

WHITEHALL PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

January 9, 2019

Mayor Kim Maggard stepped forward and administered the Oath of Office to Whitehall Parks and Recreation Commissioner John Feters, who answered in the affirmative.

Next, Mayor Kim Maggard administered the Oath of Office to Whitehall Parks and Recreation Commissioner Mike McQuate, who answered in the affirmative.

The meeting of the Whitehall Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order at 6:02 PM by Chairman John Feters. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

On a roll call, in attendance: Mike Adkins, Tiffanie Charles, Feters, Mike McQuate, Katie Quincel, Director Shannon Sorrell, and Shannon Werner. Guests: Mayor Kim Maggard, Councilman Wes Kantor, and Matt Golden.

Charles moved, seconded by Quincel, to excuse the absent members and the motion carried 5 – 0. Mark Schieber subsequently arrived at 6:21pm.

To begin the re-organizational portion of the meeting, Director Sorrell opened the floor to nominations for chairperson. Adkins nominated John Feters for chairperson, seconded by Charles. There being no further nominations, nominations were closed and a voice vote was taken. All members answered in the affirmative, with Fetter abstaining, and John Feters was re-elected chairperson of the Whitehall Parks and Recreation Commission for 2019.

Next, Feters opened the floor to nominations for vice-chairperson. Quincel nominated Mike Adkins, seconded by Feters. There being no further nominations, nominations were closed and a voice vote was taken. All members answered in the affirmative, with Adkins abstaining, and Mike Adkins was re-elected vice-chairperson of the Whitehall Parks and Recreation Commission for 2019.

There were no guests to poll for questions or comments.

Adkins moved, seconded by Charles, to approve the December 5, 2018 meeting minutes and the motion carried 5 – 0.

The Commission reviewed the following items: Employees' wages/ personal service for 11/25/18 through 12/22/18; bills and refunds for December 2018; and the Trust Fund, budget, and income for December 2018.

Director's Report:

Sorrell reviewed upcoming dates and events:

- 1/28/19 Joint Programming Advisory Committee meeting

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- 2/3 – 2/6/18 OPRA Conference and Awards Dinner
- 2/13/19 short February Commission Meeting followed by Dog Park Planning (open to public and facilitated by EMH&T).
- June and July meetings to be held at Park Parties

Sorrell also recapped the department's 2019 goal and objectives.

The Police Department still has another "Safe Parks" grant application pending. However, they also intend to bring back bike patrols, which will focus on parks and city events.

Several staffing changes have been made. Shannon Werner was promoted to Recreation Superintendent. The administrative assistant position will be back-filled in May. Full-time maintenance workers were also reclassified to higher levels as part of CWA contract negotiations. The department intends to have a smaller seasonal staff in 2019 as compared to the previous two years.

Music in the Park will have a top lineup in 2019, and went slightly over budget so the department may use sponsorship dollars to cover food, etc. for those concerts.

The office staff is planning to move from the Activity Center to the Armory garage the first or second week of February.

A screener application has been submitted for round 13 of the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund. This submittal is for passive creek access and planting of the Big Walnut Creek in Whitehall Community Park.

Fence/ netting options for the ball diamonds at John Bishop Park are still being explored. Spring field maintenance may be delayed to allow tournament play at the request of the WYAA.

Next Shannon Sorrell discussed the 2019 Program and Event calendar. The lineup includes more nature and art programs, themed park parties, three movies in the park, and an eight-week summer camp, including sports and STEM programs. The department doesn't have the capacity to add much more.

Sorrell provided an update on the YMCA construction/ Activity Center renovation. M+A plans to have a core and shell package ready on January 14, and possibly a full bid package ready as soon as February 1. The drawing will be available to review for anyone who is interested.

Councilman Kantor raised the question of how current and future Whitehall Hall of Fame inductees will be honored, as there are still at least 3 inductees who do not have monuments. Sorrell proposed a separate meeting for those who are interested to discuss this and how it can fit into a complete overhaul of the amphitheater. At this time, the current monument model is neither sustainable nor preferred. Werner will email proposed dates to set a meeting time.

There being no further business, Charles moved, seconded by Adkins, and the meeting adjourned at 7:26pm.