

**Minutes of the Park Board  
City of Sheffield Lake, Ohio  
May 18, 2009**

The regular meeting of the Park Board was held Monday, May 18, 2009. Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 8:05 PM.

**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:**

Present: Smith, Kovach, Evans

Absent: Fugate, Kempton, Mayor Piskura (excused)

Attending: Grant Administrator Gardner, Mr. Jonathan Wright, Concerned Citizens

\*Motion by Kovach to accept the minutes of the April 20, 2009 meeting as presented. Yeas All.

**CORRESPONDENCE: None.**

**PRESENTATIONS:**

*Mrs. Sandy Weber, 861 Alameda* advised I have been a resident for 20+ years and I am here tonight along with citizens of Sheffield Lake to introduce to you and ask you to consider the possibility of a dog park in Sheffield Lake. We have gathered information and we have done research and there are a lot of reasons why the citizens of Sheffield Lake would like to have a dog park besides the obvious reasons. You know it takes a lot of time to get out and walk your dog every evening and people are tired. You know you got to walk around if you are a dog owner you have to walk around the little blue bags and I am sure the dog owners here are familiar with that. You got your little blue bags, you are walking your dog – it is kind of annoying, you have a lot of interference. You have other dogs that you have to pass on the street, you have kids with skate boards, you have kids on bicycles and if you don't have a lot of time that is kind of bad. The other thing is your dog doesn't have any time to relate off leash and it tells you in this poster here and I am going to explain to you the benefits of having a dog off leash. The benefits of a dog off leash is that you have more time for your adult dog to run in an enclosed area which gives you a better animal. It gives you an animal that is less aggressive, it gives you an animal that is less likely to run into the path of an oncoming vehicle or to get loose because it will be satisfied after it is in a dog park and playing with other animals. Research has shown that city's that have dog parks have far less incidents with break ins, have far less incidents with problems with nuisance dogs. It makes for a better community by promoting public health and safety, well exercised dogs are much better neighbors and they don't bark excessively and they are less likely to create a nuisance. Also this is a way for the elderly to be able to get out and socialize with people, exercise their dogs and be able to get out and get some fresh air, be able to be in a park like sitting and get their dog out. A dog park is something where you and your dog can get out

and play together. It is also something where neighbors can get out and be together, swape recipes and get rid of the stress for the day. It is in no way and has anything to compare to your new bike trail and dog walking path that you are going to get. That is wonderful and that is something that Sheffield Lake will benefit from greatly. However this is something that the city needs, we have been utilizing Avon Lake for far too long and the citizens have had to go to Lakewood as well and they don't feel that it is fair that we should have to go to other cities to have something that our town should already have. A mission statement that we propose to have for the city and for our dog park is to establish a fenced in off leash park where well behaved k9 citizens can exercise in a clean safe environment without endangering or annoying people, property or wildlife. To develop a beautiful well maintained space open to all dog lovers and friends who are willing to uphold the parks rules and restrictions, to view this park as a community project in partnership with the City of Sheffield Lake designed to satisfy the needs of dog owners and non-dog owners alike. So this is something that Avon Lake has carried off quite successfully. The citizens of Sheffield Lake are willing to work with you in terms of voluntarism, raising funds to help assist in possibly building this. Anything that we can do to make this happen. This is a dream for the citizens, they want to see this happen. We are proud of our town, we are proud of how we are moving in the right direction and we are also proud of the fact that we are finally back on the map again. For a long time we were known as a town of depression and a depressed city and Shoreway Shopping Center looked like something out of a ghost town and now we can hold our heads up high and say Sheffield Lake is coming back and we are coming back with a vengeance and a dog park would be a very nice addition and it would help out probably 99.9% of the dog owners in Sheffield Lake and I am willing to back up my words and if you need petitions, if you need signatures, if you need anything. Anything that you need to back up my words I am willing to present it to you if you just tell me what it is and I thank you very much for your time and I am available anytime. Member Kovach asked is there a group of you, like in a form of an organization? Mrs. Weber answered that is in the organizational stage, I have bits and pieces of people that are coming together. We are coming together in bits and pieces as far as having an organization yet per-say, we do not have that yet. It is just interested parties. Chairman Smith advised she is in the organizational phase of the idea and while we are in the process of developing some of our centralized parks such as the putting in of a skate area which we have Jason and them looking at making/finding a place. It would be advantageous maybe to do the same in the same process with this. I commend you and I think it is a great idea, it is different but I can tell you that there are a lot of dog owners in the City of Sheffield Lake. I personally have gone door-to-door to every house over the years and I can tell you that every other one has a dog and I come from a long line. Mrs. Weber stated I have a lot of people that are volunteering to get involved if there is a chance. Chairman Smith advised I did go to Avon Lake this afternoon after our conversation and it is quite nice. It is basically a

