

VERMILION PARKS & RECREATION BOARD
Minutes of May 17, 2022 - 6:00pm

Roll Call: Kate Repola, Dennis Brudney, Liz Elden, William Warden, Bill Malin. Absent: 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 May 17, 2022 to order.

Approval of Minutes:

L. Elden MOVED; B. Malin seconded to approve the meeting minutes of April 17, 2022. Roll Call Vote 5 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Correspondence: No Correspondence.

COMMUNITY EVENT GROUP USE PERMITS:

Main Street Vermilion:

Light Up Vermilion – Friday, December 2, 2022 – 3:00p.m. – 10:00p.m. (Exchange, E. Exchange, Victory)

Pam of Main Street Vermilion requested use of Victory, Exchange, and E. Exchange Park for their annual ‘Light up Vermilion’, which has changed this year to Friday, December 2, 2022 verses holding it on a Thursday. They felt having the event on Friday will open the door for the merchants to continue having another day of activities. She said this is a hugely received event in the community and it has been running since 2008.

B. Warden MOVED; L. Elden seconded to approve the Community Event Group Use Permit for ‘Light of Vermilion’ as presented. Roll Call Vote 5 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

City Council Representative Report: No report.

Service Director’s Report: No report.

Parks Operation Manager Report:

Marc Weisenberger updated the board on the Urban Canopy Grant and noted the Tree Commission, ODNR State Arborist, and Molls Plantation were in town last week and they were

able to get 60 trees planted and staked. They are at about \$25,000 in expenses, which is half of the grant. The other half they will use in the fall. With the 40 trees they planted last fall and the 60 new trees, they will keep them watered throughout the summer.

He reported they applied for a grant in the amount of \$7,500 through Erie Metro Parks and they were awarded the grant which will be used toward the Sherod Park playground.

He said Park Volunteer Cleanup Day was held with the Vermilion High School Track team. There were 65 kids and 10 adults participating. They spent the majority of their time at the beach, but they were able to do numerous areas downtown as well. The boys Tennis team helped them get the pool open, and the Girls Softball team was cancelled due to the weather, and they have not been able to make that date up yet. He said Jason Bosh a teacher at the High School brought his class over to do some work at the Skate Park. He said the city appreciates all their help. He said this coming Saturday is the city's cleanup day and Jody Booker has been organizing this and believes she has 60 volunteers so far. He said Vermilion in Bloom held two planting days last week, so all the flower beds are done with the exception of mulching which will be done on Saturday.

He said the roof project at the pool has been completed. He mentioned a week ago this past Wednesday, he along with Garth Grob, Jean Habermehl, and Sheila Myracle attended a pool operator's course that the Erie County Health Department put on, which he felt was helpful for all. He said Pool Tech has the pool open and they conducted lifeguard training in the pool this past Sunday.

B. Warden asked who was responsible for mowing Friendship Park. M. Weisenberger said the Parks Board is and they will be mowing it tomorrow. B. Warden said Third Thursday was coming up and it was looking like it needed to be mowed. Mark said all the downtown parks will be cut tomorrow morning.

Budget/Finance Subcommittee Report:

L. Elden reported that the Finance Director did a budget based on what income they had last year with regards to the pool. She said the board needs to find \$25,000 to breakeven. This is plugged in with the income they did last year and with everything they are doing, and she feels the income will increase.

Erosion: No report.

Main Street Beach Revitalization Project:

T. Valerius reported he attended a pre-construction meeting with the contractor, city engineer, and the architect and the project will begin May 31, 2022.

K. Repola noted they held a press conference today at the beach to kickoff the project. She said there was a lot of people in attendance and thanked everyone for attending. She thanked Jared from Western Reserve Land Conservancy for organizing this event.

Recreation and School Relations: No report.

Sherod Playground:

M. Weisenberger reported that the finance director received the donation from the church today. An account was established for the project expenses. He said he met with folks last week to nail down the exact layout and site preparation. He's hoping to order the equipment either this week or next.

