

**Minutes of the Park Board
City of Sheffield Lake, Ohio
March 16, 2009**

The regular meeting of the Park Board was held Monday, March 16, 2009. Co-Chairman Kovach called the meeting to order at 8:04 PM.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:

Present: Kovach, Fugate, Evans, Kempton
Absent: Smith, Mayor Piskura (excused)
Attending: Concerned Citizen; Jonathan Wright

*Motion by Fugate to accept the minutes of the February 16, 2009 meeting as presented. Yeas All.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

PRESENTATIONS: None.

PARK SUPERINTENDENT REPORT: None.

RECREATION DIRECTOR REPORT: None.

OLD BUSINESS:

Designated Skate Areas: Mr. Wright advised on last email to members which noted what he had talked to the Kaboom people about and the whole process and all that. Mr. Evans advised I do have something to add about that and I did this for my own curiosity but I will share it with everybody, you had something about them asking about them asking about walking distance to parks. Mr. Wright advised how a city calculates walking distance, it is something when I spoke to the lady on the telephone asking her about the whole playful city application process she said one question that is on there that seems to throw people off is they ask you as the city to define walking distance. Mr. Evans advised I just took a city map and did my own little calculations which he submitted copies and is attached to these certified minutes. He continued it seems that basically what I came up with is I consider 80 to 85% of our community within a ½ mile walk of a city park or a playground. Mr. Kovach advised I am going to guess without too much research that you are pretty much right on with those numbers. Mr. Evans explained basically the blue, green, purple are the parks and the yellow, orange and red are the three elementary schools and the yellow, blue and brown are St. Thomas and that seems to cover almost the entire city. The outer ring is 1 mile, circumference so that would be a ½ mile walking distance. Mr. Fugate asked when you spoke to Playful Cities, did she have stipulations on the walking distance. Mr. Wright answered the way I am going to interpret it and read between the lines and again this is a lot of speculation, they ask that question because you are going to give your interpretation of what you believe walking distance is to a park. There is no right or wrong answer, they just ask you

what your definition of walking distance is and then more then likely they are going to take a look at your park and play space assessment that you would do within that application and see how close you have to a park or a play area – a playground specifically within walking distance of every neighborhood of the city. Mr. Fugate asked what would be considered a playground? Mr. Wright answered they call it a play space, it is just basically a park – any public location that children can get to for recreation. Co-chairman Kovach advised actually that is quite an informative map the way you did this and the color coding that you have, in fact I am going to submit this with the minutes this evening and have it attached to the minutes for next month. Mr. Evans asked do the schools have any kind of designation in terms of busing, how far a child has to live from a school to be eligible for busing? I would say that would be a pretty good indication of what is considered walking by another entity within the city. Mr. Fugate answered it is a mile, it is over a mile that they are bused. Mr. Evans stated so actually our parks are closer then the schools are as far as walking distances to community population. Co-chairman Kovach stated if you use that figure that would pretty much cover all the small areas of open territory that you actually have here. Of course, by the one token though like Erie Shore's park which is more of an informational edge of the city type park. We had talked about putting in an additional kiosk with the layout of bike path's and information on that. There is a couple of picnic tables and that type of thing but there is no. Mr. Evans stated I thought that to of Lakewood Beach. Co-chairman Kovach answered it is not necessarily a play area but that is a recreational area because people do use that as a swimming facility now. There is some room for some things over there. I think this is at the pace we are probably going to have to work at until we possibly free up some and if there becomes any additional funds that could be freed up to go into the area of what we are looking as skate areas or any additional enhancements to the parks right now. You know with all the city's money kind of tied up in certain projects and I think some of them have to fall in place before we can go after. Like I say this is a really good start with what you have presented us with and actually this is how you put your plan together. Mr. Evans stated with the skate parks in going over previous minutes and it seems like we have been talking about this an awful long time, have we made any decision about whether we want an actual park versus just elements added to parks or to the city school playgrounds? Mr. Kempton apologized for being late. Co-chairman Kovach explained the distance to parks map created by Mr. Evans. That actually gives us a parameter to work at, we can describe between a ½ and a mile. Mr. Evans asked there has been quite a bit of discussion on the skate parks or skate areas and we really haven't moved. Mr. Fugate answered for quite a long period of time. Co-chairman Kovach advised one of the things that is holding us back is either we are going to have to fund whatever we do. I think we are leaning more towards skate areas as opposed to parks, you know a dedicated park just because I don't know if the actual feeling is that or at least Len's feeling on the issue is that you put in one big area and some of the ones that he has visited in the areas

