

WHITEHALL PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

August 14, 2019

The meeting of the Whitehall Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order at 6:03 PM by Chairman John Feters. In attendance: Mike Adkins, Chris Bolich, Tiffanie Charles, Feters, Mike McQuate, Director Shannon Sorrell, and Shannon Werner.

Charles moved, seconded by Bolich, to excuse the absent members and the motion carried 5 – 0. Mark Schieber subsequently arrived at 6:07 PM.

There were no guests to poll for questions or comments.

Bolich moved, seconded by Charles, to approve the July 10, 2019 meeting minutes and the motion carried 5 – 0.

The Commission reviewed the following items: Employees' wages/ personal service for 6/27/19 through 8/3/19; bills and refunds for July 2019; and the Trust Fund, budget, and income for July 2019.

Director's Report:

Sorrell presented mural concepts developed by a local artist. This first public art piece will go on the Armory façade and hopefully be realized in 2019. As the department develops more public art, we will also organically develop a process to do so.

Sorrell asked the members to provide their input for the 2020 budget over the next few weeks. Capital projects for 2020 will likely include: WCP canoe launch, parking lots at Lamby Lane Park and the Armory, roof on the JBP shelter, and a football scoreboard. Additionally, the department expects approximately \$250k to launch Phase 1 of the dog park. EMH&T is currently working to finalize a design and attach cost estimates its elements.

Construction of the YMCA is slowly moving along and we are estimating a mid-November opening. August 28th is the Y's campaign kickoff at Heartland Bank. In the spring, the department will do a community planting of the site as part of the COSI Science Festival.

The maintenance staff has repaired the cell tower road in JBP and has been working on the ball diamonds.

A review of 2019's events and programs has determined that a greater number of events have not led to greater numbers of overall participants. Staff plans to make adjustments for 2020 accordingly and program suggestions are most welcome.

Bolich moved, seconded by Adkins, to adjourn to executive session pursuant to ORC 121.22 (G)(1) to discuss the employment of a public employee and the motion carried 6 – 0.

At 6:51 PM, Chairman Feters said, "We are back on the record."

Staff updated the department's Field Rental Agreement for 2020 to reflect modest price increases and clarify renter responsibilities for large tournaments. Adkins moved, seconded by Charles, to approve the updated Field Rental Agreement and the motion carried 6 – 0.

Next, Sorrell explained that the Woodcliff/ Midcliff area will not be demolished until 2020. The City lacks the authority to close the streets and/or cite visitors for trespassing. The simplest solution may be to temporarily designate the area as a park. Then, the Commission has the authority to set hours and/or close parks.

In the event that Woodcliff/ Midcliff is designated as a park, Charles moved, seconded by Schieber, to declare the park as "closed" until re-development occurs and will rely on safety services to manage the area. The motion carried 6 – 0.

Upon Bolich's request, Sorrell will inquire with administration to divert net income tax dollars from the future development of Woodcliff/ Midcliff to the Park Endowment Fund until the former Golf Dome site is developed.

The City is exploring an opportunity to accept the first piece of new parkland near Doney and Robinwood (along the Turkey Run tributary) with the goal of starting a conservation easement and linear space continuing north.

Franklin Soil Water and Conservation District came out to evaluate the rain garden between Heartland bank and WCP. It appears that groundwater was hit during the bank's construction and as a result, there is a constant small water flow into the garden. The water flow means the area behaves more like a wetland than a rain garden. To best manage the area, the department, in communication with Heartland and FSWCD, is investigating the best way to remediate and plant the site.

Sorrell asked the Commission to let her know if anyone has an interest in attending the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association's upcoming Leadership Summit or Annual Conference.

There being no further business to discuss, Adkins moved, seconded by Fetters, and the meeting adjourned at 7:32 PM.

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

Chairman John Fetters

Prepared by:

Shannon Werner