

WHITEHALL PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

March 15, 2018

The meeting of the Whitehall Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chairman John Feters. In attendance: Mike Adkins, Chris Bolich, Tiffanie Charles, Feters, Katie Quincel, Mark Schieber, Director Shannon Sorrell, and Shannon Werner. Absent: Zach Wright. Guests: Matt Golden.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

Quincel moved, seconded by Adkins, to excuse the absent member and the motion carried 6 – 0. Wright subsequently arrived at 6:14 PM.

There were no guests to poll for questions or comments.

Charles moved, seconded by Schieber, to approve the minutes for the January 10, 2018 meeting and the motion carried 6 – 0.

The Commission reviewed the following items: Employees' wages/ personal service for 12/27/17 through 3/1/18; bills and refunds for January and February 2018; and Trust Fund, budget, and income for January and February 2018.

Director's Report

The architecture selection process has begun for the Activity Center. An RFO has been issued, 32 people came to the walk-through, and submittal deadline is 3-23-18. Interviews will be held on 4-15 and 4-16. The selection committee consists of Sorrell, Mayor Maggard, Jim Graham, John Feters, and Rich Zingle (of the YMCA).

The city is looking into the legality of using a Construction Manager at Risk (to manage the construction of the Activity Center/ YMCA). The goal of the model is reduce/ cap change orders. The city will also hire an Owner's Rep., likely a person from the YMCA. It is the very tight goal to open in October of 2019.

The Armory Roof Project will go out to bid 3-16-18. Schieber asked to review the specs for the project. He also discussed the need to develop a comprehensive, long-term plan and budget to maintain the meadow and wildflowers going into WCP's lower level.

Sorrell recently met with Whitehall's Board of Education. The presentation went great.

Next, Sorrell discussed the department's potential partnership with the YMCA and Whitehall City Schools to expand summer camp offerings to residents. The WCS have had a long-standing TANF funded program and they contract the YMCA to run that program. Traditionally there have been 80 spots for a 9 AM to 3 PM summer program. Parks and Recreation will help expand this by 50 spaces and add before and after-care options.

The High School will run sports clinics for every week in June. Kids can sign up for this as a “stand alone” program or enroll while also in the TANF program.

The YMCA’s break even cost for their program is \$140 per child/ per week. Sorrell would like to contribute \$10k - \$15k from the department’s operating budget to bring that cost down to \$80-\$90/ week for the 9 AM to 3 PM summer camp for Whitehall residents only. Before-care, after-care, and sports camps will be an additional cost to families.

Sorrell went on to answer that the YMCA would handle camp registration, and Parks and Recreation will handle sports camp registrations. This is a one-year program/ solution until the Whitehall YMCA opens in 2019.

Commissioners expressed that a rate of \$70/ week would make the summer camp more accessible to residents.

Wright moved, seconded by Charles, to provide funding for 30-40 summer camp spaces at \$70/week, and the motion carried 7 – 0.

Plans for the department’s first park party, at Whitehall Community Park on April 21st, are moving forward. A food truck, live birds of prey exhibit, music, and disc golf demos are scheduled. The Commission discussed serving beer, within the confines of the Historical Society’s property, at the event. This will be the first time the department has done this, and per the charter, permission is required from the Commission.

Charles moved, seconded by Quincel, to allow beer sales at the Whitehall Community Park Party on April 21st. On a roll call vote: Adkins – yes; Bolich – yes; Charles; - yes; Fetters – yes; Quincel – yes; Schieber – yes; Wright – no. The motion carried 6 – 1.

The department continues to explore a partnership with Carter’s Kids to build a new playground at John Bishop Park. There is a cost to work with this non-profit and national publicity seems unlikely now. Sorrell will continue to keep everyone updated. The department has tentative install dates for the other playgrounds.

The Commission was provided copies of the WYAA 2017 financial report. Bolich commented that they looked good this year.

At this time, Bolich moved, seconded by Charles, to adjourn to executive session pursuant to ORC Section 121.22(G)(1) to consider the appointment of a public employee. The motion carried 7 – 0 and the meeting adjourned to executive session at 7:22 PM.

At 7:32 PM Fetters said, “We are back on the record.”

Adkins moved, seconded by Charles, to approve the staff recommendation to hire Charles Thacker, and the motion carried 7 – 0.

Next, Sorrell said that while Feters was serving on the architectural selection committee, the Commission needed to select a representative to serve on the Joint Programming Advisory Committee (JPAC). While all are welcome to attend, the Commission has one official appointment (serving a three-year term). The JPAC provides community input on the direction of programming offered at the YMCA.

Bolich said he'd like some assurance that the city will retain some flexibility, within reason, to use the completed facility. Sorrell suggested the best place for that would be in the lease, not as part of the JPAC's input.

Adkins moved, seconded by Charles, to nominate Katie Quincel to serve as the Whitehall Parks and Recreation Commission's representative on the YMCA Joint Program Advisory Committee, and the motion carried 6 – 0 with Quincel abstaining.

Sorrell said that road work, parking, trail paving, admin fees, re-meadowing, 2 shelters, and play equipment will be done by July in WCP. When the city bonds the money for the Activity Center renovation, a portion will be used for another shelter and vault toilets at the park. As such, in the near future it may be time to discuss gating the park after dark, especially until the YMCA is up and running.

There being no further business, Charles moved, seconded by Bolich, and the meeting adjourned at 7:54 PM.

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

Chairperson

Prepared by:

Shannon Werner