

**PARKS BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES**

**December 22, 2021**

**6:30 PM**

Don called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Roll Call:** Don Buchert, Marty Hura, Nina Schroeder, Cookie Vanek

**Other Village Personnel Present:** Mayor Linda Clark

**Citizens Present:** Phil Rath

- ❖ Motion to excuse Scott Weaver made by Don, seconded by Nina; all “ayes” given.
- ❖ Motion to accept minutes from November 17, 2021 made by Marty, seconded by Nina; all “ayes” given.

**Old Business:**

- Last month, the Parks Board made a motion to seek approval from the Village Council, requesting that Council moves to approve the pursuit of a NatureWorks grant that would fund Phase 4 improvements at Buchert Park.
  - This grant application is due in February 2022.
- Per Mayor Clark, the Village Council approved moving forward with the NatureWorks grant application process.
- If awarded, this grant would help to cover the costs of the following projects:
  - Replacing the concrete pad under Pavilion 1.
    - Approximate cost: \$15,360
  - Replacing the sidewalk from the parking lot to Pavilion 1 with concrete.
    - Approximate cost: \$3,360
  - Replacing the heaving center slab of concrete separating the basketball courts, and replacing the chain-link fence dividing the basketball courts with a rubber-coated chain-link fence.
    - Approximate cost: \$8,815
- The Downtown Mantua Revitalization Committee (DMRC) will commit \$30,000 toward Phase 4 plans at Buchert Park through a previously-discussed interagency agreement.
  - Preliminary service quotes and approximate costs for Phase 4 total \$27,535.

- The NatureWorks grant application requires an engineer’s “stamp,” per Mayor Clark.
- The Mayor notes that, with a \$30,000 budget, approximately \$2,400 remains to cover CT Consultant’s fees—and this may not be enough.
  - The Mayor speculates that their fees have typically been about 18% of the cost of a project—which puts the budget necessary to fund Phase 4 nearer to \$32,000.
  - Mayor Clark contacted Brian Rogers of CT Consultants to relay the Village’s plans to move forward with Phase 4 and to get a better gauge on their engineering costs; CT Consultants will be able to determine firm cost estimates.
- Per Phil Rath, and depending on cost figures generated by CT Consultants, the DMRC may be willing to encumber additional funds and contribute even more money towards Phase 4.
  - Phil reported that the Rotary Club declined a financial commitment to Phase 4 projects.
  - The Mayor suggested asking the Lions Club if they would be willing to contribute.

**New Business:**

- The DMRC has been working to complete the NatureWorks grant application, and Mayor Clark requests a copy (in Microsoft Word formatting) to pass along to CT Consultants.
- Per Mayor Clark, the Village Council will have to re-approve the grant application cost estimates once CT Consultants reports back with firm figures.
- Nina suggests that Parks Board needs to be considering how Phase 5 will eventually be funded.
  - In past meetings, the Board has agreed with Phil and the DMRC that both entities need to be forward-thinking in their approach to improvements at Buchert Park; while Phase 3 is underway, progress can be made to advance and secure Phase 4, and all can be thinking ahead to Phase 5 (i.e., the construction of restrooms).
    - Per prior discussions with Phil, the DMRC will likely be able to help fund Phase 5 via a NatureWorks grant and interagency agreement process—similar to that of Phase 4.
    - Nonetheless, Nina notes that there is still no plan in place to fund ongoing upkeep, management, security, etc. for restrooms. Given that the Village’s financial standing hasn’t drastically improved (thus, money available to Parks is still constrained), other avenues for funding must be pursued.
      - Phil suggests asking CT Consultants to research alternative channels for revenue, like the William G. Mather Fund and other family foundations, for example.
      - The Board will mull over other vehicles for revenue.

- ❖ Motion to suspend the January 2022 meeting and to reconvene in February 2022 made by Marty, seconded by Don; all “ayes” given.
- ❖ Motion to adjourn made by Don at 7:10 p.m., seconded by Marty; all “ayes” given.