

Parks & Recreation Commission
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING: JUNE 28, 2023



The Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting was called to order by Chairman Douglas Hayes at 7:30p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Douglas Hayes, Dennis Boose, Jeff Grigsby, Jill Timoteo and Parks and Recreation Director Kevin Fougrousse

Excused Absence: Keriann Roach

FINALIZATION OF AGENDA:

Parks and Recreation Director Kevin Fougrousse requested to add under Old Business "Soccer Complex Name Change".

Motion by Hayes, 2nd by Grigsby for approval of Agenda.

4 – Yes, 0 – No

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Approval of minutes for our regularly scheduled commission meeting that was held on Wednesday, May 24, 2023.

Motion by Grigsby, 2nd by Boose for approval of minutes from our commission meeting that was held on Wednesday, May 24, 2023.

4-Yes, 0-No

LOBBY:

None

REPORTS:

COUNCIL LIAISONS REPORT:

Councilman Dennis Boose mentioned that Planning Commission approved the request of the Veterans Memorial with requirements that the project be fully funded and that the Parks & Recreation Department approves the landscape plan. The General Contractor made some slight changes to make the project fully-funded. The last piece for Veteran's Memorial is to go through Engineering & Building Department. They don't have a start date for construction. They plan on dedicating the memorial around Memorial Day Weekend 2024. The Police Department 3rd Party review is being conducted right now and expected to be completed by end of July or middle of August. The Mills Road / Stoney Ridge Roundabout construction should begin late summer or early fall. City Council meetings in July have been changed to the 2nd & 4th Monday of the month. Neighborhood street repairs continue throughout the summer. The 4th of July Celebration will be held on July 3 at Victory Sports Park.

SCHOOL BOARD LIAISONS REPORT:

Jeff Grigsby reported that changes have been made to bussing (2-mile radius). Changes have been made due to operating budget constraints. The district is having to buy additional trailers to house kids at the tune of millions of dollars. BOE is looking to add 16-20 additional trailers. Able not Label is having their grand opening of their first store front on Center Ridge Road.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Parks and Recreation Director Kevin Fougerousse discussed the revenues and expenses. Trust Fund revenue in May was \$30,266.25. Trust Fund unencumbered balance through May was \$261,587.59. The Park and Recreation Improvement Fund revenue in May was \$1,000.00. The Park and Recreation Improvement Fund unencumbered balance through May is \$262,520.83. Our General Fund expenses in May were \$77,719.64. Trust Fund expenses in May were \$32,524.04.

DIRECTORS REPORT:

Parks and Recreation Director Kevin Fougerousse reported that department entered into a 3-month agreement with Geese Chasers NEO. Jason (owner) and his border collie started on June 1 to help chase geese out of South Central Park. This process is humane and in no way do the border collies harm the geese or goslings. Planning Commission approved the Veteran's Memorial Project on Tuesday, June 13 subject to submitting plant selection to the Parks & Recreation Department for approval.

RECREATION SUPERVISOR REPORT:

Jr. Browns Flag Football Program for boys/girls in grades K-2nd and 3rd & 4th Grade runs August-October. Current registration is 40 in the K-2 and 12 in 3rd & 4th Grade. Our Jr. Ranger Tackle Football Program is open to boys/girls entering 3rd & 4th and 5th & 6th grade. Our current enrollment is 20 in 3rd & 4th and 5th & 6th grade we have 15. The teams participate in the Little Southwest Conference. Session II Youth Tennis Program started on June 26-July 18. Junior Pony Camp Session II & III are both full with 10. Anime & Manga Drawing Workshop starts on July 10 and at the time of this report we had 5 enrolled. Our Walking With Sole Program, formally Healthy Strides started on June 8 and runs for 13 weeks through August 24. Finally our Summer Concert Series kicked off in June. Unfortunately, our first 2 shows have been rained out.

GROUNDS MAINTENANCE REPORT:

Kevin Fougerousse reported for Marc Allen. Kevin commended the staff for all their hard work over Father's Day Weekend to get the fields ready for the Sheer Madness Tournament. We had a lot of rain that week and they did a tremendous job of getting the fields ready for play on Saturday & Sunday.

OLD BUSINESS:

Kevin Fougerousse discussed the survey results of the Soccer Name Change. We had 537 responses from our residents. From the survey you can see that the blue (35.8%) was No Change Needed which had 192 responses. The red was Root Road Park (33%) which had 177 responses. The light blue was Other received 47 responses (8.8%). The remaining entries were different options. The goal of this was to rename Soccer Complex as a Park to feel more inclusive. We did not receive a majority result (50%) from the survey. A lot of the responses were based still in Soccer. Our goal as a department and commission is to make our parks feel inclusive and inviting. A continued discussion was had by the commission on the name change and the position of the commission and department to have the park feel inclusive and we have to be forward thinking. Tying it to 1 sport doesn't do it justice. We have worked to get away from the sport specific park feel. Councilman Boose discussed if we can add another sign acknowledging NRASL which the commission is not opposed to adding.

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Chairman Douglas Hayes made a recommendation to change the name of the Soccer Complex to Root Road Park.

A motion Hayes, 2nd by Grigsby for changing the name to Root Road Park.

4 – Yes, 0 - No

NEW BUSINESS:

Jill Timoteo shared information regarding the Ohio ACE Grant. The Ohio Afterschool Child Enrichment (ACE) Educational Savings Account program provides qualifying families with a \$1,000.00 credit per child. The funds can be used to pay for a variety of educational activities designed to help accelerate learning for children impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Parks & Recreation Department is going to look into the Grant and see if it makes sense to become a provider.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 8:21PM