around us are not that well utilized. In other words there isn't a thousand kids there. Mr. Kempton advised it sounds like a lot of the kids that I talked with too go to Avon Lake. Mr. Fugate advised a lot of them have to have rides. Mr. Evans asked where is the one in Avon Lake located? Mr. Fugate answered if you take Walker to Moore, it is in Weiss Field. Mr. Kempton advised I asked the kids and they used to use the one in Avon quite a bit but for whatever reason they like the Avon Lake one. Mr. Fugate stated it would be nice to the reason. Mr. Kempton stated I think it was something different with the jumps or something like that, actually it may be more bike friendly. Mr. Wright stated the one in Avon Lake is much more state of the art park, the riding is a lot smoother. Mr. Fugate advised the cement base that it is on is like a garage floor, you get better slide. Co-chairman Kovach advised the down side is that type of facility comes at a much higher costs. Mr. Kempton advised I know that I have seen the grants that you have sent or things to go after and stuff like that which that is the only way. I talked to a couple of the kids and they are willing to walk around with the bucket and some of the businesses said you can put a jug up here and if anyone wants to donate to a skate area because a minimum when you and I first talked last spring, it was going to be a minimum of \$30,000.00. I see how much trouble it is to get a track. Mr. Wright stated that is in equipment - \$30,000.00, that is not concrete. Mr. Evans asked what kind of equipment? Mr. Wright answered skate equipment, the elements that you can actually skate on – ramps, spines, ledges, So \$30,000.00 in equipment and then you got to consider the costs of pouring your concrete pad to put that equipment on top of. Mr. Kempton advised some businesses that I have talked to have said they would look into donations of certain things. So there is those avenues and stuff like that too and I have had a couple of people on paving as well. Griffith Paving came out and give me a quote and for just a small area over at the Guenther Park for just basically resurfacing the basketball court and at there was also to go an extension off of that so you could put a slide rail or one ramp. Now that is a skate area, it is not a skate park but it is a skate area and it is a little bit. I think that is all the kids want is if we can't build this massive thing because I am still trying to work with Tennyson on just putting something in there with Mrs. Loper. Mr. Fugate advised on that note, I met with her just a couple of weeks back and I refresh that idea because you and I talked about that and she thinks it is a perfect idea. Mr. Evans asked what is it? Mr. Kempton answered the boys and I were riding past there this past fall and there were some kids and they were jumping on the picnic table and one of the benches, just a sitting bench right of the edge of the asphalt. The kids were sliding on them and this and that, I went over there and I didn't holler at them or anything I just explained hey I know you guys are just having fun – what could it take to do the same things but we put them on the other side? Do you really think you would stay off of these ones over here? All three of them and it could be just because I was an adult standing there with them but they said actually yea, that is all we want is just a few things here and a few things there. That is when we really started pushing the issue. Mr. Fugate stated if you put a little bit of something in each park

