



City of Ashtabula

Ashtabula City Council

Community Development/Economic Development/Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting

Tuesday, November 9, 2021 at 4:00 PM

Council Chambers

4717 Main Avenue

Minutes

Opening of Committee Meeting

Call to Order

Roll Call

Members Present: Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines, Ward 4 Councilor Octavia Harris, President John Roskovics **Absent:** None

Officers Present: City Manager James Timonere, Clerk of Council Stacy Senskey, City Solicitor Cecilia Cooper (arrived late) **Absent:** None

Special Guest: Stacy Gancos

Sunshine Law Certification

Welcome and Acknowledgement of Visitors

Special Guest Presentation

Mrs. Stacy Gancos - Stacy's Club and youthOpportunities! presentation

Mrs. Gancos recently started STACY's Club, a vision she had for her retirement, but the opportunity arose for her to begin sooner. She works for the youthOpportunities (yO) program. The yO program provides students from the ages of 14 to 24 with work possibilities at Ashtabula County businesses. Oftentimes, especially with football players, team schedules change and interfere with the athlete's ability to work as planned. She started an offshoot group specifically for student-athletes, that allows for more flexibility by finding them work around the community. This program has grown over the past three years, necessitating the early start of STACY's Club. The purpose of the club is to provide the youth of Ashtabula with a safe place for them to hang out. Mrs. Gancos located a warehouse and the students began cleaning and creating the atmosphere she desired for STACY's Club. Community donations of furniture and other items have been incredible and much appreciated. The Club provides various rooms for many different activities; they have enough room to separate younger students from older students. There are study areas and charging stations for their Chromebooks. They are planning to make a juice and smoothie bar. The students in the program must get at least a "C" in their subjects. The students do yardwork at various locations, including the Ashtabula Arts Center, and also assist many of the older residents of the community. The students are even finding jobs on their own, reporting the need to Mrs. Gancos then planning the job logistics. The students help with many community events; they even umpired a Special Olympics Softball tournament. They have moved furniture, built and painted structures, shoveled gravel, and just about everything. Even former students of the program have come back to continue helping with the program, the youth, and the community. A stand-out student from the yO

program is Josh Marple, currently studying business and finance at the University of West Virginia and living in the honors dorm, who received a special award because of the leadership he demonstrated throughout his time with the yO program. Mrs. Gancos noted the warehouse is in an area where there were issues with the homeless population. The students cleaned up the area outside the warehouse. They bought and shared pizza with the individuals in the park while explaining to them the Club's purpose in the warehouse. The students have not encountered any issues since then. Mr. and Mrs. Gancos host Sunday dinners for students as long as the student brings their Chromebook to do homework. Their home was running out of space for all the students when the warehouse became available, on Park Avenue by the railroad tracks, in the old Apple Heating and Cooling building. Mrs. Gancos says she is "playing it by ear" for the future of STACY's Club. Mrs. Gancos said the group is made up of a diverse group of boys and girls. With the help of an advisory board, Mrs. Gancos is planning to offer free club membership to keep track of the students who join. The organizational aspects are still being arranged. Mrs. Gancos had about sixteen students from the yO program who helped her this summer. Parent support is positive and most already know Mrs. Gancos and each other. The yO program has income qualifiers but Mrs. Gancos hopes to receive funding in order to open it up to students who want to help with Stacy's Club. A generous donor is paying rent for the building and plans to continue it. Donations are always welcome.

City Manager's Report

The City's Lake Avenue project and Aqua's West Avenue project are nearly complete. Now Aqua has begun work on a new water line in the East 23rd Street and Harbor Avenue area. Aqua is upgrading infrastructure at the Walnut Beach water plant. Aqua is open to giving Council members a tour of the facility.

City Manager Timonere has received seven requests for assistance with medical marijuana dispensaries. Three additional licenses are opening up in our region. Applications are due to the State of Ohio by Thursday, November 11th. City Manager Timonere is tasked with verifying the approved zoning exists and the properties are located in areas that don't violate any zoning laws. City legislation states the dispensaries may be located on Lake Avenue, West Avenue, Route 20, and Bridge Street. State legislation prevents dispensaries from being located near schools and churches. There is a possibility of another available license in the future.

The Petmin project is still ongoing. COVID restrictions have loosened, allowing their top executives into the United States. This has been the biggest delay in the project, though construction has remained active.

City Manager Timonere disputed the rumors surrounding the hotel. All the partners are still involved in the program, the bank is still on board, they are waiting for the new market tax credits. The group interested in funding the hotel received their funding and is deciding on projects to fund.

