pavilion during regular pool hours. You would have exclusive use of the pavilion, but you would share the pool. The cost would be \$50 for the pavilion and then they would pay either a daily admission or have a pool membership, or they could purchase a punch card, so 10 kids could be invited to the party. It doesn't add any additional labor hours as it would be covered with people who are already there. The pavilion rental would be from 12 – 5pm.

D. Brudney reported the pool opening day is Saturday, May 30, 2022 (Memorial Day Weekend) and the closing date is Sunday, August 23, 2022 (Last Sunday before School Starts). If guards are available they may decide to keep the pool open an extra week.

D. Brudney and M. Weisenberger reviewed additional swim times, programs, and guard/manager rates for 2022 as noted in the proposal as attached. D. Brudney said the managers are proposing to have a Saturday morning teen coed event (Basketball or Volleyball), which may cost around \$100 per team (five can play at a time, but more can be on a team). This has been done at other pools successfully. The games will be played in the water by sitting in tubes in the 3-5' section, so they can stand up. He said they will also pay their regular daily admission fees. B. Warden questioned paying a daily admission along with the event fee. M. Weisenberger said the pool manager is still looking into this as it needs to be polished up and finalized. They are just trying to do something for the teenagers in town.

B. Warden said there is no age defined in the learn to swim program. M. Weisenberger explained the pool manager has categories based on their age and skill level, so as you fulfill that category then you can proceed to the next level. He noted they are younger children through probably seven or eight years old. B. Warden asked how this program is different than the Rotary program. M. Weisenberger said the Rotary program is a water safety course where they are talking about water safety in general. The learn to swim program is physically learning different strokes and aspects of swimming.

B. Warden asked if there was a thought to having an early sign-up discount the prior month to beat the increasing rates. He wasn't sure they would end up losing more money than their gain. D. Brudney said they have not reviewed this, but they can mention it to the managers. M. Weisenberger said they would also need to talk to

the finance director to make sure they can set something like this up online. D. Brudney noted that Marc has talked with the finance director about these increases, and she is okay with their proposal. However, it doesn't mean it is final. He noted the new guards rate will be established at \$12.00 per hour and returning guards will be paid \$12.50 per hour. The pool manager(s) responsibilities will be defined and there will be a pay increase of \$1.00. Swimming Lesson Instructors will be paid \$12.00. He also explained the incentives as outlined in the attachment. Clerk's Note: These proposed rate increases will need the approval by City Council per ordinance.

Bill Malin asked D. Brudney to reconsider charging an additional daily admission fee for the teen events if they're being charged \$100 per team unless they spend the day there. He suggested they think this through. Additionally, he addressed the Non-Vermilion City Residents as that rate only increased by \$20.00, but the Vermilion City Residents increased by \$25.00, so he thought it should be the same amount. D. Brudney said they were just trying to keep the Non-Vermilion rate under \$200.00 but agreed they should be consistent. M. Weisenberger thought they should go back to \$170.00 for the family season membership for Vermilion city residents and \$195 for the Non-Vermilion city residents, so everything is consistent. The change was duly noted.

Mayor Forthofer said last year was a huge turnaround for the Vermilion Community Pool and he appreciates Dennis Brudney and Marc Weisenberger who did a tremendous job. As far as fees, he feels they can justify additional increases. He said it is still \$20,000 short of being a self-sustaining pool, so watching all costs is still worthwhile. Last year there was conflicts with special events and asked if there was a system in place for making sure this doesn't happen when scheduling. M. Weisenberger said the pool shelter house and the rentals will go through the mayor's administrative assistant, Jody Booker. Mayor Forthofer suggested that free swims should be authorized by a parks supervisor – they can't just be spontaneous. D. Brudney said they told the managers they would have to be approved through M. Weisenberger. Mayor Forthofer addressed concessions as this gives him pause because it is whole another issue. He didn't think they had concessions in the Recreation Director's athletic venues. There is a volunteer one at Main Street Beach. Before this is entered into, he thinks they need to roll out a plan for this. He asked if they were talking vending machines or food service. He would like more presentation on this. D. Brudney said they had a meeting with the pool managers this morning and they know they really can't do concessions this year, and they scaled it back. M. Weisenberger said the main concern is that they are able to provide water and basic food opportunities for kids that are there all day. Mayor Forthofer asked what kind of food opportunities. M. Weisenberger said something that is bagged or pre-wrapped, such as a candy bar or chips. Last year they were able to give out bottled water and some popsicles that were donated and given out free. Therefore, there was no exchange of money. He thought this was the direction they were heading based on the conversations they have had. Mayor Forthofer said they had problems with vending machines a couple years ago, but this too may be a possibility. K. Repola thought this would be a better opportunity rather than a concession stand.