then you are going to get visitation at each park by the same people. Mr. Wright advised well Mrs. Loper when I spoke to her said that she was going to approach PTO about the very idea of them partnering maybe with the city in putting up some money for skate elements behind the school there and that might be a pretty good avenue to take with every school. Mr. Fugate advised but then again if you look behind a school there is a sign posted saying you are not allowed there after hours, behind every school there is a steel sign. Mr. Kempton stated I didn't see it, I drove right into the back there. Mr. Fugate advised the far right-hand corner (northeast) behind Tennyson would be good because the only building that is there is a gym that doesn't have windows. Mr. Kempton stated we were talking too over by the dumpsters, the recycle bin on that side where the swings are. Granted the windows are still right there, well the thing is the cars. We talked about that where it is going to be on the edge, it is no different then what they are doing right because the bench is on the edge of the asphalt. Co-chairman Kovach advised the cars are there just during school hours for the most part. Mr. Wright advised signs such as the ones you just mentioned are 9 times out of 10 just a liability thing, you know in case people are back and something does happen and then the parent wants to sue the school because it happened on their property and then they come with the argument well, you never said we weren't allowed back there to do those things. Mr. Fugate stated well then something like that would need to be changed, made more clear saying that you know. Co-chairman Kovach advised what you probably have is you would probably have signs posted by your actual equipment as to this is where you can go and on your issue on the windows – kids are going to come around and break those windows or vandalize, they are going to do that anyhow. Mr. Fugate advised but you are attracting more kids. Co-chairman Kovach answered those kids that you are attracting are in most cases aren't going to be there with the intent to vandalizing. Actually if you have got kids actually playing there with a purpose it might actually keep the vandals out. Mr. Kempton stated kids are going to be kids no matter what, if you put something there or not. Mr. Fugate advised they are there anyways destroying those benches. Mr. Kempton stated so why not give them their own equipment. Mr. Fugate stated I am not trying to take away from it. Co-chairman Kovach advised well you have both been in contact with her and eventually if that is the route that is taken you would probably end up with the school board anyhow for approval. Mr. Kempton stated and Mrs. Loper said she was going to work on that angle of it. You know once we got something a little bit more set in stone, where are we going to get these funds from, is the PTO actually going to step in and help and things like that? That was more of the attack that we were going to do. Mr. Wright stated Mrs. Loper called me last fall and asked me to come up and quote her on benches that could be skated on. Mr. Kempton stated and I didn't even know anything about that until I think you and I talked and it happened to be this winter when I talked to her. Mr. Fugate advised she is a good principal over there. On the same note I was at a hockey tournament for my son in Shaker Heights, they had a

walk from their parking lot to get to the ice rink and what they had along the way was just small areas for kids to play. It was just a small jungle gym, the plastic or vinyl or whatever that material is and then another section was and I went over to it because it felt like cement but it had to something that wouldn't weather or chip away and at each corner it had coping which is grind rails. Everything was covered and it looked like it had been there for a while and it was in nice shape. It was only a ramp probably about 5 feet high - it was just a quarter and the other side was a smaller one and then off of that they had a cement grind rail of the same material with coping on both sides and the ends and it was probably I want to say 8 feet long. It was just a small little thing and then after that they had a swing-set and another little small thing for smaller kids to get into - that way they each had their each little section. But I just thought that was just a great idea and you give them a quarter and a small ramp over here and a grind rail over here and that is all you need. Mr. Kempton stated that is really all the kids really want just a little here and there and we talked about that in the past about once this bike trail was going in and stuff like that. Mr. Fugate stated pull-offs. Co-chairman Kovach advised it may be coming closer to reality, like I say with Metro Parks getting involved with the other. Everything we do here is slow and always on-going. Do we have an answer tonight - no but I think we are moving a little bit farther and forward and like I say this map is really a nice idea that you came up with. Mr. Evans advised I guess the thing I am trying to maybe establish is it seems like funding is the main thing for everything here. The money is not going to come from the city, so we always have to apply for or somebody walks through the door and says I am giving you guys this for this. I just wonder if it would be better for us whether it is really a concrete plan or not to at least have a plan and come up with some maps or some drawings so that it is in a file somewhere so if we get that last minute opportunity we don't lose the chance. Co-chairman Kovach advised these are the things that you have to come up with as you are applying for the grant. Okay you have got this here, in what area would you like to start and you would have to pick one or on our game plan you might have to pick 2 or 3 or we could start with just 1 centrally located. If you want to go with the thought of Ferndale then that is fine. Like I say my train of thought was always over at Freedom or South Park because really there is not much over there but the down side of that is it is on the far end of the city. Mr. Fugate stated I think that is a great park for that but there again it is way out of the way. Co-chairman Kovach stated the train of thought on that one was to use the actual basketball court over there or possibly expand off of that basketball court or use the edges of that basketball court - that type of thing. That particular park has a walkway that was put in there several years ago, we had to refurbish that from time to time and in fact it is probably due again. But that was a walking trail that was put and it actually had some stations - exercise stations as you went through there. Mr. Fugate asked would you happen to know what material that is that I was talking about at the hockey tournament, it is a cement type of but it looked like it had something mixed in with it? Mr. Wright

