



City of Ashtabula

Ashtabula City Council

Community Development/Economic Development/Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting

Wednesday, October 1, 2025 at 5:30 PM

Council Chambers

4230 Lake Avenue, Ashtabula, OH 44004

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. Chelsea Romanowski - Buckeye Pace
- 4. City Manager's Report**
- 5. Parks & Recreation Committee Report**
 - a. Parks Board September Meeting Minutes
- 6. Unfinished Business**
- 7. New Business**
- 8. Next Meeting**
 - a. November 5, 2025
- 9. Adjournment**



City of Ashtabula – Parks & Recreation Board Meeting Agenda
 Board Chair – Kenneth Vanyo, Sr.
 Board Co-Chair – Earl Tucker

Mission Statement: “Our mission is to provide and maintain, quality Green Spaces and Recreational Facilities while partnering with our citizens, businesses and neighbors to enhance the quality of life for all who live in and visit Ashtabula.”

AGENDA

Date: September 22, 2025

Location: American Legion Post #103

Meeting Called to order (Time): 5:30 PM **By:** Chairman Vanyo

Roll Call of Board Members:

Role	Name	Present	Absent
Council Representative	Jane DiGiacomo (Ward 5)	Present	
Chairman	Kenneth Vanyo, Sr.	Present	
Co-Chairman	Kenneth Vanyo, Sr.	Present	
Acting Secretary	Timothy Dibble	Present	
Member	Emory Moore	Present	
Member	Mike Speelman	Present	
Member	Len Jury	Present	
Member	Blake Hinkle	Present	

Guests: Resident Ryan Humphrey

Reading of Minutes from Previous Meeting

Motion to bypass reading of minutes of last meeting due to Email distribution

Motion to accept & bypass: Len Jury Second: Mike Speelman

All in favor - Passed

Any Corrections: None

Correspondence & Announcements:

Notice received from INEOS confirming sponsorship of the 38th Street Park clean-up scheduled for Saturday, September 27, 2025, at 9:00 AM. Board members encouraged to attend.

Old or Unfinished Business:

Guest Ryan Humphreys presented a detailed proposal for a community-supported skate park at the old Straw Hat Theater site, Walnut Beach. Key points included:

- \$35,000 projected budget, relying heavily on volunteer labor and donated materials.
 - Roof replacement, polished concrete, ramps sheltered under pavilion.
 - Donated features include rail from scrapyard, U-channel, and a 10-foot satellite dish for obstacles.
 - Ramp Armor materials offered at cost by a local company.
- Concerns raised included drainage, liability, and long-term maintenance.

New Business:

- Keep Ashtabula Beautiful Tree Ordinance: A proposed ordinance was introduced requiring the planting of two new trees in city parks for every tree removed. Discussion included:

- Restriction to public parks only (not easements/rights-of-way).
- Focus on native, low-maintenance trees.
- Ordinance passed unanimously by the Board. Motion by Earl Tucker, seconded by Blake Hinkle.

This will be forwarded by Councilwoman Jane DiGiacomo to City Council for consideration.

- Master Parks Action Plan: Compiled by consolidating all past meeting minutes and structured with full board input. Clarifications included renaming 47th Street Park as Unity Park already happened and updating Walnut Beach foot-washing stations. The Board unanimously approved the plan for submission to City Council. Board Member Blake Hinkle will prepare binders for Council members.

- Walnut Beach Concession Stand:

Discussion centered on conflicting statements from City Manager Jim Timonere:

- Previous: \$70,000 roof investment meant no demolition.
- Recent email: building should be demolished. Which is it?
Spacious building without full utilization of available space for dining/retail or otherwise. Concerns raised about dark bathrooms, poor lighting (LED?), and lack of programming. Ryan Humphreys proposed revitalization ideas:
- Allow limited beer and wine sales (DORA-approved).
- Add Adirondack chairs, propane heaters, seasonal programming.
- Increase rental rates significantly (from hundreds to \$5–6k per month).
- Host events such as movie nights, concerts, and community gatherings.

-Veterans/Historical Resolutions & Memorials

Board reviewed Civil War and WWII commemoration resolutions (2011) and plaques for Veterans Park that remain undisplayed. Proposal made to temporarily display them at 'Framed on Main' (Jane DiGiacomo's husband's shop) until City Hall provides space.

-Discussion also included discussion about relocating the **JFK memorial stone**, potentially to Cornelius Park as Kennedy was a Veteran. City Manager Timonere previously stated he wanted to move it behind the new City Hall, facing SR #20. While this is out of P&R Board's purview, the entire Board is concerned with preservation of the Historic Kennedy Quote on the old Municipal Building as it is already cracked and invaded by moisture. If the city continues to delay, the marker may end up destroyed and lost forever.

Specific Park Concerns: Most rested their issues as addressed in Master Parks Plan.

Walnut Beach (Earl Tucker) Strong use of pickleball courts including disability inclusion events. Concession stands discussed under New Business. Foot washing station update noted.

Clarification Re: Inclusion Zone Parking/Seating – There is an area with posts and ropes and people are parking outside these areas on the grass. Maybe additional DISABLED Parking Spaces are needed. Parents/Guardians seeking seating to watch their kids in the IZ play area, keeping adults off the plays areas.

Point Park: (Earl Tucker) Suggestion to clear sumac trees to restore lighthouse view and add white stone lettering 'Welcome to Ashtabula'.

Smith Field: (Len Jury)

Highland Beach Park: (Blake Hinkle)

Kadon Presidential Park (W.58th): (Tim Dibble) Garden area to be reclaimed after prior club closure; restoration as park space discussed.

E. 48th St. Park: (Mike Speelman)

Veterans Park: (Tim Dibble)

LCpl. Cornelius Park: (Len Jury) Included in broader beautification and memorial plans.

South Park: (Mike Speelman)

Nappi Field: (Blake Hinkle)

Massucci Field: (Ken Vanyo)

W. 38th St. Park: (Emory Moore) Upcoming INEOS-sponsored clean-up on Sept 27, 2025, at 9:00 AM.

W. 47th St. Park: (Emory Moore) Clarified already named Unity Park.

Anything else for the good of the Parks?

Jane DiGiacomo invited all present to attend the City Economic Development Meeting in Council Chambers @ 5:30 PM on 10/1/25.

Discussed the upcoming Parks Levy and the need to get out word. This is a renewal, not a new Tax. Blake & Earl brought signs and distributed to those in attendance. There is a need to get out word, Jane DiGiacomo will reach out to Star Beacon and Gazette.

Next Meeting Date/Time: 10/27/2025 @ 5:30 PM in Council Chambers.

Meeting Adjourned Time: 7:15 PM