Public Art Subcommittee: No report.

OPEN TO THE AUDIENCE:

Sid Jordan representing the Vermilion Chamber of Commerce said he is preempting next month's meeting where the Chamber is coming in with their permit requests for parks. He shared that they have had much conversation because he coordinates the Third Thursday events and the Sunday Concerts in the Park. He said during Third Thursday last year they had always had bands on the boardwalk at Main Street Beach. He has always been bothered that North Main Street is looked at as if it is a sidewalk. He said people gather in front of the music at

the boardwalk in the street and last summer after the museum came down, a huge amount of people was on the grade that was done after the museum came down, and he thought it would be better to move the band on the flat area next to the lighthouse, so the music would be at the Harbor View Park area. He inquired about electricity and met with M. Weisenberger today, and also talked to the Tim Costello about the lighthouse electricity. He learned there is an access with the intent of extending electricity for anything such as lighting for landscaping, etc. He said there could be an outlet there to be able to do what he thought. The thought was then extended beyond Third Thursday because Shawn Kipp, President of the Chamber wanted to revitalize the Sunday night concerts. S. Jordan thought the gazebo was a terrible place for music because of the trains, so he thought since the beach is the focal point of Vermilion, then he would love to have the Sunday concerts in the same area at the beach. He said he is planting a seed for next month when the Chamber comes to the Parks Board for a formal plan for park permits. He said there may be eight nights they may want to do these concerts at Harbor View Park and the times would be 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. He understands there are plans in the works, but they really believe this is a much better location, and he wanted to plant the seed for thought for this particular activity at Harbor View Park. B. Warden said it sounds like a great idea. S. Jordan said long before the museum came down he was a proponent of having an amphitheater built there, but after the museum came down and they graded the slope, he thought there was no money that needed to be spent at all. He said it will cost \$100 - \$200 for an electrician to do an outlet at the lighthouse and everything else is easy. He said as plans evolve over there he would like to be able to do five Third Thursday's and eight Sunday concerts or 13 events. It would be nice that any walkway planned that came across the shoreline – if it went on the north side of the lighthouse instead of the south side – then when they put entertainment in, the walkway won't be between the two. K. Repola said it sounds like a good idea.

Mayor Forthofer said he has received a couple requests by the public interested in different artifacts that have been left up at Main Street Beach – an anchor or two. He made it clear to the public that these belong to the Parks and Recreation Board and the placement and use of them will be determined by the Master Plan for the beach that is going on right now, so they are not available for sale. He said this is city property and there will be an intended purpose for these things.

NEW BUSINESS:

B. Malin MOVED; B. Warden seconded to authorize an expenditure out of the parks operation fund in the amount of \$4,000 for the bagging system for the mower. Roll Call Vote 4 YEAS. MOTION CARRIED.

B. Malin MOVED; D. Brudney seconded to authorize an expenditure out of the parks operation fund in an amount not to exceed \$500.00 for the spring system for the parks trailer. Roll Call Vote 4 YEAS. MOTION CARRIED.

B. Warden MOVED; B. Malin seconded to go out to bid for the Main Street Beach Comfort Station. Roll Call Vote 4 YEAS. MOTION CARRIED.