answered it is usually mixed in with fiberglass, normally. Mr. Fugate stated it just looked really smooth, it was almost like a marble look. Mr. Wright answered that is the finish though, that is a hand-trowel finish. Mr. Fugate stated it looked it was able to with-stand. Mr. Wright advised you know that the Park & Rec Director of Shaker Heights lives here in town, she could be a resource. Her name is Pam Quinn and she lives over here in this neighborhood. Mr. Kempton advised I know there is a Board meeting next Monday for the school board because I was hoping to go to the one last time but I was out of town. I told Mrs. Loper that I was going to go and actually just throw it out onto the table and then present it to them and say this is what we would like to try between you and I with working with Mrs. Loper and getting that started because that in my opinion is simple. You take that bench and you drive it in the ground right at the edge of the blacktop because that is where the other one is, I don't think it is in the blacktop. Mr. Wright advised it is right on the edge, I think it is in the grass. Mr. Kempton answered yes I think it is in the grass though, so I talked to her and said all I want to do is actually go straight across on the blacktop and then that is a start. Now the kids actually believe that we are going somewhere with this and just a slide rail – that is 2 simple items. Or I say they are simple and I can't imagine that costing that much – I mean a couple of thousand? Mr. Wright answered between 2 and 4 depending on the size you want and a lot of those elements you are talking about I think got that kind of dual purpose where they are cement and what they are is made in a mold – they are pre-molded and there is actually an air cavity in the middle that are hollow but they are still heavy and they are just set into place. You know nobody is going to move it. They make the benches, a lot of those boxes are tall enough to be a bench so they can serve a dual function if need be and they are going to be as comfortable as those aluminum benches, you know a piece at a time. Mr. Kempton stated I have gone to some of the businesses here and they are willing to let us put a jug up and say if you want to donate toward a skate area because we are staying away from that word “park” and he explained reasoning. The bike path is moving right along and I think that is where we are going to be able to dive into and put little pieces here and there and then Ferndale like you and I talked. I mean \$30,000.00, down the road yes I think it is realistic – just for the equipment I understand that but talking to some of the companies locally they are willing to help in different directions. Mr. Wright advised that price that was given to you, that equipment doesn't even exist anymore and that was the highest priced modular equipment in the market by quite a margin. They poured so much material into their equipment that they couldn't compete costs wise so they stopped making that equipment – I know prices are better. Mr. Fugate asked if you can just quickly run by the conversation of Ferndale? Mr. Kempton answered well Ferndale when we went this time last year I think, we went out there and I was looking at the back ball-field because we were at one time discussing that you know that would be a good location and at the same time making that one pad and I was also looking at putting a pavilion off the side too. You know you have picnic tables and stuff like that but I was also

