



City of Ashtabula

Ashtabula City Council

Community Development/Economic Development/Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting

Tuesday, July 23, 2024 at 5:00 PM

Council Chambers

4230 Lake Avenue

Minutes

Opening of Committee Meeting

Call to Order

The meeting of the Ashtabula City Council Community Development/ Economic Development/ Parks & Recreation Committee was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Committee Chair DiGiacomo.

Roll Call

Members Present: **Chair:** Ward 5 Councilor Jane DiGiacomo, **Vice Chair:** Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, **Member:** Ward 3 Councilor RoLesia Holman

Absent: None.

Officers Present: City Manager James Timonere, Clerk of Council Ashley Bell

Parks & Recreation Board Members Present: None.

Visitors: Tia Woodard, Y.M.C.A. Membership Director, Giana Varchetto, Y.M.C.A. Aquatics Director, Lauren Richter Y.M.C.A. Aquatics Coordinator

Sunshine Law Certification

A quorum was established as defined by the Ashtabula City Council Rules of Order. The meeting, met the requirements of the Ohio Sunshine Laws Open Meetings Act.

Welcome and Acknowledgement of Visitors

Special Guest Presentation

Tia Woodard expressed the importance of beach safety. The conversation began due to the recent death of Hunter Ebbie, who drowned in Lake Erie the week of June 12 at a Conneaut Beach. According to the Ashtabula County Tourism Board, 16 million people visited the county in 2022. The primary reasons for the visits were to tour our beaches. Ms. Woodard suggests a proactive approach to beach safety in addition to having lifeguards on the beach. Her suggestions include: life rings, signage about rip currents, and lifeguard loaning stations. The components would include Coast Guard approved flotation, onsite training, and equipment for self-rescue. Drownings happen quickly. With preparation, donations and grants may be able to cover the cost of the safety measures. Mounting a life-ring to an existing pole could cost around \$100. The state of Indiana recently implemented mandatory life-ring placement at their beaches. Many drownings include parents and the person who attempts to rescue a person in distress. Ms. Woodard stated if life-ring implementation begins at Walnut Beach, she will donate the first life-ring. Ms. Woodard suggested several organizations that offer life-ring grants. Ms. Woodard also suggested 3 life-ring stations at Walnut Beach.

Tia Woodard, Membership Director Ashtabula County YMCA
Beach Safety

City Manager's Report

The City Manager stated Ashtabula is the only beach in the county that has lifeguards. The City Manager stated there are funds available for life rings and they will be installed. Walnut Beach also has rip current signage. Preparations for the Wine and Walleye festival are in place. The RiverBend Hotel recently received their certificate of occupancy. The deadline for the updates to Smith Field is September 30. Walnut Beach will have the only handicap accessible playground in the County.

Parks & Recreation Committee Report

No Report.

Unfinished Business

The Council Clerk has collected ordinances from other communities regarding Food Truck Legislation.

New Business

None.

Public Communications on General Matters

William Todd, East 45th Street, Master Gardner. Recommends Oak Trees replace any trees that are torn down. He also suggests a tree inventory of trees in City Parks.

Next Meeting

August 22, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:39 p.m. by Committee Chair DiGiacomo.