

WHITEHALL PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

February 12, 2020

Mayor Kim Maggard stepped forward and administered the Oath of Office to Whitehall Parks and Recreation Commissioner Mike Adkins, 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 Fetters.

On a roll call, in attendance: Mike Adkins, Chris Bolich, Fetters, Mike McQuate, Katie Quincel, Director Shannon Sorrell, and Shannon Werner. Absent: Tiffanie Charles and Mark Schieber. Guests: Councilman Wes Kantor and Matt Golden.

Fetters moved, seconded by Bolich, to excuse the absent members and the motion carried 5 – 0. Charles subsequently arrived at 6:05 pm (prior to nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair).

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

To begin the re-organizational portion of the meeting, Director Sorrell opened the floor to nominations for chairperson. Adkins nominated John Fetters 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 Fetters abstaining, and John Fetters was re-elected chairperson of the Whitehall Parks and Recreation Commission for 2020.

Next, Sorrell opened the floor to nominations for vice-chairperson. Quincel nominated Mike Adkins, seconded by Fetters. 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 2020.

There were no guests to poll for questions or comments.

Adkins moved, seconded by Charles, to approve the meeting minutes for November 13, 2019 and November 20, 2019 and the motion carried 6 – 0.

The Commission reviewed the following items: Employee wages for 10/27/19 through 2/1/20; bills for November and December 2019, and January 2020; Trust Fund, budget, and income for December 2019 and January 2020.

Director's Report:

Sorrell reviewed programs and outreach to date for 2020. Staff has reached 900+ people thus far, with most contacts being made at the High School as part of the Teen Employment Initiative. Sorrell continued to update about the progress being made for the summer T.E.A.M. program (Teen Employment Awareness Movement). Progress is being made on recruiting students and many outside

business partners. Additionally, the department has arranged interviews/contacts for students to gain summer employment with the cities of Gahanna and Bexley, as well as the National Parks Service and next Five Seasons.

The department would like to have alcohol sales at two 2020 events, Arts in the Park and the Car Show/ Music in the Park. Commission will need to vote to approve this.

The 2020 Easter Egg Hunt hosted by WCCA, will be held at the High School (not Whitehall Community Park) and the department will still partner with WCCA for the event.

The YMCA is up and running. Parks maintenance staff continues to closely monitor the remaining construction of the facility. Norton Crossing is also progressing.

Staff purchased a floor display of a fitness station at the OPRA conference. It will be installed near the playground and basketball courts at John Bishop Park.

Work on the ball diamonds continues to be delayed due to weather. While the diamonds are prepped and ready to receive new dirt and brick dust, the ground still has neither sufficiently dried nor frozen (since the end of the 2019 ball season) to access the area with the necessary vehicles/ equipment. The ground must be frozen solid for 4-5 days in order to access the site with the dump

truck and grooming equipment.

Roof replacement on the concession buildings in John Bishop Park are slated for replacement in 2020.

Sorrell reviewed the 2020 staff training and education plans. These include the Great Lakes Parks Training Institute, turf pesticide application certifications, naturalist certifications, and NRPA Revenue Management School. Some staff members also attended the 2020 OPRA conference last week. Sorrell was a presenter and her class was very well received.

Sorrell has begun serving a 2-year term on the Facilities and Grounds Committee for APWA and will have an article published in their national "Reporter Magazine" in April. She plans to attend the APWA conference in September and is exploring presenting opportunities/ offers for that conference as well as the NRPA annual conference.

Commissioners and staff also discussed the pending WYAA recreational ball season. Growth of the league through partnerships and leadership succession was discussed.

As an item of new business, Adkins inquired how attendance is at the YMCA. Sorrell said they are meeting their membership goals and exceeding the Silver Sneakers goals. The after-school program has 25+ kids. There was miscommunication with the school system regarding how many students they could transport to the Y after school. At this time, they are at capacity busing 10 kids per day. They are working toward building that capacity to move 40 students per day by the end of the school year, then moving 80 students per day for the 2020-2021 school year.

Whitehall Parks and Recreation Commission February 12, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Quincel moved, seconded by Adkins, to approve the sale of alcohol at two 2020 events, Arts in the Park and the Car Show/ Music in the Park and the motion carried 6 – 0.

There being no further business, Charles moved, seconded by Fetters, and the meeting adjourned at 7:27 PM.

To the best of my knowledge these minutes are true and correct.

Chairman John Fetters

Prepared by:

Shannon Werner