

VERMILION PARKS & RECREATION BOARD

Minutes of October 15, 2019 - 7:00pm | Municipal Complex Courtroom (687 Decatur)

Roll Call: T. Parker (Chair), B. Scholtz (Vice-Chair), W. Warden, E. Wakefield, E. Cann, D. Brudney, Jeff Keck

Also, Present: M. Weisenberger, PARKS OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR; C. Kuhns, RECREATION DIRECTOR; Brian Holmes, COUNCIL REP; Tony Valerius, SERVICE DIRECTOR

T. Parker called the October 15, 2019 meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

E. Cann MOVED: J. Keck seconded to approve the meeting minutes of September 17, 2019. Vote 7 YEAS. MOTION CARRIED.

CORRESPONDENCE/AUDIENCE/COMMUNITY GROUP USE PERMIT:

Community Group Use Permits:

-Main Street Vermilion

. Triathlon – August 14 – 16, 2020 (Sherod Park) – All Day

B. Warden: D. Brudney seconded to approve the Community Group Use Permit submitted by Main Street Vermilion for the Triathlon. Vote 7 YEAS. MOTION CARRIED.

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS:

Chad Kuhns, Recreation Director reported they will be hosting the football playoff's this Saturday in Vermilion. Two of their three teams qualified for the playoffs.

He said they need to start looking at putting field mix into the baseball fields this coming spring. J. Keck conveyed that last year he asked for \$6,000 for the baseball field. He said the fields have been neglected for so long and through the turnover of the Operations Director, Athletic Director, and the maintenance crew at the High School, they were unaware of what Bill Lutz did every year to maintain the fields. He said last year they basically did a band-aid of the fields and it needs more upkeep (sand/clay mix), so he wasn't sure what a fair amount would be to ask for. He said last year the field maintenance happened too late and the fields weren't ready until late April. C. Kuhns said according to the lease the Parks Board is responsible for maintenance of the fields. J. Keck thought the schools should contribute to maintaining the fields as well. C. Kuhns thought they approved about \$6,400 five or six years ago. G. Fisher said the Parks Board approved around \$6,000 last year as well. After further discussion, T. Parker asked Chad Kuhns to come back with some prices for the board to review. He said the Parks Board is intending to plan their capital expenses five years out, so they know what money they must set aside for bigger projects. If they can incorporate this expense into the plan it would be advantageous to do so. T. Parker said if the fields must be done this fall, then maybe the schools can front the money and come back to the Parks Board with a number. J. Keck said he would relay this to the schools.

T. Valerius mentioned that the concrete was poured over at the pool for the new playground which turned out real nice. He said the Parks Supervisor will be mulching it soon. M. Weisenberger agreed the contractor did a nice job and the swings will be installed once they arrive, which might be another three weeks. T. Parker said if they want to be reimbursed for the grant, they need to submit the invoice to the Erie County Metroparks before they close their books on November 27.

Marc Weisenberger, Parks Supervisor said they are trimming trees along fence lines at Showse Park and are cleaning up brush and hauling it away from Sherod Park. They assisted Vermilion in Bloom with removing flower pots and hanging baskets. They will start getting the Christmas decorations organized and ready to go. He said they are talking about bringing a dumpster to Sherod Park to haul the material from the baseball dugouts at Sherod Park. They will scrap the fence.

T. Parker conveyed that the Mayor is attending a Vermilion Education Foundation dinner but wanted him to relay to the board members the status of the parking issue they had with the French Restaurant using the museum lot. The Mayor met with Matt Mars on September 20 and they talked about employees parking at the old museum as well as parking patron valet cars. He was assured by Matt that they would not park on the grass and he would encourage employees not to loiter once they finished work. He is not in favor of addressing the growing number of right-of-way parking spaces that people have been reserving with orange cones. He wants to be a good neighbor and feels his business has adequate parking. He has his own ideas for business development and is happy to see any improvement to the downtown. The Mayor gave him an overview of the Phase 1 Harbor View Plan and M. Mars said that if Chez can survive the repaving of Main Street, it can survive anything.

Budget/Finance Subcommittee; Harbor View Subcommittee; Playground Committee:

Budget/Finance Subcommittee – T. Parker said they need to establish a date to meet to discuss the Parks Board budget for 2020 with the finance director.