secure area, it is dirt inside or mulch or something but it is a secure area. It does keep everyone in there and I was amazed how many dogs were in there that weren't fighting with each other which is really good. There is benches inside, it looks nice. Member Kovach stated I am going to assume that you still have to clean up after your own dog in there? Mrs. Weber answered yes you do. Chairman Smith introduced Grant Administrator Gardner who was asked to look for possible additional funding sources concerning this. She wanted to make a presentation and make it known to us and she would like to get something going just like Mr. Wright here was doing with the skate area. Member Kovach asked how many interested people do you have that you are working with? Mrs. Weber answered I have talked to probably over half of Sheffield Lake and probably  $\frac{3}{4}$  of Sheffield Lake on the phone, I have talked to them personally. Member Kovach stated I am trying to move you ahead here. I am trying to move you ahead in what you are going to need to honestly believe to pull this off. You are going to need like a committee of people to pull this off. Mrs. Weber answered I can get a committee of people. You tell me when I need them and I will have them. Member Kovach advised you need a Board of people, perhaps you as Chairman or President of your organization. You need a group that is going to lead this. Do you think you could have a couple of people together between now and a week from Wednesday? The reason I am asking is I was going to invite you to our Community Civic Counsel meeting. This is the organization that puts on Community Days but we have member organizations that are with us that do fund raising. I think that would a place where you could get some input and help. I would put a group of people, you would come in force with support and at that point we can move along. Plus you would have to form yourself as a non-profit type of organization where you would have the ability to do fund raising. Chairman Smith stated in an situation like this we are talking an open space; green space area that has got a fence, that has got a couple bag dispensers and it has got some benches in it for people to sit and socialize and water. But in something like that, it is an area within an area. They are usually sit up with any park. We can still investigate the situation and maybe get some facts and continue on going. Grant Administrator Gardner advised as a possible starting point, the Lorain Park is attempting to build the park between Harris Road and Idlewood in the woods. The back section by Howell has an open area that was used as a dump site for dirt, so it is flat. Chairman Smith advised but that is not us, that is the Metro Parks. Grant Administrator Gardner stated I realize that but if you were looking to energize an area of land that could be like 5 acres like Avon Lake is – this city doesn't have 5 acres. Chairman Smith advised Avon Lake's is not that big, it doesn't look 5 acres. Grant Administrator Gardner advised it said 5 acres on the computer but the point that I am getting at is that park is virgin right now, it is undeveloped. They are going to need money to develop it so if you were to say we want to take this little corner of this park and create a dog park I don't think Metro Parks has a dog park. So perhaps they would be interested in having a dog park especially if you guys were going to

volunteer to support it and give some money towards it. That particular area of this park has been overlaid with a lot of dirt that is not really going to grow nature's trees right now for many years and I think it could be an ideal place for grass to be planted. I would suggest you go after Metro Parks to try to get that little piece identified and use your group to do that. That is in Sheffield Village too, so you will be able to open up the whole Village concern for the park. Chairman Smith advised that would be up to you if you wanted to approach Metro Parks at the same time but we still have Ferndale, we have areas at Ferndale that are going to be intertwined with new development. Mrs. Weber stated I even saw on East Drive there is an unused tennis court there. Chairman Smith advised we have an area over there at the end of Freedom Park. There was a brief discussion on direction for Mrs. Weber and on the different parks in the city. Chairman Smith advised there hasn't been a formal press release yet but Lorain County Metro Parks has purchased all the property from Harris Road north of the railroad tracks to Idlewood that is at the end of all the streets on the south side of Ferndale. From that ditch line to the railroad tracks is going to be a brand new Metro Parks and they are very open to working with 5013C or nonprofits and do community builds and organizations. Grant Administrator Gardner added not to mention the fact that they have people that are skilled in finding new grants and opportunities if not in their park, maybe in one of ours. They have people that do that for a living. There was a brief discussion on the idea and options.

