

Mayfield Heights

Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes

Tuesday, January 26, 2021

7:00 p.m.

Mrs. Appell called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mrs. Shannon Appell, Mr. Michael Horvat via phone, Mr. Mike Hasto, Mrs. Sue Manno, Mrs. Erin Sipos and Mrs. Diane Snider

Also, present: Mr. Sean Ward- Director of Recreation, Ms. Patty Rogaliner – Secretary

Absent: Mayor DiCicco, Mrs. Heather Dilulio, Mrs. Ashley Moses

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

October 2020 minutes could not be approved due to not enough members present from that meeting. November 2020 meeting did not have a quorum to have minutes, notes provided to members of the discussion that occurred.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

REPORT OF MAYOR

Mayor DiCicco – no report, absent

REPORT OF RECREATION DIRECTOR

Director Ward reported that it is a new year and new event chairs need to be assigned.

Bunny Event – March 27: Mrs. Moses and Mrs. Sipos

Halloween Event – October 23: Mr. Horvat and Mr. & Mrs. Manno

Santa Event – December 11: Mr. Hasto and Mrs. Appell

We hope to begin to return to more normal activities as COVID-19 vaccine is distributed to the community. The thoughts for the bunny event on March 27 will be similar to Trunk or Treat this past October, with picture with the Bunny in the gazebo, craft and snack in the pavilion and the egg hunt on the tennis courts if it is too wet to use the grass around the pavilions.

Mr. Ward discussed with the group his thoughts on the Pancake Breakfast. With the uncertainty as to how soon things will return to normal and the decline in attendance the last 3+ years he felt the commission should consider tabling the event all together or until Fall. It was asked why attendance had been declining and the reply included that we had more competition at that time of year and ticket sales by the members of the commission and council had declined from past history. The group decided to table it till fall and might even tie it in to the Fall Fest or with Mayors Advisory Committee's Pancake Breakfast.

Mr. Ward stated that Unity Day plans are in the works for June 25 – 27. We have the ride company penciled in and Mr. Tagg has booked bands for Friday and Saturday. He hopes that we can have some version of our traditional Unity Days, yet it is still too early to know exactly how it may differ.

Mr. Ward said his staff is working on new programs and plans for Dragga Pool and the Summer Day camp. He anticipates being able to have both since we opened the pool and had 80 campers in the summer of 2020.

Mr. Ward gave an update on the Park and Pool process. He expects to have the feasibility study back by the end of February. This study is going to tell us if the new pool, community building with a possible attached gymnasium and parking for it can be placed on the Marsol Rd. side of the park where the current youth ball fields are located. He mentioned that the option of having a gymnasium attached to the new community building would assist day camp as a rain location in place of walking camp to Lander Elementary School. In addition, a gymnasium would also allow us to offer so many more recreation programs that can't be offered at Wildcat Sport & Fitness. If the study shows that the location is workable, and council agrees, the process of securing an architect will begin. If it is not, we will have to reevaluate the options before us.

The City is over 100 acres short on park space for a city of our size. In completing the master plan in 2015, we asked POD Design to maximize the efficiency of our park space. Including a turf field will open more options for recreation and not limit field space to one or two sports. It will also extend the length of our seasons by allowing programming to start earlier and end later each year.

Mrs. Sipos asked what the current pool capacity is and if there will be enough parking for all amenities. Mr. Ward stated the new pool would double our current capacity. He also stated that parking has always been an issue for our park space, and we will know more of what could be done once we have the study results. Mr. Manno suggested to see if it could be possible to add underground parking since we are digging a pool anyways. Mr. Manno also suggested that as homes around the park come up for sale the City could purchase them, and the land could one day be used for more parking options.

In conclusion Mr. Ward said time will tell what will happen next once we have the study back.

Mr. Ward then updated the group on the Trails Project. The study began in 2018 and into 2019. There had been 3 public meetings and the survey which resulted in over 500 responses. As we move forward with each stage of the trail residents are learning about the plans and some are upset. Among their concerns when it comes to what is happening in their front yard are, will it bring drugs, will it increase crime, and will it decrease my property value? Mr. Ward stated that he has studies to show that the opposite in fact is true to these concerns. At the conclusion of the discussion Mr. Ward stated that his goal is to educate residents one on one about the project and its overall goal to connect the city in an East/West format and calm their fears.

REPORT OF COUNCIL MEMBER DON MANNO

Mr. Manno reported that council had no resolutions to approve this past week, 3 ordinances had been put on first reading, they tabled an ordinance for the Automotive District. It was asked what that meant, Mr. Manno shared that Nick Mayer is looking to do some updates and in order to get finance assistance from the manufacturer that this zoning would help. The only property included would be Nick Mayer Ford and Ganley Nissan. They also did updates to the codified ordinance.

REPORT OF COUNCIL MEMBER DIANE SNIDER

Mrs. Snider reported that Mr. Manno covered it. She also shared that the new live stream system was used at Monday's meeting but had a few glitches as we learn how to use this new tool!

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

All welcomed Mrs. Erin Sipos to the commission.

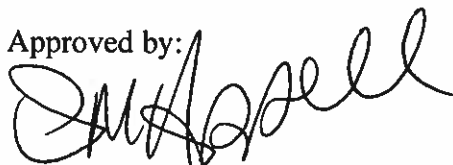
Mrs. Manno motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:15pm, second by Mr. Hasto.

The next Parks and Recreation Commission will be Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Respectfully submitted by:

Patty Rogaliner
Secretary

Approved by:



Shannon Appell
Co-Chairman