looking into the future of possibly having because those pieces of equipment can actually be lifted off and moved where you can actually have 3 on 3 Gus Macker Basketball Tournament as well. Mr. Fugate stated that is when you were mentioning about putting raised edges and filling it with water. Mr. Kempton stated yes, doing that during the winter months where you could have a skate area for ice skating. Mr. Fugate stated I had in the past brought some things up about Ferndale Park and I was shot down by the master plan, so do you have recollection of what the master plan is in store for that back part of Ferndale. Mr. Kempton answered it is not that detailed, it just kind of goes into the park up on the east side – up that drive. It doesn't really say, it is going to go through Ferndale Park. That is why I thought Ferndale Park would be a better place because you are going to have that bike path and I thought we might be able to piggy back off of something there with money. Mr. Fugate stated I think it is a great location, it is just a good location for a park. It is kind of central based. I wish Mr. Gardner was here but Ferndale baseball field 1 right now it is probably the only other field in Sheffield Lake that can be used as an alternate practice field as opposed to Volunteer Field which is a volunteer field. At Guenther if you are hitting balls, you got soccer out there. That field hasn't been touched in years, I don't understand why there is no way that that field can be either raked/drug/made able to play on. You don't have to throw bases out there, of course they are going to tore up or someone is going to steal them but make the field playable. I mean if you were to play in the outfield and someone hit a ball and you were going to catch it by the fence, you are going to get tore up by the fence. The fence is falling down, is there anything we can do about that? Maybe it just needs put back together, the fence I am speaking of and I know the field can just be drug and it will be fine. There has been bottles busted all over, I don't even go in the back – it looks like someone had a 4-wheeling excursion, it is just rutted which doesn't mean it can't be fixed. You want the one closer to the road because people are going to come play there and that is all I played when I was younger. All I played was at Ferndale, whether it was a pick-up game or whether it was city league – we played on them fields back then. We didn't have this Volunteer Field and that is right up the street from me and anybody else, like I said it is a centrally located park and if you want to go take your kid to go practice at the ball field – you can't go up to Volunteer Field because everybody is practicing at different times. You can go out there and start throwing the ball to your son and a couple of friends and someone is going to come kick you off the field because it is their practice time. Well they can't do that to you at Ferndale because it is a public park and you can't use the field – it is terrible. That is why I wish he was here so I could ask him if he could do something with that field. Co-chairman Kovach advised Bill is just doing grants now, you would want to talk to Joe. Mr. Fugate asked does he read our minutes? Co-chairman Kovach asked I will bring it up tomorrow night at Worksession. There was a brief discussion on condition of field. Mr. Wright asked what kind of events have you guys had in the past where you have recruited volunteer effort from the community? Mr. Kempton

answered I am working on one right now – Park Pals or people that want to get involved to try and build up like a group of people that are interested in not just the skate area but also the bike trail and the boat launch. I am trying to get right around 30 names right now. Co-chairman Kovach asked is that what you are calling your group or have you talked to the former park pals? Mr. Kempton advised no, Mr. Gardner approached me to see if I could start getting more people involved. Co-chairman Kovach advised I am just suggesting that there is a group, there was a group but I don't know if they dis-banned or if they are still in effect. That was the group that put the play area in at Gary Green Park. Mr. Wright stated I met with Bill on Friday and he said that he was going to talk to some of those folks to see if they still have their 501c3 status and if maybe the city could adopt it or a new Friends of Sheffield Lake Parks or something like that could adopt that nonprofit status. Co-chairman Kovach advised you couldn't adopt that, I don't know exactly where they are at on that but that stays in their name because they applied for that and they have actually been in form of a corporation. I don't know that they had a 501c3 but they had non-profit tax exempt status, that is two different things because 501c3 gives you the ability to have vegas nights, gambling type fund raisers. Whereas I am not quite sure what all they did as fund raisers but with a tax exempt thing you could do a spaghetti dinners, you could raffles – that type of thing. You could find a couple of those people and entice them to have a Board meeting and then perhaps have a new group of people that could be elected as a new Board to continue on that group then you could move forward like that. For the group to come back to life and move on because their function was they came up with the money and the idea but they actually wanted to put that over at Community Park originally. But Council decided against it at that time, not that park even though the boat launch was years away but that it just wasn't the ideal place to put that type of a play area especially being right on a highway as opposed to this being a side street. That is just a little history on that. Mr. Kempton advised that is what I am working on the list now and I will have it done by this weekend of about 30 people that would like to be involved in that Park Pals or Friends of Sheffield Lake. Mr. Evans stated then their function is like fund raisers? Co-chairman Kovach advised you become a non-profit organization with a purpose as opposed to like soccer – they promote soccer. Well this particular group promoted that, they did fund raising for about 18 months and they came up with the funding for that particular play equipment. Now what happened there was the Park Board partnered up with them and it was almost set-up like a grant, it was the monies from their donations and then there was donated labor and that was we used our recycled grant for the year and that is where all the crumb rubber in that play space came from. So it was like we were the grant givers that year, it was like a 10/90 or a 20/80 and the city supplied about 10 to 20 percent on it if you look at the numbers on it. One thing you find is once you get into something like that there comes a certain point that the money and the fund raising starts to dry up for that particular cause. You either have to expand to like corporate monies and lots of it because you can

