

PARK BOARD

February 10, 2025

The February 10, 2025 Park Board meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers by Kate Niederkohr, Chairperson. Park Board members present were Jennifer Banta, Jon Blackburn, Dean Leonard, Kate Niederkohr, Erin Smith, and Bill Sturgeon.

Others present included: Keith Niederkohr, Parks Manager; Stephanie Hessey, Human Resource Officer; Bradley Roope; Colton Penwell; Rachel Roope; Jaynee Bramel; Wesley Bramel; Brian Webb; Rachel Pool; Tom Karcher; John Walker; William Franciscus, Daily Chief Union; and Sarah Bennett, Clerk.

The summary of bills totaling \$54,167.38 was presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Blackburn, seconded by Mrs. Banta, for the approval and payment of bills totaling \$54,167.38. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

The minutes of the January 13, 2025 Park Board meeting, having been mailed to each Park Board member, were approved as received.

Mr. Bradley Roope and Mr. Colten Penwell, 7th grade students at Upper Sandusky Middle School, addressed the Park Board and presented a petition for improvements to the skate bowl in Bicentennial Park along with a model of the skate bowl. Mr. Roope indicated that the concrete at the bottom of the bowl is rough and issues have been experienced with children running in the skate bowl while people are skateboarding in the bowl. Mr. Roope suggested the possibility of a fence to surround the skate bowl for safety reasons. Mr. Roope also requested consideration of additional obstacles including a railing be added near the skatebowl. Mr. Niederkohr indicated that there may be rails for skateboarding at the Park maintenance building and he invited Mr. Roope and Mr. Penwell to meet with him to discuss these suggestions/issues further. Park Board members and Mr. Niederkohr thanked Mr. Roope and Mr. Penwell for bringing their suggestions to the Park Board meeting.

Mrs. Jaynee Bramel addressed the Park Board regarding improvements to the swimming pool for individuals with developmental disabilities and older adults and the need for a lift to assist with access to the pool for these individuals. Mr. Niederkohr indicated that there is currently a lift at the swimming pool. Mrs. Bramel also suggested an adult changing table and an adult changing area. Mr. Niederkohr stated that plans for the proposed new pool house include family restrooms, not currently offered at the existing pool house, and the possibility of an adult changing table could be added to the plans for the new pool house.

Mr. Brian Webb addressed the Park Board on behalf of the Co-ed Softball League and requested permission for the ten (10) teams playing in the league to begin playing on Sunday, July 20, 2025 thru mid to late October, playing on Sundays only on both softball fields in Harrison Smith Park. Mr. Niederkohr noted that with the setup for the Winter Fantasy of Lights to begin in late October, the Co-ed Softball League would need to complete their season on October 19, 2025.

Mr. Niederkohr reported that a meeting will be held later this week with Peterman Associates, the engineer for the new proposed pool. Mr. Niederkohr shared a feasibility study of the City's existing pool, pump house, and pool house and plans for the proposed pool facility as prepared by Peterman Associates. Mr. Niederkohr indicated that there are more drawings to come of the facility.

Mr. Niederkohr presented job descriptions for a seasonal position and a full-time with the Parks Department. Mr. Niederkohr requested the job listings for these positions along with lifeguards and cashiers at the swimming pool be posted. Mr. Niederkohr noted that in 2024 there was a volunteer who worked watering flowers in the parks and in the downtown area and this individual will be volunteering their time again this year.

A motion was made by Mr. Sturgeon, seconded by Mr. Blackburn, to authorize the Human Resource Officer to advertise for a seasonal position and a full-time position in the Parks Department and for lifeguards and cashiers for the swimming pool for 2025. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

Mr. Niederkohr reported that Enhanced Surfacing, Findlay, Ohio has completed the work to repair the concrete floors in the men's and women's restrooms in Bicentennial Park and in the heated brick building in Harrison Smith Park and they also applied a clear topcoat to the floors in these restrooms.

Mr. Niederkohr noted that applications have been received for the position of pool manager.

A motion was made by Mr. Leonard, seconded by Mr. Sturgeon, to enter into an executive session to review the applications for pool manager. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried. Upon completion of the executive session, the Park Board reconvened into regular session.

There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting adjourned.

Sarah J. Bennett, Clerk

Kate Niederkohr, Chairperson