

WHITEHALL PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

April 27, 2015

The meeting of the Whitehall Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order at 6:03 PM by Chairman John Fetters. In attendance: Chris Bolich, Tiffanie Charles, Fetters, Katie Quincel, Kyra Thorpe, Director Shannon Sorrell, and Shannon Werner. Guests: Mayor Kim Maggard, Councilman Wes Kantor, Ken Euman, and Bob Straits. Absent: Mike Adkins and Zach Wright.

Charles moved, seconded by Bolich, to excuse the absent members and the motion carried 5 – 0. Wright arrived at 6:13 PM.

First, Fetters polled the guests for comments. Ken Euman spoke on behalf of the Whitehall T-Ball League. He is concerned that the league is being denied a key to access the restroom facilities at Lamby Lane Park. He has been taking care of the restroom for years and doesn't understand why this year should be any different. He says the portable restrooms at Lamby are not adequate for the league's needs and they would even be happy to clean the restroom building.

Sorrell suggested that if T-Ball needs more units on the school's property, the school Athletic Director would probably be the most appropriate person to direct that request to. She explained that park facilities are not unlocked for general public use (and that is not unique to Whitehall) and the T-Ball league is no longer receiving support from the City.

Charles asked Euman if he has discussed with his board the possibility of providing the necessary paperwork to receive City assistance.

Euman said he doesn't know what exactly the City is asking for which he did last season.

Sorrell said that if the league will submit a current, auditable financial statement, proof of concussion training and background checks, then then Commission will be able to reconsider their decision.

Euman said he doesn't know what any of that has to do with restrooms and that he is there for the kids.

The Commission thanked Euman for his remarks.

Next, Quincel moved, seconded by Bolich, to approve the minutes from the March 23, 2017 meeting and the motion passed 4 – 0 with Fetters abstaining.

The Commission reviewed the following items: employees' wages/ personal service for 3/17/17 through 4/13/17; bills and refunds through 3/31/17; and the Trust Fund, budget, and income through 3/31/17.

Director's Report:

Sorrell updated the Commission regarding the Splashpad and its construction delays. The drop dead date is just prior to July 4th but we are hoping for June 17th. Operationally, the Department is ready for

the original opening day. Palmetto did not put in enough work earlier in the process and have fallen behind. The City signed off on an agreement to waive damages for a 17-day extension (on the construction contract) because that what is most likely to bring the project to a completion as soon as possible. Any further delay and Palmetto will face financial penalties. Sorrell cited specific delays on behalf of Palmetto such as producing the concrete mock-up that is necessary to move forward and that lockers have not been ordered. There are no delays on the City's part.

Overall, there have been about \$67k in change orders (including the water service) on a \$1.2M project. The Department has only one open position and all the supplies have been ordered and/or delivered. Sorrell will respond to press inquiries that we will be open by July 4th, but we are hoping for a couple of weeks earlier.

Hiring for ranger/coordinators and Splashpad leads has gone very well. Some of these new employees are starting soon as they are helping to develop/implement policy and procedure.

The YMCA has extended their High School afterschool program and it will cost the Department about \$2,500. Sorrell feels this is a very good use of our personal service dollars.

"Rebuilding Central Ohio" is on May 6th and the "Whitehall Cleanup" is on May 13. Both projects are still looking for volunteers.

The Commission agreed to keep the regular May meeting on its original date, May 25th, 2017.

Department staff will be attending a First Aid/CPR class at WCP and the Commission is welcome to attend too.

Grants: KaBOOM has notified the Department we are eligible for a \$20k grant for a playground at Norton Field. This requires a 2-minute video. We are submitting the NatureWorks grant tomorrow. We are still waiting to hear about the "Rebuilding" grant submitted by Community Affairs.

Facilities have been de-winterized, and water service has been restored to Norton Field (for tree watering). The new safety fence at WCP is complete, and the ball diamonds are being de-commissioned.

Sorrell asked the Commission for feedback, at the meeting or privately, to make sure that as a new director she is on the right track toward accomplishing the Department's goals and objectives.

Charles asked about the Armory. Sorrell explained that electrical work is in progress. Once complete, the demolition will happen. About \$70k of improvements have been added to the project but it will be done right (with offices and separate restroom facilities).

Lastly, Sorrell provided a detailed budget overview, including a future project list. One point of note is the cost of completing deferred maintenance on the Amphitheater parking lot, which is now nearly a total loss. The cost will be in the \$45k range. Charles asked if this was the time to connect the 2 lots on

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Langley. Sorrell still does not believe this is a short term budget priority, and is complicated now that there are two hotboxes between them.

Overall, there is not a lot of flex room in the budget, but that's okay.

One last update on Whitehall Community Park: EMH&T will be finished with the bid package for the roadway soon. A partnership with the YMCA continues to be an ongoing conversation and Sorrell will provide updates as they happen.

Quincel thanked all who participated in the Little Rams Roundup.

There being no further business, Charles moved, seconded by Bolich, and the meeting adjourned at 6:49 PM.

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

Chairperson