only get so much out of your local community and the people that are around. Like I said, I think they ran out of patience and energy when they were doing that because it took them – they actually wanted to put together/their grand plan was to put something together like the wooden one that is over in Avon Lake. Mr. Fugate stated that is huge. Co-chairman Kovach stated well that type not that size, that size would be half that park there and there is no baseball field anymore to go with it over there or a swimming pool or anything else. But it was designed on that scale but that type of entity and that is when we got them into the recycled plastic. It was recycle this and recycle that, if you look everything over in that park the recycled benches, the picnic tables and the sign over there. Mr. Kempton stated so if you know of anyone who would like to be on that, let me know? Mr. Fugate asked will these people also, if instance when you first mentioned this – something that popped into my head, is when we first moved to Sheffield Lake we moved on Gayle Drive which is right over by Guenther Park. I lived about half way down Gayle Drive to Lake Road and I believe if my memory serves me correctly, it was a month out of the summer they had once a week rec days/recreation day. You would walk down to Guenther Park, I was young so I didn't know if it was just Guenther or if it was the other park. We would go down and we were young adults and they would teach us how to do crafts. Or we would build things or do other things, you know right in the park and all the kids would be at the park and we would make things. Mr. Kempton stated it was like a bird house one weekend. Mr. Fugate stated I thought it was a greatest thing in the world. Co-chairman Kovach advised now you are talking about going back to a recreation department. Mr. Fugate asked that was what I was going to ask, are you ever going to have a rec director? Are we ever going to have a rec director? Mr. Kempton answered if we ever feel the need for one, right now it is someone is doing this or someone is doing that – they come to the city because if I remember right, it was one lady that was doing it all and she said I'm done. Co-chairman Kovach advised that was the last one that was in and she wasn't in that long and she also changed jobs at that time too. It wasn't that she didn't want to continue on but I think is a teacher and with her job change and with the new demands of either the new job or whatever but it became all encompassing and she just did not have the time to put into the job. For what the job had ear-marked for to pay, you don't get a lot of \$3500.00. That is why we are just going event by event. Mr. Kempton concurred and advised the Easter Egg Hunt will be at Tennyson School at 2 pm on April 4th. We are also trying to get parents to get there to see the facilities and show them that we have this bench here and you could have a skate bench right over here. At the last meeting we really talked about the bike path, really looked like it was going to. Co-chairman Kovach advised it is going to come to fruition but like I say the wheels on these things turn real slow but the way they have turned, they haven't costs a lot of money and a lot of things are getting done. That is just the game that we play. Mr. Wright advised if somebody is laying asphalt, it is not going to costs that much more to lay another 10-feet on the side here or another 8-feet on the side here to add

another purpose to it. Rather than we have a muddy field, we have to exuviate it, we have to put a foundation, we have to put asphalt and then we want to put something on top of it. Mr. Fugate stated I think the skate areas on the side of the bike path, you couldn't have a better kind of duo of activities. You really can't because the kids are going to get on their bmx's with their skate boards and their back packs and they are going to ride from one area and they are going to play for a while and they are going to get done and they are going to ride to the next one and they are going to play for a while. Mr. Evans stated yes if each area has different elements in it. Mr. Fugate stated pretty soon they are going to get tired and hungry and they are not going to think about breaking anything. They are going to go home and get a sandwich and take a nap. Mr. Kempton stated right, the thing too is they are going to start seeing this once this plan really takes off and hits the high school. Co-chairman Kovach stated there has always been a lot of talk, where is our bridge to nowhere.