Vermilion Community Pool Subcommittee:

D. Brudney reported the pool is open and operating normally. They haven't seen any leaks or problems they saw last year. He said they are three to four weeks ahead of schedule from where they were last year, which includes guards and training. The vacuum system they purchased last year has been reinstalled and the pool is looking excellent. He said Garth Grob was retrained on the chemical system this spring.

He noted that schedules have been completed for Rotary and other swim lessons at the pool, as well as programs for adult exercise. There are other activities that are being developed and scheduled. The kids at the high school and middle school seem interested in doing coed basketball and volleyball at the pool, and they are in the process of ordering the equipment for it. He said Jean Habermehl has been working on how they will run the program. He said they purchased quite a few items for the pool to aid with swim lessons and exercise classes, and whistles/lanyards for the lifeguards. They also will get t-shirts, fanny packs, Shepard's hooks, and kickboards. He said they received a refrigerator for the pool house from Lowes in Amherst to aid in chilling bottled water, popsicles, and a place for the managers and guards to keep their lunches. He said Lowes gave them a great deal by taking off one-third of the price.

He said he and Mark met with Stan from Lakeside Vending in Avon Lake and they completed a deal to install two vending machines in the pool building. This was one item they missed last summer, and people were asking for vending machines. One machine will have bottled liquids and the other machine will offer snacks. The snacks will be sold for \$1.00, and the other machine will offer 16.9 oz. plastic bottles. The company will keep refilling the machines.

He said they trained and certified three lifeguard instructors. Last year they had one and at times it became an issue. He mentioned that two of three pool managers have been certified as lifeguard instructors. They were able to obtain a grant through the Erie County Community

Foundation, which has paid for all their training for the guards and instructors this year. They will have three pool managers and possibly a fourth manager helping out.

He gave a shout out to Garth Grob for doing an outstanding job in getting the pool opened.

He said they have about 20 candidates for guards this year thanks to Jean Habermehl for going around to the schools in Amherst, Huron, Firelands, and Vermilion. They have guards training from each one of the schools, which are all good candidates. They have them pay \$50.00 for their training, which will be refunded if they follow the specified guidelines.

He said they are looking at putting an ad in the Vermilion magazine. C. Barczyk said the Vermilion magazine is distributed at the Ohio Turnpike and to each home in Vermilion, the township, and into the Chronicle Telegram. D. Brudney said in the past they had trouble on how to get information on the pool into all households in Vermilion, and he still had people this winter tell him they didn't know Vermilion had a pool, so this is great way to get this information to the public.

He said they had problems last year with steps, so they purchased new steps for the pool. He noted the ladders are slippery that have caused some problems, so they are going to purchase non-slip tape to put on the ladders. He said this week the managers will do some touch up painting in the bathrooms and office area.

He said he received a phone call late this afternoon from Paul Habermehl as he received a call from Russ Mayer of the American Legion, and they are donating \$1,000 to the Vermilion Community Pool, so he thanked them for their donation.

Mayor Forthofer congratulated Dennis Brudney on the heavy lift of managing the pool which seems to be another successful opening. He said he does a lot of work all winter long. He asked if the attendees have privileges if they leave to go home for lunch. M. Weisenberger said if they ask to go and come back, he is sure they will be allowed. Mayor Forthofer asked if the maintenance was much this year. M. Weisenberger said no not compared to last year. Mayor Forthofer said last year the revenues were up, but the attendance was down, but they also had a shorter season. M. Weisenberger said both the revenues and attendance were both up last year. D. Brudney said last year they had a small ad in the Vermilion magazine and this year's ad will have a lot more information, but they also raised the rates for memberships this year, so it should help. He believed the membership went from 32 to 90 last year.