***PARK SUPERINTENDENT REPORT: None.***

***RECREATION DIRECTOR REPORT: None.***

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

***Designated Skate Areas:*** Member Evans advised 2 meetings ago I thought that we sort of came to a conclusion that we might be better off adding skate elements to the new bike path because of the fact that we were already asphaltting a path and it wouldn't cost that much to put a 5 X 10 area off to it 3 or 4 places down the bike path and now that we are doing the bike path I don't know whether we want to follow that idea and if we do what our time frame is for at least figuring out where we want that extra asphalt laid, whether we buy the elements to put on it. Chairman Smith advised we can put grind rails or we can add that. The first thing is the bike trail at this point and time is not a park. So that issue in itself is going to have to be addressed at some point if Council chooses fit to have it fall underneath our jurisdiction. It is going to have to be done in some form to formally fix that and that is something that is going to have to be addressed with all the bike trail at some point. We were only authorized to go after and try to secure funding for the projects through the Park Board to it but now that it is becoming a reality the next step would be to do that but our plans and recommendations is exactly what we can facilitate. We have Steve here as our liaison and I am on the same page. It is hard to comprehend exactly how much bike trail unless everyone really doesn't realize. We have a north/south running from Lake Road through Brookside to the west side of

Ferndale Park, through Ferndale Park south of Ferndale Park through approximately 200 yards or 150 yards of woods to an east/west jog which will run to Idlewood and the Metro Parks at the corner of Idlewood and the ditch will be an access for their bike trail which is going to be paved and it is going to be completely around like a square circle through the whole property. Grant Administrator Gardner continued and ends up at the railroad tracks at Harris Road where we have applied for crossing gate for bikes to run on the west side of Harris Road all the way to the school and 611 is going to have a bike trail on it which connects to Day Park which then goes all the way down. Chairman Smith advised our city wide bike trail though will start at Lake Road, run south through Ferndale Park and then to the corner/the connector of Lorain County Metro Park property, that is where we will be at and then of course the Village is doing their part from the other corner of the Metro Park property south. So it is a lot of bike trail, do you know exactly how long that is. Grant Administrator advised we had a mile track in ours so if you do Brookside from Allen Court around through the park over the bridge in the back side of the ditch and come back up the other side through Rowelyn to that starting point that is a mile and we probably got another  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile to Lake Road and then you have got 6.2 miles, maybe it is a little more then that on Lake Road if you count both sides. We have quite a few miles of bike trail already. Plus we have a bike trail now on both sides of Walker Road and when Phase III is begun which is going to happen hopefully within the next month, we will have an additional 1000 feet. So we will have close to 3500 feet of bike trail on Walker Road that is both sides of the road. There was a brief discussion on process; refer to Ordinance, a vacation of the road. Chairman Smith stated it isn't under our jurisdiction as of right now unless Council makes it that way. There was a brief discussion on elements option. Mr. Jonathan Wright advised I brought what I thought might be a potential solution right along the same vein that Mr. Evans just opened up right there. He explained product line of skateable art which the Board reviewed. He explained some communities have used this skateable art and applied for community beautification grants and put that element in there as art and community beautification, it just so happens to be art that you can skate board on. Grant Administrator Gardner advised Allen Court is ideal in that it is 100 feet wide at that point so you got a lot of room and it last for probably 300 feet so you have a pretty big area in there to put those kind of things. There was a lengthy discussion on locations, options and various grant options. Mr. Wright also submitted playground safety information. He also advised in previous minutes discussions of going to Major League teams for possible funding, one thing when you are going after these teams and their community relations department – have a plan about how you are going to be able to help them market their personal foundations and their community relations things. That is pretty much the most important thing. Yes they want to do stuff with the community but they want attention, they want media attention and they want their name everywhere. They want everybody in northern Ohio to know that the Cleveland Browns or the Cavaliers or the Indians made this happen. So when you are

going to approach those folks for money or donations or whatever it might be, I would certainly have a plan about how you are going to help them market their name. He recommended to do some research on the mission of their foundations first. There was a brief discussion on jurisdiction versus ownership versus management of the bike trail. \*Motion by Smith to refer to the Council Worksession the information that we have been discussing concerning the bike trail jurisdiction and certain areas adjacent to the bike trails as they are being developed. Yeas All.