Somewhere is coming soon. Mr. Kempton stated that is why I took a step back with it, I was thinking even at Ferndale - \$30,000.00. I was like that, that ain't nothing but then you start realize that the community – where is this money actually going to come from and then that is where Jonathan came in and said hey, there is a lot of grants that we could be trying to go after. Co-chairman Kovach asked Mr. Wright, did you have any discussions with Bill? Mr. Wright answered I could kind of tell that he wanted me out of there as quickly as possible. He said he knows all about the grants and he is getting onto it and he will get that information to other people and I said have a good day Mr. Gardner. Mr. Evans stated your idea with Park Pals, I would think that would be again to our benefit and I don't want to beat a dead horse but it is just the way I am. If we got this group of people together, instead of just having one idea for them to focus on and then like you said they would just peter out after they accomplish it – is if we could come up with like a 5-year plan and a whole list of things and itemize what the potential costs are so if they go for every \$500.00 we raise then we can put 2 park benches out someplace or if we can get \$2500.00 raised then that gives us this. Co-chairman Kovach advised well going on that type of game plan then that is a little different but like I say this was a specific project. They came to us with their idea, that is what they were formed for and is was almost to the intent that once it was done then so were they. Mr. Wright stated to try to bring it full circle, what you are saying is absolutely correct and you have got the basis for it. You have got a Sheffield Lake Parks Master Plan and that is the base, it just needs to be fleshed out with the ideas. Looking at that master plan and working off that and deciding what you want to see go in each park, what you want to provide to the community and all the logistics about it. Mr. Evans stated that is what I brought up last time and I am sorry he is not here because what I was looking for was maps. I think it is a lot easier for people to visualize things if you put a basic map down and go this is what is here and this is what we would like it to be a year from now and this is what we would like it to be 2 years from now. Giving them this thing to sort of go towards, not that they have to accomplish everything. There was a brief

discussion which included having annual fund raisers. I worked out of Playhouse Square and I can get things donated for stuff like that but I have to go after it like 2 months in advance. Co-chairman Kovach advised well it stands to reason that you should a little farther into what you are doing with this, if you could get this Board alive again and you could just reinstate then it saves you a lot of grief as far as going and getting the paperwork for tax exempt status and everything else. If that stuff is in line and ready to go because if you don't then you got to create a group and so on. Mr. Kempton stated we were looking just like you said trying to do movies in the park last year and when I get an idea I try to stay on and stay on, it is hard when I don't have the equipment to put up this screen and we had the individual that was going to do this. But it seemed every time, something else was a road block and I was going around and going okay we can do this, I have it set, we can go in this park this time this date and that would be great. Now granted you get past September and it is going to be a little chilly but you have June, July, August and September – 4 great months and you have a movie in the park. Get one of the films, donations – send a bucket around or whatever and you can sale popcorn. I have a guy that said he would be willing to bring his cotton candy machine and things like that and it was just like alright it is coming together. Well now, if I can bring all these people together in one place then maybe it will be a reality. Will it be in June – maybe not in June this year but in July it should be. I think that it can happen, it is just getting that individual that is willing to donate all his equipment and he has told us – that was Kerry but both in August of last year and September I tried to do it and both times it was kind of no I am doing this or doing that. Mr. Wright stated the thing about those are like the Friends of the Parks or Park Pals – that is a great volunteer force. That is kind of another thing I was trying to get to is the ability to have a group to coordinate recruiting volunteers for events or fund raising or whatever. There is no reason why community members couldn't turn over that ballpark at Ferndale. Co-chairman Kovach advised how those ball fields used to get done was the coaches used to go in there and there was a couple of guys that had tractors and stuff like that but then they used all the fields at that time – there was no Volunteer Park. It became at the point really nobody asked that much for them as a practice field. There is a couple of teams that use them from time to time but not on the basis that they used to be used, you send your resources where they are needed most. Mr. Fugate stated sure, but you still don't want to sit and watch a place fall apart. Mr. Kempton stated I agree because there is a big old hole in the backstop. Mr. Fugate stated the fence in the outfield is just jagged and falling down – you don't want to watch it fall apart. You still got to have a baseball field. I mean you have Volunteer Field but you got to have a baseball field in a park. If someone wants to come and have a picnic there, what are you going to do – your going to have a pick-up softball game. Mr. Wright advised the idea you were talking about – things like that, the equipment has got to be owned by the city. You have your volunteers raise the money, they buy the equipment and it is donated to the city. If the city doesn't own the equipment. Co-chairman Kovach advised no

