

PARK BOARD

January 21, 2021

The January 21, 2021 Park Board meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. at the park maintenance building in Harrison Smith Park by Kenneth Wessler, Chairman. Park Board members present were Jennifer Banta, Jon Blackburn, Bob Blocksom, Jack Leonard, Kip Wentling, and Kenneth Wessler.

Others present included: Kyle McColly, Mayor; Keith Niederkohr, Parks Manager; Aaron Korte; Bill Gillen; Brian Webb; Cory Miller; Callan Pugh, Daily Chief Union; and Sarah Bennett, Clerk.

The minutes of the November 9, 2021 Park Board meeting, having been mailed to each Park Board member, were approved as received.

At this time Mr. Bill Gillen addressed the Park Board on behalf of some of the residents of Rivers Edge Subdivision and inquired about the procedure to have lights installed along the walking path in Stepping Stones Park on the east side of the Sandusky River at the bottom of the hill near the pedestrian bridge. Mr. Niederkohr indicated that an electrical contractor would need to be consulted as to the feasibility of possibly trenching electric to this area. Park Board members agreed to further discuss this request at their March 8, 2021 Park Board meeting.

Mr. Brian Webb, on behalf of the Danny Garza Memorial Foundation, addressed the Park Board requesting permission to hold the following benefit events in Harrison Smith Park:

- Saturday, June 17, 2021 – Men’s Softball Tournament – first pitch at 9:00 a.m.
- Saturday, August 28, 2021 – Co-ed Softball Tournament – first pitch at 8:00 a.m.
- Friday, September 24, 2021 – Jokers Wild Overnight Softball Tournament – first pitch 8:00 p.m.
- Saturday, October 16, 2021 – Cornhole and Kickball Tournament – beginning at 9:00 a.m. (cornhole registration from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.)

Mr. Webb noted that proceeds from these events will benefit Mr. Luis Garza who is in need of a liver transplant. Mr. Webb further indicated that alcohol is strictly prohibited at these events.

A motion was made by Mr. Wentling, seconded by Mr. Leonard, to approve the Danny Garza Memorial Foundation benefit events in Harrison Smith Park as presented. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairman declared the motion carried.

Mr. Cory Miller inquired about conditioner for the field at Water Tower Park and noted that this matter was previously discussed and approved by the Park Board. Mr. Miller indicated that if the City can haul the material, representatives from the Girls Slow Pitch Softball League can install the material. Mr. Niederkohr will work with the league on this matter.

Mr. Miller and Mr. Garza requested consideration of closing West Hicks Street (north side of the railroad tracks), west of South Warpole Street, during games played by the Girls Slow Pitch Softball League as they feel there are safety issues in this area including children running across the roadway without looking for traffic. It was noted that this request will need to be addressed by the Safety Committee and the Police Department.

Mrs. Jennifer Banta requested to hold a Costume Fun Run on the backstretch of roadway in Harrison Smith Park on Saturday, April 17, 2021 with a raindate of Saturday, April 24, 2021. The event will benefit South School. Mr. Niederkohr will work with Mrs. Banta on barricades to close this portion of roadway for this event. Park Board members voiced no objections to this request.

Discussion was held regarding admission rates for the swimming pool. Mr. Korte suggested that the admission rates need to be reviewed and adjusted as the last increase occurred in 2008. Mr. Korte suggested the possibility of increasing daily admission from \$3.00 per day to \$4.00 per day, and increasing the family pass from \$75.00 to \$125.00.

Discussion was held regarding advertising for pool staff. Mr. Korte suggested promoting applications with social media.

A motion was made by Mr. Wessler, seconded by Mr. Leonard, to approve the Human Resource Officer to advertise for all pool staff positions. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairman declared the motion carried.

The formation of a subcommittee to review information for the swimming pool was discussed. Mr. Blackburn and Mr. Wentling, as Park Board members, volunteered to serve on this committee along with Mr. Korte, as an ex-officio member.

A motion was made by Mr. Blocksom, seconded by Mr. Wessler, to approve the formation of a subcommittee to review information for the swimming pool. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes. The Chairman declared the motion carried.

Mrs. Banta presented the idea of having Skill Saturdays in Harrison Smith Park in the open field area at the northeast corner of the park in cooperation with the Farmers Market. Skill Saturdays could feature dance, karate, etc. Mr. Niederkoehr will communicate with the representatives of the Farmers Market on this suggestion.

A motion was made by Mr. Wessler, seconded by Mr. Blackburn, to approve this request as presented. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairman declared the motion carried.

Mr. Niederkoehr reported that 2021 is the 100th anniversary of the City's parks. Mr. Niederkoehr suggested the possibility of mini-stories of the parks be publicized in the newspaper. Any suggestions to celebrate this anniversary are welcomed.

Mr. Niederkoehr also reported on the possibility of obtaining grant funding through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources available for boat ramps, boat docks, and kayak access points along rivers. Mr. Niederkoehr will keep the Park Board updated on this grant funding.

A motion was made by Mr. Wessler, seconded by Mr. Leonard, to enter into an executive session to discuss a personnel matter. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairman declared the motion carried. Upon completion of the executive session, the Park Board reconvened into regular session.

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

Sarah J. Bennett, Clerk

Kenneth Wessler, Chairman