Member Evans advised I do have some grant information that I was going to give to Mr. Gardner. Since I was the one that brought it up, I don't want to get involved in applying for grants. I was actually signed up to take a workshop this week and it got canceled. There was a brief discussion on process.

**Memorial Park:** Member Kovach advised I do believe they got that sign moved around.

**Neighborhood Parks: None.**

**Lakefront Parks:** Grant Administrator Gardner advised tomorrow for certain and of course it might rain, we are going to have the dirt off of the boat launch. Although the boat launch has to be asphalted and it is going to be gravel based underneath. That is going to take a while to settle. Member Kovach asked are the windmills in? Grant Administrator Gardner answered no, the bases and it takes 2 weeks for the base and we just poured the bases. The mass base is in the ground and we can cover those now. Tomorrow will be the trenching.

### **GRANTS, GIFTS & AWARDS:**

a.) **Brookside Bike Trail/Covered Bridge** – Chairman Smith asked do you know if Joe by any chance has talked about sealing the covered bridge. Grant Administrator Gardner answered I talked to Pat about using some Thompson water seal on it. There was a brief discussion. Chairman Smith advised if we stick to the plan or we modify it formally when needed then it is always going to be there.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Member Evans advised a lot of this is geared toward Jason and his attempt to get a new Park Pals group together because I have looked into some fund raising projects which most of them need a non-profit organization to get involved. The one that we can do if we can figure out how to do it selling candy bars. A lot of what I found have to be done through those and we can't as a Park Board initiate the action. We were talking about movies in the parks, maybe sitting up just a table with a couple of use to try and generate some community information. Us giving what we can to them, them asking us questions, putting things like this out for people to buy, finding out where else we can do it. These are things that can be done year round, we just have to get the initial money to buy the initial amount of candy and after we just keep generating our own funds that way we have some money to work with that we don't

have to ask anybody else for. If we would get grant money a 1 to 1 match then we would have some funds to go after. The other thing that I think might be too late to do this year but we should definitely think about is the Delaware North Company that runs the concessions at Jacob's Field has a fund raising opportunity for non-profit groups where they actually allow you to work concession stands in the park during games. You have to have a minimum of 10 people per game, you have to commit to a minimal of 10 games in the season but they guarantee you \$60.00 per person per game. If you don't make enough money selling product, if you do make more then that you get a percentage of your sales. There was a lengthy discussion on fund raiser options and also the master plan. Member Evans asked can I be a member of a 5013C that is trying to raise money for Sheffield Lake Park Board? Member Kovach answered the only thing you wouldn't be able to do is might not be able to vote on something when a vote came, you have to abstain. Member Evans advised I could try and organize it. There was a brief discussion on issue which concluded with the need for advisement from Law Director Graves. Chairman Smith advised Member Kovach I am going to disagree with you that the master plan sits and does nothing because legally it does everything. Member Kovach answered only when you use it and it hasn't been used recently. Chairman Smith debated we have used it and it is set for the foundation of all the different things that are going on. The parks master plan is what I am referring to, I am not referring to the city's master plan. Member Kovach answered I understand that Len and it hasn't been used. It was put together how long ago. Well you got to move, you have to come up with additional plans to go with that and that is what it is there for so that 5 year plans can be put in place and it is a reason to bring things before Council because then they know what is going on. Chairman Smith stated I have stated many times, all you have to do is modify the master plan. Member Kovach stated you don't have to modify anything, you use the 5 year plan as what you are doing in conjunction with your master plan.

**CITIZENS COMMENTARY: None.**

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** With no further business before this committee,

\*Motion by Smith to adjourn at 9:42

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.

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CLERK OF COUNCIL

*Kay Fantauzzi*

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COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

*Len Smith*

*and/or*

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 May 18, 2009.

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ACTING CHAIRMAN

*Steve Kovach*

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PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

*Edward R Podmanik*

*and/or*

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COUNCIL PRO TEM

*Richard Rosso*