that was always the intent when they did that to begin with and once it is on city land then it belongs to the city. Mr. Wright stated I mean the cotton candy machine, the big screen – all those kinds of things because if it is not owned by the city and available from the city every time then you are going to run into that disappointment and if you run into that disappointment time and time again when residents are counting on it – then they are going to lose interest and they are going to lose faith. Any kind of event like that, the city has got to own the equipment and that is what Park Pals is for. There was a brief discussion on being prepared. Co-chairman Kovach requested Mr. Evans to continue with the maps and advised he could get a rolling wheel at the Service Department to walk off parks. There was a brief discussion on various parks needs and equipment which would generate a wish list and would enhance the master plan. Mr. Wright offered his help in mapping. Mr. Kempton advised just like having an electronic display right there when you come into town, as you were saying that is a perfect example of if we have a plan – yes, we know that is going to cost us \$1000.00 and if we get the offer of \$1000.00 then that is what we want to buy for that area. Mr. Wright advised again with grant writing having that volunteer force, not only for what they do by way of fund raising but getting them involved in labor is very important because it shows a community commitment to what you guys are trying to accomplish and also on the vast majority of grants that are out there – you can log at a prevailing wage the volunteer hours that those people are putting in to whatever project it is and submit that as an in-kind donation with your grant. So their volunteered labor counts as money towards what you guys are putting in and at prevailing wages. There was a brief discussion on documentation of work and hours. Co-chairman Kovach recommended Mr. Wright to consider being a Board member or at least a participating member of this organization. Mr. Wright explained his work situation but advised he really wants to be part and help as much as he can.

Memorial Park: None.

Neighborhood Parks: discussed above.

Lakefront Parks: None.

GRANTS, GIFTS & AWARDS:

a.) **Brookside Bike Trail/Covered Bridge – None.**

NEW BUSINESS: Co-chairman Kovach advised Pride Day is going to be May 16, 2009 from 8 am to 2 pm.

CITIZENS COMMENTARY: None.

MEETING ADJOURNED: With no further business before this committee,

*Motion by Fugate to adjourn at 9:20 PM. Yeas All.

CLERK OF COMMITTEE AFFIRMATION: This meeting of the City Committee of the City of Sheffield Lake, Ohio was held and conducted under all Rules and

Regulations Governing The Sunshine Laws of the State of Ohio as they may apply.
All meetings are recorded and available in Council's Offices.

CLERK OF COUNCIL

Kay Fantauzzi

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Len Smith

and/or

ACTING CHAIRMAN

Steve Kovach

I, Kay Fantauzzi, duly appointed Clerk of Committee
Of Sheffield Lake DO HEREBY CERTIFY that this is
A true and exact copy of the Minutes of the Board
Of March 16, 2009.

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

Edward R Podmanik

and/or

COUNCIL PRO TEM

Richard Rosso