City of Ashtabula

Ashtabula City Council
Community Development/Economic Development/Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting
Tuesday, May 28, 2024 at 5:00 PM
Council Chambers
4230 Lake Avenue

Agenda

1. **Opening of Committee Meeting**
   a. Call to Order
   b. Roll Call
   c. Sunshine Law Certification
2. **Welcome and Acknowledgement of Visitors**
3. **Special Guest Presentation**
   a. Alane Sanders, Ph.D., Maven Lane LLC
4. **City Manager's Report**
5. **Parks & Recreation Committee Report**
   a. Parks and Recreation April 2, 2024 Meeting
   b. Parks and Recreation May 7, 2024, Meeting
6. **Unfinished Business**
7. **New Business**
   a. Tax Abatement
8. **Next Meeting**
   a. June 25, 2024
9. **Adjournment**

Ashtabula City Parks & Recreation Board Meeting Minutes for April 2, 2024

Present were: Earl Tucker (Vice Chair), Michael Speelman, Tim Dibble and Emory Moore.

Absent Margret Distler (Sec), Ken Vanyo (Chair) (both excused) and Kimberly Simms (unexcused (2nd))

There were no guests present.

Meeting called to order at 17:05.

Meeting Minutes from the March meeting were approved 4-0 (Mr. Moore motioned and Mr. Speelman 2nd)

Mr. Moore brought up the W 38th St Park and the poor condition of the park and playground equipment. This Board has repeatedly advised that the Park should be turned over to AMHA. No action has been taken!

Mr. Dibble suggested that Veterans Park should be combined with LnCorp. Keven Cornelius/North Park) for mowing and other upkeep. (Mr. Dibble made the motion and Mr. Speelman 2nd) Motion passed 4-0. The Board would also like to see new benches throughout the downtown parks.

Walnut Beach Park- The park looks to be in good shape prior to the Eclipse and we expect to see many visitors using this area. The Pickleball group is anxiously awaiting the re-painting of the courts above Walnut Beach.

Point Park- No action has been taken by the Maritime & Transportation Museum, nor the city, on dealing with the condition of the Merchant Marine Memorial. Mr. Tucker would like to see the old Heulett sand blasted and restored for visitors to look at. The Board would also request that the city partner with ODOT to mow down excess vegetation on the hillsides of Walnut Beach and Point Park.

Highland Beach Park- No issues noted.

Nappi Field- Over-all condition of the park is good. The playground could use some additional mulch. The Board is still in favor of placing a

Basketball and Tennis court at this park. There are some deep ruts that need to be filled in for the parking area.

Smith Field- The new drainage system that we installed last year appears to be working well and the baseball field is being used. The board is eagerly awaiting the new basketball and tennis courts. We would like to see static exercise equipment placed around the track to promote physical fitness.

W. 47th St Basketball courts- are in great shape.

Massucci Field- The board would like to see more activity there.

Clifford Kadon/Presidential Park- Basketball courts need work. The My Neighborhood Collaborative has stopped attending the Parks & Recreation Board meetings! This is because they do not feel that their efforts and requests are getting any attention when passed along by our board. They have decided to attend Council Economic/Community Development & Parks & Recreation meetings directly, by-passing our board.

Lifeguard contract has been agreed to for the 2024 season through the YMCA.

The next P&R meeting will be held on May 7th, 2024 at 5p. at a site to be determined.

Please note that Mr. Tucker will not be in attendance due to a family matter.

Park and Recreation Board Meeting
May 7, 2024

Members present: Ken Vanyo, Maggie Distler, Tim Dibble, Emery Moore, Michael Speelman, (Earl Tucker, absent, excused.) (Kimberly Simms, absent, not excused)
Councilors: none. City Manager, Jim Timonere, was present.
Meeting called to order 5:02 First meeting in the new building, very nice.

April minutes approved, motion by M. Distler seconded by T. Dibble

Discussion was had regarding new member Kimberly Simms not being present at any meetings so far. According to our By-laws section 174.05 Absence from three (3) consecutive meetings shall act as an irrevocable resignation from the Board, unless one or more of said absences is excused by vote of a majority of the other members of the Board for good cause.

Discussion was had regarding a recent FB post and subsequent email from the City Manager. That it did not speak for anyone but the poster. Margaret and Tim both stated that it did not speak for them.

Jim said that he has been speaking with Hubbard House regarding the tree that partially blocks the new Walnut beach sign. They are going to be doing some landscaping and it looks like the tree will probably be removed.

Jim advised that he and a group including people from DD visited some inclusive parks. It gave them some good ideas on what items included at the parks were used more than others. He also stated that it was hard to find a company that could get this done in the timeline that is needed, but he believes he has a company that is willing to work with them.
Jim also stated that Smith Field will be starting soon. Once that is finished, they will work on the PB courts at Topky.
The city helped with the garden tilling at Kaden and all the water in the parks is now turned on.
Also, that it has been hard to find Part-time summer help, if anyone knows of anyone interested.
Jim has reached out to AMHA regarding W 38th St. Park, it is going to be brought up at their next Board meeting.
The same vendor will be at the Concession stand this year; they have been very good there.

Emory brought up a possible walking track near the Basketball courts. There was some discussion about the property. Jim mentioned that there is going to be some spot repair of some sidewalks on West Ave.

They are going to clean up the trees near the memorial at Veterans Park and going to be adding a Medal of Honor Flag. Also, the rock will be cleaned. Tim mentioned that the power is back at Veterans Park. Jim discussed what had happened.

Jim said he would still like to see a Master plan by the Board. Not the other plans from the past that dealt with specific things/Parks. What we would like to see with the main parks and which ones to possibly get rid of.

This will be Margaret's last meeting; her time is up. Will happily help when Levy time comes again.

Next meeting June 4th, location will be at Smith Field.