The Castle Block project is progressing well. The long-time area business, Ace Parts, will now be staying in the building. Once the Castle Block is complete, before the first of the year, the Carlisle project will begin.

The Illuminating Company has not begun the street light replacement project on Main Avenue. They site supply chain issues for the delay.

Main Avenue is being prepared for the holidays and the November 19th Christmas Parade.

The Landbank met with three developers and chose one to move to the request for proposal (RFP) process for the property of the abandoned church on Lake Avenue. The concepts the developer revealed will complement the houses around the area. The Landbank is also looking at a development project at the other end of West 3rd Street, West 4th Street, and Franklin Avenue. City Manager Timonere said the developer has local ties to Ashtabula. The details of the proposal are not complete.

Parks & Recreation Committee Report

November 3, 2021 Minutes

Council Member Roskovics said the Nappi Field neighborhood has changed and he thinks there is a better place in the city for basketball and pickleball courts. Residents of the area have expressed their concerns. City Manager Timonere said there is interest in the Nappi field for another project, but a neighborhood discussion would be needed.

Mr. Morrison made a donation to the City for a Walnut Beach sign. The two quotes received are well over the initial donation, so review and negotiation are required. A bid for the Walnut Beach concessionaire will go out to the public for bid in January and will be handled by the City Manager's office.

Unfinished Business

Moratorium on discount retail stores discussion - sample legislation for review

City Solicitor Cooper explained the moratorium legislation she reviewed was short-term and for specific purposes. One city's legislation was to study effects in certain areas, another was because the city was updating its rezoning policy.

She asked the committee members to specify:

- a. How long is a moratorium needed?
- b. What is the purpose of the moratorium?
- c. Are you trying to revamp the zoning policy?
- d. Are you concerned about certain locations?
- e. Is it a city-wide moratorium?
- f. Are we planning to study impact?

City Manager Timonere explained that currently, it is acceptable for a discount retail store to open in the commercial districts of Main Avenue, Route 20, and Lake Avenue. There are commercially zoned parcels on Columbus Avenue. He feels it necessary to complete a comprehensive study of the City's current zoning code. A project of this sort involves zoning experts, public input, between \$75,000 - \$100,000, and plenty of time for consideration, but extremely beneficial. City Solicitor Cooper suggests waiting to create legislation regarding a moratorium on discount retail stores. A comprehensive zoning plan should be discussed first.

City Manager Timonere is working on food truck legislation to present to Council soon.

New Business

Next Meeting

Tuesday, December 14, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. in Council Chambers

The Committee Chair announced the meeting would likely be canceled.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

Supplements attached: STACY's Club handout, Parks & Recreation Board November meeting minutes

STACY's Club

STACY = Serving Today's Ashtabula County Youth

STACY's Club removes barriers and increases opportunities for the (at risk) youth of Ashtabula, while providing a safe environment where adolescents are cared for physically, socially and emotionally.