B. Warden asked if the t-shirts would say 'Vermilion Pool'. M. Weisenberger said the t-shirts are for the pool staff members and they are planning to use the City of Vermilion logo with lifeguard on the back of the shirt. B. Warden wondered if they could be high visibility in either yellow or green, and asked if there is a lifeguard that also walks around the pool. D. Brudney said it depends on how many kids are there. Anywhere from 50 kids has one guard, and 100-150 has

two guards, and anything over 150 you're required to have three guards. B. Warden thought a high-visibility shirt would help the kids identify that person. D. Brudney said they had red shirts with white lettering last year. B. Warden said as long as it is consistent and every day. He asked if there were any accommodations for an umbrella for the lifeguard stand. M. Weisenberger said they purchased three umbrellas last year. D. Brudney said each guard stand will have a Shepard's hook in case of an emergency.

B. Warden said he noticed during the press conference today that it was noted they would break ground for the new comfort station, but he wondered what was happening this year for the port a johns – where will they be? T. Valerius said the port a johns will arrive before Memorial Day or possibly next week, and they will be placed in the same place as they were last year as it seemed to be the best place as they did not get any complaints. B. Warden asked if all the parks will have port a johns. T. Valerius said Showse and Sherod will have port a johns. M. Weisenberger said most of the parks already have port a johns. At Showse it is located in the south parking lot near the ballfield. They will have one unit there that is cleaned twice a week.

Rotary Pool Fundraiser:

John Hill and Jon Logue of the Vermilion Rotary were present to speak on the next fundraiser. J. Hill said they are excited in continuing their support for the pool. Rotary has been involved in the 'Learn to Swim' program for many years and they now do it two times in one week instead of two weeks. They are committed financially to supporting the pool in other ways. He said they have been discussing what they could do that would be different, unique, and fun. He said he met with J. Logue and T. Swinehart last week to come up with an idea, which involved Romp's Putter Port. He met with Carrie Gabriel, and she agreed with the use of their premises, so this will be the first Annual Vermilion Community Open for mini golf. The initial date is Sunday, July 31, with a rain date of August 7 and it will be from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. They will solicit groups and individuals in the community to form foursomes. Their tentative goal is to raise about \$7,500 for the pool and he is hoping they can do better than this. They will also solicit sponsorships for specific holes. They initially thought about a cash prize for the winners, but now they thought it may be better to offer tokens and gift certificates, or a pool membership. They will also solicit volunteers from other service organizations. J. Logue said it would be great if parks board members would help volunteer that day. He said this would be a great annual fundraiser for the pool as it could have a lot of momentum. He said if they're extremely successful and raise \$10,000 are there other prospects or ways the city can raise money for the pool. L. Elden hopes the expenses are less than last year. D. Brudney said they are planning on doing a Movie Night at the pool, basketball and volleyball leagues, and a number of different activities that should create more revenue. He feels they will have a higher participation on birthday parties as well.

It was noted that in the past there were leagues at the Putter Port. K. Repola noted she remembered this and creating something that is fun and family-oriented makes a lot of sense, so she likes the idea of an activity for people to do other than just buying a ticket for something.

T. Mayle asked if they thought about adding stations in the field where people can pay to get their face painted or games the kids could play with a prize, as this would give more activity to break up the groups when there isn't enough space for them to do their putting. They could visit other areas that could generate a little extra income. J. Hill said hopefully it will be more than just the putt-putt experience and hopes a lot of revenue can be generated in the community. He said the sky is the limit on involvement and this is a great idea. K. Repola said maybe they can speak to the art teacher at the high school to see if the students would paint faces. T. Mayle said Harbourtown Community Church always does the Halloween Festival and they have a lot of fair games and wondered if they would let them borrow their games to keep the families busy. K. Repola thought this was a great idea.

B. Warden asked if it was unrealistic to allow the pizza establishments to have a table. J. Hill said they discussed food trucks and obviously Romps is being generous by giving them a day for this event, so she would like to think there is a way to generate business for Romps this day by visiting Dairy Dock.

B. Malin said in addition to the parks board members volunteering, maybe some of the pool key managers could attend the event so the public can see them. K. Repola said the lifeguards too could be an option to volunteer.