B. Warden MOVED; K. Repola seconded approve the proposed pool rates as presented pending further review of discussions pertaining to early sales and teen events. Roll Call Vote 4 YEAS. MOTION CARRIED.

K. Repola MOVED; D. Brudney seconded to recommend to council to amend the recreational program legislation by increasing the head maintenance person's pay rate to minimum wage, plus \$3.50. Roll Call Vote 4 YEAS. MOTION CARRIED.

Bill Malin assumed there would be additional discussions on the pool if they don't see some grants that will make up for the potential shortfall. He asked if they should open the pool not knowing they're going to be able to pay the bills, or will they work in the negative. Mayor Forthofer said they have worked in the negative for as long as he can remember – a \$20,000 - \$30,000 deficit all the time, but it is a matter if they think they can at least maintain operations and not add to the deficit. In the far past, the city dug into the general fund to come up with this difference. These days the city really cannot prioritize this, but the Parks Board is capable of controlling the fees and operating costs, and they cut back tremendously on expenses.

COMMUNITY EVENT GROUP USE PERMITS:

K. Repola advised the board that Main Street Vermilion has requested to change their event date for Hot Diggity Dog Day from Saturday, August 27, 2022 to Sunday, August 28, 2022 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

B. Warden MOVED; K. Repola seconded to approve the event change as requested. Roll Call Vote 4 YEAS. MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

B. Malin MOVED; B. Warden seconded to approve the meeting minutes of January 18, 2022. Roll Call Vote 4 YEAS. MOTION CARRIED.

ADJOURNMENT:

K. Repola adjourned the meeting upon no further discussion.

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday – March 15, 2022 @ 6:00 pm at the Vermilion Municipal Complex, 687 Decatur Street, Vermilion

Transcribed by - Gwen Fisher, Certified Municipal Clerk

VERMILION COMMUNITY POOL **Updated 2-23-22** PROPOSED FEE SCHEDULE FOR 2022 SUMMER

The Vermilion Pool Committee would like to propose the following fee schedule for the 2022 summer swimming season:

Plan A—No or Limited Covid—19 Protocols/Restrictions

Vermilion City Residents: Proposed 2022 Rates

| | |
|--|-------|
| Individual Season Membership—\$75 | \$80 |
| Family Season Membership—\$150 (Family of four, \$25 for each additional family member) | \$170 |

Non-Vermilion City Residents

| | |
|--|-------|
| Individual Season Membership—\$90 | \$95 |
| Family Season Membership—\$175 (Family of four, \$30 for each additional family member) | \$195 |

Daily Admissions: Caregiver may be added for \$30

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| Ages 2 and Under—Free | Free |
| Ages 3 to 17—\$4 | \$5 |
| Ages 18 to 64—\$5 | \$5 |
| Age 65 and up—\$2 | \$2 |
| Punch Card— 10 Visits for \$35 | \$40 |

Plan B—Covid—19 Protocols/Restrictions Remain in Effect

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

Pool Party/Rental Rate

Option 1: Two Hour Rental After Hours: \$175 **Option 2:** Pavilion During Regular Hours \$50 plus Daily Admission, Pool Membership, or Punch Card.

Proposed Opening and Closing Dates for 2022

Opening Day: Saturday, May 28, 2022 (Memorial Day Weekend)

Closing Date: Sunday, August 23, 2022 (Last Sunday before School Starts)

***Consider extended season if weather and staff dictate.**

VERMILION COMMUNITY POOL PROPOSED HOURS OF OPERATION - 2022 SUMMER

The Vermilion Pool Committee would like to propose the following hours operation for the 2022 summer swimming season:

Public Open Swim Hours

Weekday Open Swim:

Monday – Friday

Public Open Swim: Noon – 5:00PM and 7:00PM – 9:00PM

(1) Mgr. and (2) Guards

(1) Mgr. and (1) Guard

Weekend Open Swim:

Saturday - Sunday

Public Open Swim: Noon – 6:00PM

(No Dedicated Adult Only Open Swim Hours Saturday - Sunday)

Adult Only Open Swim and/or Exercise Programs

Monday - Friday

11:00AM – Noon and 5:00PM – 6:00PM

Progressive – Learn to Swim Program

(Each Session is Two Weeks)

Session I: June 20 – July 1 Session II: July 11 - 22 Session III: August 1-12

Times: 9:00AM, 10:00AM, and 6:00PM

(If needed, fill sessions 1 & 2 First)

Pool Members: \$40

Non-Pool Members: \$50

Special Event Program Dates for 2022

Saturday Morning Teen Events

Rotary – Free Water Safety Awareness Program Dates for 2022

Dates: June 6 – 10

Class Times: 10:00AM or 6:00PM

60th Anniversary * 1962 – 2022

Suggestions and Recommendations for 2022:

Lifeguard Certification Fee: \$150 w/ Reimbursement Opportunities.

- Hire new guards at \$12.00 per hour.
- Returning guards at **\$12.50** per hour.
- Managers Responsibilities Defined & Pay Increase **\$1.00**
- Swimming Lesson Instructors (Not certified lifeguards) - **\$12.00**
- Incentives:
 - Work **100 hours** and complete season Parks Board will reimburse **50%** of certification **\$75**
 - Complete weekly training/conditioning requirements: **50%** reimbursement of certification fee **\$75**
- Weak Internet Signal and No Signal Inside Building?
Currently Cell Modem – Update to Land Line Cable (400 Megs) – North Coast Wireless?
- Rec Desk Software Program: **Membership Tracking / POS System**
- Concession Operation/Menu Plan: **Product Donated - Free**
- Contact Guards from last year and confirm if returning or not:
- Begin recruiting new guards: **Coordinate with Local Schools?**
- Determine Certification Program: **Lifeguard Pro, LLC**
- Determine Lifeguard Trainers: **Jean and Cristy**
- Provide on-line Lifeguard training at the library.

CITY OF VERMILION VALLEYVIEW COMMUNITY POOL - 10 YEAR OPERATIONS/INCOME HISTORY
2011 - 2021

| | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2021 |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 101 - GENERAL FUND | | | | | | | | | | |
| CHARGES FOR SERVICES | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pool - Membership Fees | \$15,993.00 | \$17,460.00 | \$11,020.00 | \$9,825.00 | \$7,150.00 | \$10,150.00 | \$9,569.00 | \$7,625.00 | \$5,775.00 | \$13,450.00 |
| Pool - Daily Admissions | \$5,735.00 | \$6,147.75 | \$3,942.00 | \$4,615.00 | \$6,917.00 | \$7,299.00 | \$6,809.00 | \$8,827.00 | \$8,997.00 | \$8,923.00 |
| Pool - Swim Lesson Fees | \$1,950.00 | \$1,970.00 | \$1,570.00 | \$1,155.00 | \$2,185.00 | \$3,040.00 | \$1,475.00 | \$1,465.00 | \$1,220.00 | \$4,835.00 |
| Pool - Parties and Rentals | \$690.00 | \$566.00 | \$400.00 | \$704.00 | \$900.00 | \$376.00 | \$994.00 | \$1,175.00 | \$950.00 | \$900.00 |
| Pool Donations | \$6,600.00 | \$9,425.00 | \$2,000.00 | \$1,000.00 | \$5.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$1,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$24,672.90 |
| Other: NOPEC Grant | | | | | | | | | | \$2,000.00 |
| Lifeguard Training Fees:\$2250? | | | | | | | | | | \$2,100.00 |
| Charges for Services Totals | \$30,968.00 | \$35,588.75 | \$18,932.00 | \$17,299.00 | \$17,157.00 | \$20,865.00 | \$18,847.00 | \$20,092.00 | \$16,942.00 | \$56,993.71 |