Harbor View Subcommittee – B. Scholtz said they are making progress with parking, public access, and restrooms at the beach. It seems like they have some things moving again and recently they just met with State Senator Gavarone as they are working to get into the State Capital Budget for part of this project. The Mayor is working hard on this. They also brought the Western Reserve Land Conservancy into the fold as they were involved with all the other acquisitions they did along the beach and the river, and when they acquired the museum. He said the Harbor View Subcommittee is ready to make the next step which is the fundraising to pull this project together. In order to do this, the Subcommittee has asked him to request a not to exceed amount of \$6,000 so they can do a rendering, so they can begin the fundraising. He conveyed that Fund 405 is in place as it exists from previous private fundraising when they acquired the museum. B. Wakefield asked how much money was remaining in Fund 405. T. Parker replied that at the end of August it was \$36,082.00. Any use of this fund must come before the Parks Board for approval.

E. Cann MOVED; B. Wakefield seconded to request an expenditure not to exceed \$6,000 from the Museum Fund 405 for the creation of a rendering of the Harbor View Park area, which will be known going forward as the Main Street Beach Development Project. Vote 7 YEAS. MOTION CARRIED.

Playground Committee – B. Wakefield conveyed they are in a holding pattern right now and there is nothing new to report.

Lighthouse Committee: B. Wakefield said there is no report at this time.

Financial Reports - T. Parker conveyed the financial reports (August) were emailed to all members.

Old Business/New Business:

T. Parker said the board previously approved an expenditure to not exceed \$2,500 for the repair of the Smithco Machine, but there were additional costs for pickup/delivery, oil filters, etc. Therefore, an additional amount of \$204.68 needs approval to cover this invoice.

B. Warden MOVED: J. Keck seconded to approve the additional expense of \$204.68 for the repair of the Smithco Machine. Vote 7 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

T. Parker reported the Vermilion Community Pool has been closed for the season and all donated funds are exhausted and they will need to kick in money from their operating levy. He said the city has not made a commitment financially for next year. There are deck repairs needed and the pool costs around \$52,000 a year to operate. The board needs to decide going forward on how they want to handle this, if they want to handle this, or if they go out to the community. He said this expense would put a huge dent in their operating levy. He said the finance director is waiting for the sign-in sheet, so they have facts and figures in front of them to review as far as daily admissions, season passes, final income, etc. B. Wakefield thought she was of the impression that the City finances have greatly improved because of cost savings around \$400,000 from better health care and employee benefits. Therefore, she asked if the city would consider floating this amount for another year. B. Holmes said he would put this issue on the finance agenda next week so he could request this. B. Wakefield said they need to decide on the pool permanently and they don't have enough information on how they will proceed. It seems premature to put this back to the public for support again since they supported the levy. She thought it would be an appropriate request to ask the city to fund the \$52,000 for the pool in 2020. B. Holmes encouraged some board members to be present at the finance meeting next Monday. B. Wakefield said she would put the meeting date on her calendar and would notify the other board members if she was unable to attend.

D. Brudney said he was at the Main Street beach and noticed several kids sitting under the porch and others riding their bikes, skateboards, and scooters on the grass. He talked with the police department who said they would shoo them away, but they felt it was becoming too common, and they mentioned the cars parking in the parking lot. The police department would like the Parks Board to approve some 'No Loitering' signs that they can post which would give them some teeth in telling these individuals that they can't be there. G. Fisher thought in the past when this was discussed with the Service Director about having signs located at the Skate Park going up to her office, she believed they were told by the law director that the city couldn't post these signs. T. Valerius said the reasoning is that it's public property. G. Fisher said she is also having problems with the youth loitering around the sidewalk going up to her office. T. Valerius said he would ask the law director again if this is something the city could do. G. Fisher said maybe there is another solution the city can do to control this. D. Brudney said he was concerned of the liability if someone gets hurt on city property. B. Wakefield said the police have been diligent about patrolling the area, but it might help if they have a camera system on that side of the museum. T. Parker thought they could put up a sign that says, "No Skateboarding" because it's not a skateboarding facility.

D. Brudney reminded the Parks Supervisor that the canopy at the Skate Spot will need to be removed before the snow arrives. M. Weisenberger said the gentleman that installed it has offered to help them take it down for the first time and they will be doing this soon. T. Warden asked when the half pipe will be painted at the Skate Spot. M. Weisenberger said this is planned for a future date.

T. Parker asked the board members if they wanted to skip the November meeting or the December meeting. The board agreed to not holding a meeting in December.

ADJOURNMENT:

B. Scholtz MOVED; B. Warden seconded to adjourn the meeting. Vote 7 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED**

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday – November 19, 2019 @ 6:00 pm

-Gwen Fisher, Boards and Commissions