West Pier Project:

B. Malin reported he shared correspondence with the board members as there were questions if the West Pier was going to be designed in a fashion to continue to allow fishing or other recreation uses. He believed this will be looked into as they design the West Pier. L. Elden said the design of the East Pier was a surprise to the people on that side because you cannot walk out on the pier anymore on the east side because it is piled rip rap at the end. Mayor Forthofer said apparently there is some difference with the West Pier and most importantly is getting permission from the Army Corp of Engineers for a recreational use lease. He just received an application today for that lease, and he needs to talk with the attorney about liability issues.

Public Art Subcommittee:

L. Elden said last Friday she along with K. Repola and M. Weisenberger met with Laura Gongos and Debbie Zanglin from the Public Art Committee and they're chomping at the bit to have a location. However, they're in a holding pattern to get other things done (walkways and shoreline protection). K. Repola said they were as transparent as possible with the plans and this board wants public art in this park, but it is just a waiting game at this point.

OPEN TO THE AUDIENCE: No participation.

OLD and NEW BUSINESS:

K. Repola mentioned last month they discussed naming the beach. The only new piece of information she has is that she met with members of the Main Street Beach Subcommittee to go over their final plans for the west side of the park, and at that time she mentioned it was her intention to steer the naming to be 'Main Street Beach' and there were no concerns. She said the chair of the committee spoke to members of the Wakefield family, and they understand the need for it to stay simple and stay Main Street Beach, and they know they have the opportunity with their plague about the Wakefield Mansion to mention the Harbor View name. She asked the parks board members if they wanted to make a final decision or if the board felt there was more conversations to be had. She said it would be the boards recommendation to the subcommittee and the architects. B. Warden asked if they had any parcel that is called anything other than a park. For example, West Breeze Park or Friendship Park. K. Repola said they have Nokomis Beach. She said someone mentioned to her that when you say a beach – like Main Street Beach, you assume green space and a park. If you say Main Street Park or Harbor View Park, you don't assume a beach is there. B. Warden suggested Main Street Beach Park or Main Street Park Beach. He said the beach is one part of this, but there is a lot of land there, so saying park beach is a little more inclusive of the whole concept. B. Malin asked if there was additional conversation with Erie County Metro Parks on anything they need to have. K. Repola said no as they are the Wakefield Erie County Metro Park. B. Malin said he would support keeping it simple and he likes Main Street Beach, and he feels it will evolve to what it is going to be, and people will know it's there. L. Elden asked if a motion from the board was required. K. Repola said not that she is aware of. Mayor Forthofer said they are probably at the point where people are going to start making signs. K. Repola said they are to this point and there are a lot of brochures. T. Valerius suggested creating a resolution. D. Brudney said if he was somebody coming into the community and wanted to know where the parks are in the city, and then seeing a sign with Main Street Beach, then he would think it is a beach, but where are the parks, but if it says Main Street Beach Park or Main Street Beach and Park, then he would know there is a beach and park there, so it makes it more interesting to know there is a park there also. B. Malin asked what the administration's feeling was on this. Mayor Forthofer said he cares about a self-locating name, so as long as it says Main Street is satisfies his interest. K. Repola said if they want to incorporate the word park in the title, they should research if it should be Main Street Beach and Park, or Main Street Beach Park. It may take a little more thought into the exact wording of this. T. Valerius thought it was a good point if you just say Main Street Beach, then people may not think there is a park there, so he was more about keeping it simple. M. Weisenberger said Main Street Beach is something people already know and most of the time when they're looking for

something it would be more towards the description of what is there. K. Repola said she will take the month to look into this and will come back to the board with two ideas. She said as of now, it will remain Main Street Beach until they make a firm decision.

ADJOURNMENT:

L. Elden MOVED; B. Malin seconded to adjourn the meeting upon no further discussion. Roll Call Vote 5 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday – June 21, 2022 @ **6:00 pm** at the Vermilion Municipal Complex, 687 Decatur Street,
Vermilion

Transcribed by ~ Gwen Fisher, Certified Municipal Clerk