

PARK BOARD

April 14, 2025

The April 14, 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 Jon Blackburn, Dean Leonard, Kate Niederkohr, Erin Smith, and Bill Sturgeon. Jennifer Banta was absent.

Others present included: Kyle McColly, Mayor; Keith Niederkohr, Parks Manager; John Walker; Cathy Browne; and Sarah Bennett, Clerk.

The summary of bills totaling \$142,369.11 was presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Sturgeon, seconded by Mr. Leonard, for the approval and payment of bills totaling \$142,369.11. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

The minutes of the March 10, 2025 Park Board meeting, having been mailed to each Park Board member, were approved as received.

A motion was made by Mr. Leonard, seconded by Mrs. Smith, to enter into an executive session to discuss personnel. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried. Upon completion of the executive session, the Park Board reconvened into regular session.

A motion was made by Mr. Sturgeon, seconded by Mr. Blackburn, to hire Martin Hennessy as a full-time Parks Department employee at a rate of pay of \$18.00 with his CDL. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Blackburn, seconded by Mr. Leonard, to hire Shawn Lawhead as a seasonal part-time Parks Department employee at a rate of pay of \$14.00. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

It was noted that Terry Lindeman will be volunteering in the Parks Department again in 2025, as needed.

Park Board members reviewed the following quotes received for chlorine for the swimming pool for the 2025 season:

Bonded Chemicals 2645 Charter Street Columbus, OH 43228	-	\$2.59 per gallon
EMSCO / O.P. Aquatics 22350 Royalton Road PO Box 360660 Strongsville, OH 44149	-	\$2.75 per gallon \$15.00 delivery charge \$15.00 fuel charge
Hawkins, Inc. 520 Lonoke Street Dayton, OH 45403	-	\$3.70 per gallon \$35.00 delivery charge

A motion was made by Mr. Blackburn, seconded by Mr. Sturgeon, to approve the quote for liquid chlorine for the swimming pool for the 2025 season from Bonded Chemicals, Columbus, Ohio for \$2.59 per gallon, provided their delivery method complies with guidelines from the Water Treatment Plant. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

Mayor McColly reported on the fireworks to take place on Thursday, July 3, 2025 and noted that he, Mr. Sturgeon, and Mrs. Brittney Walton, Wyandot County Chamber of Commerce Director, met at Harrison Smith Park to discuss the fireworks in the park, and with that date being the same as a Wyandot County Chamber of Commerce's 1st Thursday event the plan is to change the location of the fireworks to Harrison Smith Park for this year. Mayor McColly indicated that he is currently waiting on a representative from Pyrotechnico to come and look at the site and possibly confirm the site for final approval for the discharge of the fireworks. Mayor McColly stated that there are many factors from a safety standpoint to take into account to try to maximize the number of people who can attend the fireworks in Harrison Smith Park. Mayor McColly will provide an update following the findings from the Pyrotechnico representative.

Mayor McColly expressed his appreciation for the efforts everyone has put into the support of the ½% income tax increase measure to be voted on at the May 6, 2025 primary election.

Mr. Niederkohr reported on the James W. Geary and Linda L. Geary Endowment Fund for Upper Sandusky Parks and Urban Forestry and noted that this fund was established to address needs for trees and parks in the community and there is currently a balance of \$3,405.58 in this fund. Mr. Niederkohr indicated that projects that could be addressed in Bicentennial Park in the spring of 2026 prior to the United States Semiquincentennial (AMERICA250-OH) celebration, commemorating the 250th anniversary of the United States, have been discussed including updated lighting, cleaning up the areas around the war memorials, trimming the bushes, and adding stone. It was noted that the Tree Commission members discussed this fund at their March 24, 2025 meeting and agreed to let the funds roll over for another year.

Mr. Niederkohr also reported that the Wyandot County Council on Aging will begin their pickleball league during the first week of May 2025 and conclude the league in October 2025 with league play to take place on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and the matches primarily held on the courts in Harrison Smith Park with additional matches held on the courts in Bicentennial Park as needed.

It was noted that the Angeline pre-school drive thru graduation will take place in Harrison Smith Park on Tuesday, May 27, 2025 beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Niederkohr also reported that the front roadways in Harrison Smith Park have been opened and slow pitch softball practices have begun. The roadways in the back of the park will be opened as weather permits.

Mr. Niederkohr further reported that Parks Department employees worked recently to clean-up Stepping Stones Park following recent flooding, and Stepping Stones Park was mowed today for the first time this year.

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

Sarah J. Bennett, Clerk

Kate Niederkohr, Chairperson