

**PARKS BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
October 19, 2022
6:30 PM**

Nina Schroeder called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

Roll Call: Nina Schroeder, Scott Weaver, Cookie Vanek

Other Village Personnel Present: None

Citizens/Others Present: DMRC Liaison Sue Steinberg, DMRC President Edie Benner

- ❖ Motion to excuse Don Buchert and Marty Hura made by Scott, seconded by Cookie; all “ayes.”
- ❖ Motion to approve August 17, 2022 minutes made by Cookie, seconded by Scott; all “ayes.”

Old Business:

- Parks Board continues to seek to increase revenue streams at park facilities (i.e., the pavilions, the lodge, and other spaces that have the potential to generate greater use and more income for the Village).
 - All agreed that low rental prices coupled with discounted rates have gone unaddressed for too long.
 - Nina proposed a data analysis to determine how much the Village is spending to maintain these spaces and provide services versus how much customers are paying to use park facilities.
 - Sue, Cookie, and Scott agreed that Buchert Park should generate enough money to cover its costs (e.g., Cookie cited the cost of cleaning, maintenance, lighting, and electricity).
 - Scott reiterated that he would like to see new leagues formed and using the parks, and generating revenue for the Village.
 - Sue acknowledged that the Rotary Club requested and facilitated the funding of the most recent upgrades at the volleyball court, but the footprint must be increased for a league to use the court safely.
 - Cookie noted how darling the park is and how much potential it has if we could better its curb appeal and offer more amenities.

- Grass was seeded along the newly paved trail.

- Flashing lights have been installed at the High St. crossing.

New Business:

- The rough draft of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) provided by Village Solicitor Michele Stuck was reviewed,
 - All agreed that the draft is more generalized than they had originally imagined it would be; that is, the document details that the Village will collaborate with another entity to improve the Village, but it is not specific enough to determine

expectations before work is done on individual projects (e.g., points of contact and who handles unforeseen expenses).

- All agreed that an MOU sub-committee could handle the details of each new MOU.
- Nina recommended involving the Finance Committee and letting them review and create a more specific draft.
- The Board canvassed the park.
- Past citizen suggestions and survey responses collected during the creation of the 2016 improvement plan were compared with actual projects completed since then.
 - More benches were requested.
 - More and improved benches have been installed.
 - A canoe and kayak launch/landing space was requested.
 - This was installed.
 - A dog park was requested.
 - This was discussed and planned at length but has since been tabled.
 - Better defined fishing spots were requested.
 - A bathroom was requested.
 - This project is on hold.
 - More fencing was requested.
 - More landscaping was requested.
 - Frisbee golf was requested.
 - This would require a good amount of space, and Katie's Meadow was considered.
 - Parks Board would like to assess the cost of installing a frisbee golf course.
 - More playground equipment was requested.
 - Improvements were made to current equipment last year.
 - A rope course-style jungle gym was requested.
 - A workout area was requested.
 - A splashpad was requested.
 - This has been addressed, and it was determined too expensive a project for now.
 - A volleyball court was requested.
 - This has been and will continue to be addressed.
 - A trail through the park was requested.
 - These have been installed and improved upon.
 - Better-defined parking was requested.
 - This has been addressed since 2016.
 - More way-finding signs were requested.
 - Pavilion fireplaces were requested.
 - Electrical outlet improvements were requested.
 - This has been addressed since 2016.
 - Wi-Fi was requested.

- All agreed that this matter should be further addressed and wondered if the lodge or pump house could be grounds for a Wi-Fi hook-up.
 - All agreed that the old pump house is the face of the park entrance and should be landscaped and utilized to welcome park users.
 - All agreed that it looks better than it used to but still demands an improved curb appeal that better invites park-goers because it is the face of the park.
 - Better grilling options (for use at larger gatherings) were requested.
 - All agreed that upgrades and additional grills would be ideal.
 - The Board wondered how often these are currently used.
- Edie reported that she had just come from a Leadership Portage County (LPC) meeting wherein a triple trail (Cuyahoga River, Buckeye, Headwaters) festival was discussed. The event is being planned for 2nd and 3rd of June 2023.
 - Edie noted that The Downtown Mantua Revitalization Corporation, the Portage Park District, the LPC, and the Buckeye Trail Association, and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) will work collectively to organize the event.
 - The evening of June 2nd will include music and a guided night hike with the ODNR.
 - The morning of June 3rd will include a 5K walk/run along Headwaters Trail and potentially a nine-mile walk/run incorporating the Buckeye Trail and Camp Asbury. This day may also feature music and food trucks.
 - Camping may be offered on Edie’s property, but she noted that the Village parks should consider getting involved as it is an opportunity for eco-tourism, biking, kayaking, and adventure.
- Nina noted that a capital planning meeting is scheduled for November and asked everyone present to contribute their ideas for the wants and needs lists that will be discussed and generated at said meeting.
- The Board ran out of daylight, did not want to violate park rules, and pavilion lights had not yet turned on, so the meeting was adjourned early.
- ❖ Motion to adjourn made by Scott at 7:08 p.m., seconded by Cookie; all “ayes.”