

The City of Canal Fulton

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING

Thursday, March 11, 2004

MINUTES

Present: Fred Fleming, Mary Ann Higgins, Mary Ann Hupp, Rebecca Shimer, David Prather

Also Present: Tammy Shiplett, Debby Underwood, Lisa Snyder, Pam Gindlesberger, Patrick Tohill, Jill Manda, Jaimee Roud, and Kim Seese.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made to approve the January 8, 2004 minutes. Mrs. Shimer seconded the motion. Roll: Yes – ALL.

Concerning the minutes of the Special February 23, 2004 Board meeting minutes, there was a correction. “Village of Clinton” was crossed out in the sentence with Lawrence Township. A new sentence will read “Clinton has agreed to contribute \$200 per child”.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the February 23, 2004 minutes, with the corrections. Roll: Yes – ALL.

OLD BUSINESS:

Dog Park.

There will be a public hearing on Wednesday, March 24, 2004 at 7:30 P.M. at the Northwest Senior Center.

Ball Field Reservations

Mr. Fleming stated that he feels things had not been communicated properly. He said all the Park Board is asking is that if the leagues are going to continue to maintain the fields, their fees are waived. He said they have always taken care of the fields and as long as they continue to do that, the fees will be waived.

He said the Board would like to know what they plan to do. Someone from the softball league said they get the sand and put it down. They get it from either Oser’s or Rupp’s. Mr. Fleming said a better grade of sand comes from a place in Barberton called Flishers.

Mr. Fleming also talked about the fact that the City has received Federal funds to move the tennis courts. He said the new estimate to move the tennis courts to Muhlhauser Park is \$68,000.00.

He said, as far as the softball league is concerned, they just would not have Field 4.

It was asked if anything is proposed for the ball fields this year. Mr. Fleming said he did not know.

It was also stated that the league had reserved the park for July 8th and it had been approved, but they have since found out that Olde Canal Days will be there. Someone from the league stated that the entire week prior to the 8th will be a problem because of Olde Canal Days.

Mr. Fleming asked for a motion to approve the Canal Land Ladies Softball League schedule as it will be worked out with Mrs. Luther and waive the fees.

Mrs. Shimer made a motion to approve the Canal Land Ladies Softball schedule as it will be arranged with Mrs. Luther and waive the use fee based on the fact that they maintain the fields. Mrs. Higgins seconded the motion. Roll: Yes – ALL.

Someone mentioned that another issue is that the City will be re-doing the parking lot in Community Park. Mr. Fleming said the way it looks now, the soonest they will be able to start is after Olde Canal Days.

Mrs. Higgins said they plan on doing half of the parking lot at a time, so there will still be parking available.

Kim Seese said she was president of the Northwest Junior Softball and they had submitted a request to use the fields for two weeks in April. She said at the time, they were asked to pay a fee. She said they have no money. She said they are also looking at having to replace backstops in the next couple of years.

She said they are more than willing to help with any maintenance.

Mr. Fleming said it sounds like they are going to have to work with Kyler on the schedules. Mr. Fleming said Kyler has Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, 5:30 to 8:30 P.M. beginning in March and ending May 15.

Mrs. Seese said she had their T-balls practicing there Monday through Saturday. Mr. Fleming said there is a problem at this point with this scheduling. He suggested that Mrs. Seese work with Mr. Kyler on the schedule.

Mr. Fleming suggested approving whatever Mrs. Seese can work out with Mr. Kyler and Mrs. Luther.

A motion was made to approve any schedule the Northwest Junior Baseball League can work out with Mr. Kyler, the ladies softball league, and with Tammy Luther downstairs and waiving of the fees with the understanding they will assist with maintenance. The motion was seconded. Roll: Yes – ALL.

Ohio Hustle 12-Under Softball League. Mr. Fleming said Mr. Kyler needs the fields on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, 5:30 – 8:30 P.M., beginning in March as soon as weather permits. It ends May 15th. Mr. Fleming said his fees have already been waived.

Mrs. Shimer made a motion to approve the Ohio Hustle Softball League schedule and all fees are waived because he will provide maintenance. Mrs. Higgins seconded the motion. Roll: Yes – ALL.

American Diabetes Association Cycling Tour. Mr. Fleming said this was 15 and 30 mile riders. He said all they are asking is use of the restrooms and be able to stop and rest. This will take place June 13, 2004. It was noted that the restroom should be unlocked. If they reserve the pavilion, they will be charged. But if they just use it and nobody is there, then there would be no fee.

It was stated that Stark Parks Health and Safety Day has been cancelled.

