

PARK BOARD

August 10, 2020

The August 10, 2020 Park Board meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. near the Red Shelter in Harrison Smith Park by Kenneth Wessler, Chairman. Park Board members present were Aaron Korte, Jack Leonard, and Kenneth Wessler. Jon Blackburn, Bob Blocksom, and Kip Wentling were absent.

Others present included: Catie Richman, Pool Manager; Ellie Barnett, Pool Assistant Manager/Lifeguard; Jennifer Banta; Callan Pugh, Daily Chief Union; and Sarah Bennett, Clerk.

The minutes of the June 8, 2020 Park Board meeting, having been mailed to each Park Board member, were approved as received.

The minutes of the July 13, 2020 Park Board meeting, having been mailed to each Park Board member, were approved as received.

Mrs. Jennifer Banta addressed the Park Board and suggested that a drive-thru trunk-or-treat be held in Harrison Smith Park for Halloween. Mrs. Banta indicated that the event could be held instead of door-to-door trick-or-treat due to the coronavirus. Vehicles handing out candy could be parked at safe distances from other vehicles and children could be driven thru the park and gather candy, while never leaving their vehicles. The vehicles participating in handing out candy could also be decorated for the event. It was noted that this year Halloween falls on Saturday, October 31, 2020. Park Board members indicated that they liked the idea presented by Mrs. Banta and that it will need to be coordinated with coronavirus guidelines from the Wyandot County Health Department. Park Board members also noted that the Police Department and Fire Department could be asked to participate. Park Board members agreed to further discuss this suggestion at the September 14, 2020 Park Board meeting.

Miss Catie Richman, Pool Manager, and Miss Ellie Barnett, Assistant Manager/Lifeguard, addressed the Park Board regarding the closing date for the swimming pool season and complaints received regarding closing early due to a lack of required patrons. It was noted that the pool has closed early due to the existing rule that states, "there must be a minimum of 12 swimmers present or after a 2 hour period the pool will be closed", and complaints have been received. Mr. Korte indicated that the Park Board is charged with being fiscally responsible and possibly next year this rule should be reviewed. Mr. Wessler indicated that he felt this matter should be addressed for the remainder of the 2020 season. Park Board members agreed that for the remainder of the 2020 swimming pool season that the pool can close early if there are less than 8 swimmers at 5:00 p.m. Miss Richman indicated that Upper Sandusky Schools are planning to start on Tuesday, September 8, 2020, and there is a teacher in-service that she and Mrs. Heather Smalley, co-manager, are required to attend from August 24 thru August 28, 2020 so there is no manager and there will be no assistant managers to oversee the pool during the early hours on these days. Park Board members decided that from August 24 thru August 28, 2020 the pool will be open from 3:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and the pool will operate under regular hours for the remainder of the season with Monday, September 7, 2020 being the final day of the swimming pool season.

Mr. Wessler reported on the following on behalf of Mr. Keith Niederkohr, Parks Manager:

- The sign at Stepping Stones Park has been repaired.
- The three summer help individuals will be done working by the end of this week. They did a great job in the parks and the downtown area this summer.
- The Upper Sandusky High School Ice Breaker and Elks Invitational Cross Country meets have both been cancelled for this year.
- The Winter Fantasy of Lights event for December 2020 is still being planned.
- Thank you to the Upper Sandusky Lions Club for their purchase of four (4) trees for Stepping Stones Park.

- The splash pad in Bicentennial Park will remain open until Labor Day weekend and possibly longer if weather permits, or until the splash pad company completes the winterization.
- The pickle ball court construction in Harrison Smith Park is still in progress and is currently waiting on the contractor.

Mr. Korte reported on a complaint he received from a resident living near Bicentennial Park, and Mr. Korte suggested that the hours for the splash pad be adjusted for 2021. The splash pad is currently open from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. and Mr. Korte suggested that beginning in 2021 the splash pad be open from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Due to a lack of quorum, the meeting adjourned.

Sarah J. Bennett, Clerk

Kenneth Wessler, Chairman