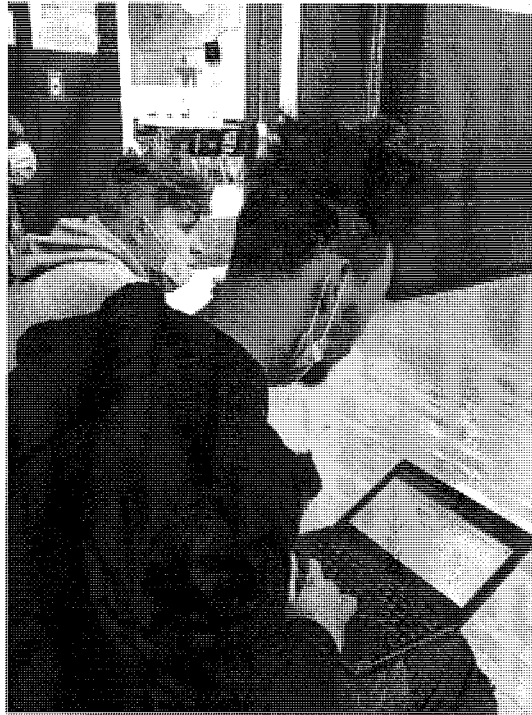
Diversity



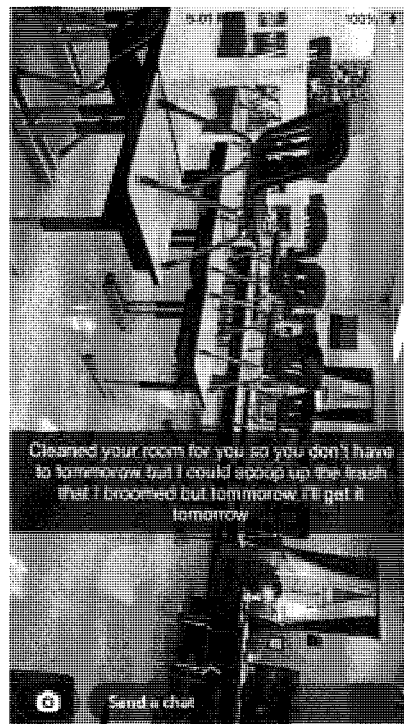
Yardwork



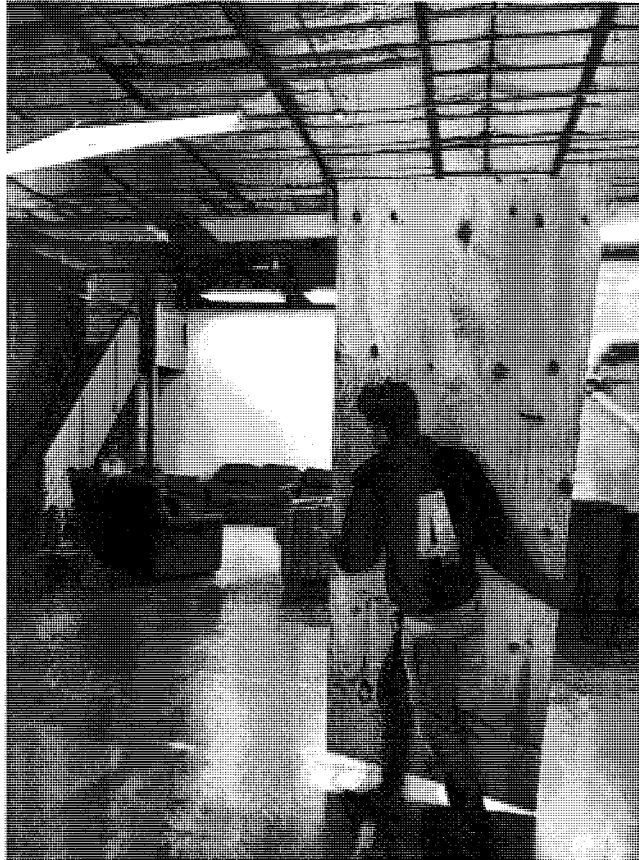
Playing Uno Upstairs



Missing Work



The kids know this is important



Kids did all of the work



Helped people move



Giving Back



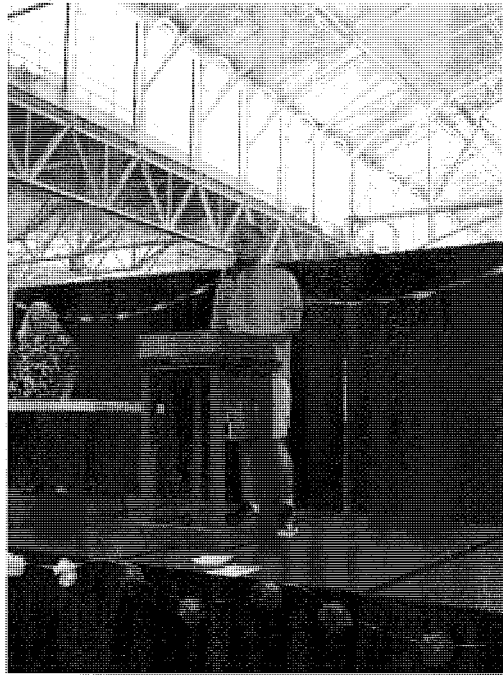
Cleaning out



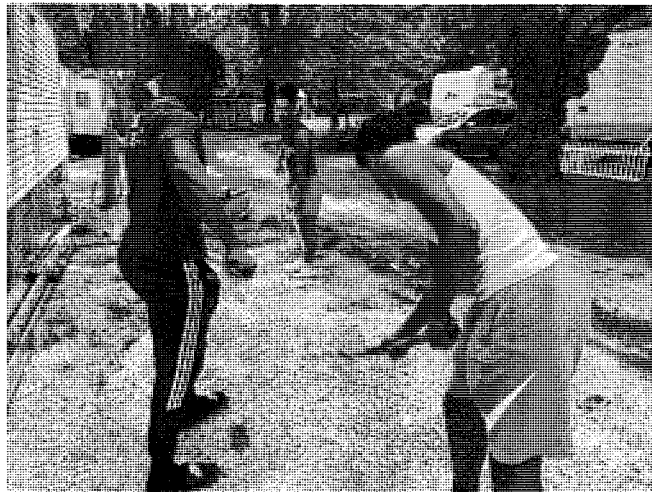
Donations



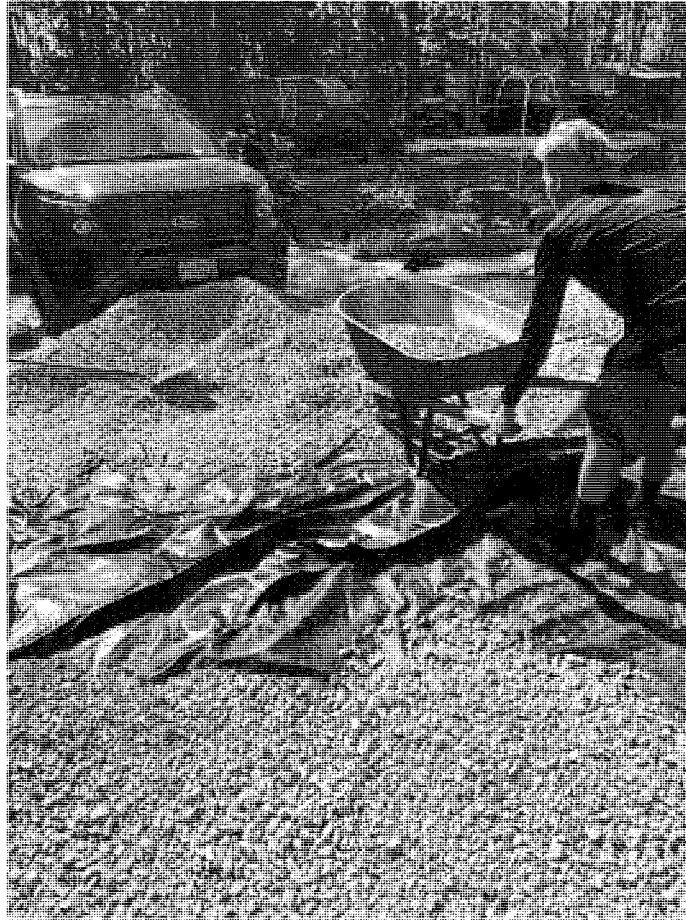
Neighbors looking out



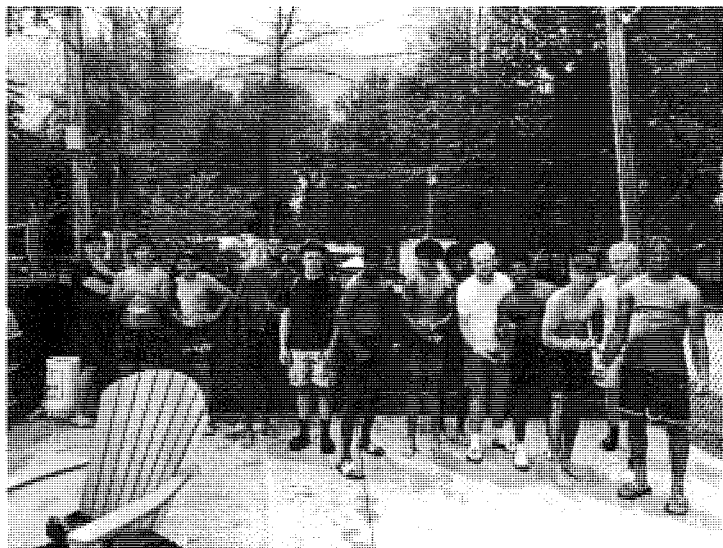
University of West Virginia



Lots of gravel



Gravel



Work Hard - Play Hard
NEXT STEPS

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, November 3, 2021

Board members present: Earl Tucker, Mary Kiehl, Margaret Distler

Absent: Trevor Sprague, Mary Graves, Ken Vanyo

Minutes: minutes of the October meeting were read, motion to accept the minutes by Maggie, second by Earl, motion carried.

Discussion of a new basketball court and pickleball court at Nappi Field. Can we get a quote for a pickle ball court?

Walnut Beach: new sign donated by Mr. Morrison is being created.

When are the bids for a concessionaire going out?

Parks & Rec board would like tour the concession stand to see what improvements inside could possibly be made.

Concerts and movie night for summer of 2022.

There was a request for benches at South Park.

Wayfinding signage. Parks & Rec would like to see signs at West 9th & Lake Avenue and at Bridge Street & Lake Ave. for Walnut Beach, Point Park, Hubbard House, Maritime Museum

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, December 7, 2021.

Meeting adjourned 6: 35 pm.

Mary Kiehl

Mary Kiehl, Secretary