Northwest/Jackson Soccer League. Mr. Fleming said they do so much maintenance on those soccer fields that there should be no fee. Mrs. Higgins suggested that they put in writing what they plan to do as far as maintenance is concerned. He said they will be starting in late March or early April on field maintenance. Mr. Fleming notes that last year the Northwest/Jackson Soccer League spent \$3,200.00 to maintain and use the four soccer fields.

Mrs. Shimer made a motion to approve the Northwest/Jackson Soccer schedule and waive the fees. Mrs. Hupp seconded the motion. Roll: Yes – ALL.

2004 Summer Recreation Program.

Mrs. Higgins said a resolution along with the contract with the YMCA will go before City Council on Tuesday, March 16th for approval.

Mrs. Higgins said the changes that were made are that the Park Board will pay \$10,000 to the Y for the program and administrative costs. She said in addition to that, the Board will be paying the Y up to \$3,150.00 of the participant registration fees. She said the City Law Director, Dale Kincaid, helped word and reviewed the contract. Mrs. Higgins also said a line was added concerning a junior counselor training program and that Canal Fulton residents would take priority in that program.

Mrs. Higgins said the Board will pay the Y \$7,000.00 by June 1, 2004 and the balance will be paid on September 1, 2004.

Mrs. Shimer made a motion to recommend the Summer Recreation Program contract with the YMCA to City Council. The motion was seconded. Mrs. Shimer asked where the money would go when Lawrence Township and the Village of Clinton pay their shares. She asked if it goes into the Park Board budget or into the City's General Fund. Mr. Fleming said last year the \$10,000.00 came straight out of the Park Board's budget, but all the money that came in went into the General Fund. He said, however, that the Finance Director does keep an accounting of those monies.

Roll: Yes – ALL.

Mr. Fleming said Patrick Tohill, who is present, said he would like to be a student adviser on this Board. He would be a non-voting member, but a contributor.

Mrs. Higgins made a motion to appoint Patrick Tohill as a student adviser to the Park Board. Mrs. Shimer seconded the motion. Roll: Yes – ALL.

Patrick Tohill stated that he has leaved in Canal Fulton for seventeen years. He said he is an active member of Boy Scout Troup 915. He is waiting for his review for Eagle Scout. He said he is an active member of Sts. Phillip and James Church. He said he is a Junior at Central Catholic High School. He said he is also a member of the Canal Fulton Heritage Society.

Mrs. Higgins said they will not be able to use Sts. Phillip and James social hall for the Summer Rec Program because they will be remodeling. She said she is checking around for other locations and asked the members if they can think of anything to please let her know. Several options were discussed.

Mrs. Higgins said she has still been unable to get hold of Leslie Evans, who was the Summer Rec coordinator last year.

Mr. Fleming said John Hatfield is putting together a group of people to clean the park. He felt that would be something for the Boy Scouts.

It was stated that the Trail Blazers do a clean up day along the Canal.

Tennis Courts and Nature Trail

Mr. Fleming talked about the Schalmo Nautre Trail park. Mr. Schalmo is donating that property to the City as a wetlands park. It was stated that nothing is official yet.

Mr. Fleming then talked again about the trash clean up. Departing point and first aid station at the St. Helena II on March 21st from Noon – 4:00 P.M. Mr. Fleming then said Crew I would go north to the VFW back to the St. Helena II launch pad. Crew II would go south to Lock IV back to St. Helena III launch pad, up one side and down the other. They will use canoes, trash bags, gloves, pitch forks. Then trash pick up along Canal Bank on the east side. Crew III starting point behind VFW to Courtesy Chevrolet. Crew IV, starting point west side from Towpath gate behind flower shop to Lock IV, then from the Dry Dock north in the park until Crew I and Crew II finish the park.

Mr. Fleming then talked about the tennis courts. He said the tennis courts will be in the corner at the end of the parking lot at the Northwest Senior Center. He said he is fighting to get a certified U.S. tennis court and track builder. Further discussion followed.

Phase 1 of Community Park.

A letter has gone out to those reserving the park and facilities. Mr. Fleming said Phase 1 is being delayed.

The St. Helena III and its crew was discussed and also the dredging of the Canal.

Someone asked what the new Visitor's Center will look like. A shelter for the horses was also discussed.

Dog Park.

Mr. Fleming said the proposed place is behind the Police Station. He described the property. He said the Dog Park would be two pens – one for small dogs and one for big dogs. He said Mrs. Zahirsky told him that it cost Massillon \$27,000.00 to build their dog park. He said Massillon had a budget of \$27,000.00, but it actually cost them \$7,000.00. Further discussion about the dog park followed.

The meeting was adjourned.

Fred Fleming, Chair

