



City of Ashtabula

Ashtabula City Council

Community Development/Economic Development/Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting

Tuesday, January 11, 2022 at 4:00 PM

Council Chambers

4717 Main Avenue

Minutes

Opening of Committee Meeting

Call to Order

The meeting of the City Council Community Development/ Economic Development/ Parks & Recreation Committee was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chair Haines.

Roll Call

Members Present: Chair: Ward 5 Councilor Jane Haines, Vice Chair: Ward 4 Councilor Jodi Mills, Member: President John Roskovics

Absent: none

Officers Present: City Manager James Timonere, Clerk of Council Stacy Senskey

Parks & Recreation Board Members Present: Chair: Mary Graves, Secretary: Mary Kiehl, Margaret Distler

Visitors: Josephine Misener

Sunshine Law Certification

A quorum was established as defined by 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

Parks & Recreation Boardmembers present 2022 goals

The Parks and Recreation (P&R) Board Chair, Mary Graves presented the following report:

CITY OF ASHTABULA
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

“Our mission is to provide and maintain, quality green spaces and Recreational facilities and partnering with our citizens, businesses, and neighbors to enhance the quality of life for all who live in and visit Ashtabula.”

Mary L Graves
Chair

Ken Vanyo
Vice Chair

Mary Kiehl
Secretary

Earl Tucker, Trevor Sprauge, Margaret Distler
Board Members

1/11/2022

As we welcome in the new year we'd like to thank Jane Haines and the Community and Economic Development, Parks and Recreation Committee Board for featuring the Parks and Recreation Board at this month's meeting.

Our board would like to highlight events, projects , and the allocating of resources towards creating attractions for tourists and citizens alike. We hope to have completed these ideas or be well on our way by the end of 2022.

City wide effort to plant more trees.

Topkey Courts -

- Benches for spectators

Clifford Kaden Presidential Park –

- Basketball Courts for our youth
- Pickleball Courts for our active adults

Smith Field – The Parks and Recreation Board will be examining the possibility of creating a sports complex at Smith Field.

This may include any of the following ideas for the park.

- Football/Soccer Field
- Basketball Courts
- Exercise Equipment
- Resurfacing Walking Track
- Time locks for the bathroom
- Benches

Walnut Beach –

- Bands at the Beach – Four dates from June through September
- New Radios and AED equipment for lifeguards at the beach
- Moving of boardwalk to better accommodate those with strollers, wheelchairs and wagons
- Creating a trench in the low spot on the sidewalk right before the boardwalk starts
- New Restrooms
- Authorize and provide a resource officer to walk the beach due to disrespectful dog owners and beach visitors
- Bonfire at the Beach. We'd like to coordinate with Public Works to collect wood from the beach before the start of the beach season.
- Begin studies to create an amphitheater.

The Parks and Recreation Board hopes to be able to provide to our residents the finest parks. Green spaces that will provide a healthy, fun atmosphere and become a destination for relaxation.

We have the means and the ways to utilize levy monies and 2022 is no better time to do so.

I look forward to engaging with related committees, the City Council and the city manager.

Thank you,

Mary L Graves, Chair

City Manager Timonere added that basketball court and pickleball court pricing quotes have been done in the past for different park locations and at varying prices. Six dates are planned for Bands on the Beach; the events are being funded by local business donations. The bid for a Walnut Beach concessionaire will be published soon.

At their last meeting, P&R Board members recognized changes should be made to the Codified Ordinance Chapter 174 Parks and Recreation Board. In Chapter 174.04 Officers; Technical Personnel; Expenses, Chair Haines declared the P&R Board requested the Committee consider revising the section to specify when and how often officers are selected.

Motion: Chair Haines moved to approve the revision of language in Codified Ordinance Chapter 174.04; Member Roskovics seconded.

Discussion:

VOTE

Yeas: Member Roskovics, Vice Chair Mills, **Nays:** None
Chair Haines

The P&R Board meets on the first Tuesday of each month, and asked the Committee to consider updating Codified Ordinance Chapter 174.05 Meetings; Rules; Records; Quorum.

Motion: Chair Haines moved to approve the revision of language in Codified Ordinance Chapter 174.05; Vice Chair Mills seconded.

Discussion:

VOTE

Yeas: Member Roskovics, Vice Chair Mills, **Nays:** None
Chair Haines

The Committee will present the requests at the next Regular Council meeting.

City Manager Timonere has a vacant appointment on the P&R Board he intends to fill soon.

Mrs. Jo Misener had questions about the P&R Board financial reports and expressed concern about the condition of several parks.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Timonere reported many projects with private partners will "kick-off" in 2022. One is the demolition and development of the church in the area of West 3rd and West 4th Streets. A different developer has plans for the other end of West 3rd and West 4th Streets. The Castle Block project is nearing completion and the Carlisle Building will be next for Downtown. Other Downtown projects and demolition are in the works. Code enforcement is focusing on vacant property ordinances this year. Demolition and brownfield funds are coming from the State of Ohio. Activities at Petmin should be continuing soon. The house construction on the old Harbor High School property is progressing. Discussions with the new director of the Ashtabula Metropolitan Housing Authority (AMHA) gave City Manager Timonere encouragement that moderate-income housing and workforce development are being considered for Ashtabula.

Next Meeting

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:53 p.m. by Chair Haines.