

**Minutes of the Park Board  
City of Sheffield Lake, Ohio  
June 15, 2009**

The regular meeting of the Park Board was held Monday, June 15, 2009. Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 8:13 PM.

**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:**

Present: Smith, Kovach, Evans

Absent: Fugate, Kempton, Mayor Piskura (excused)

Attending: Mr. Jonathan Wright

\*Motion by Kovach to accept the minutes of the May 18, 2009 meeting as presented.  
Yeas All.

***CORRESPONDENCE: None.***

***PRESENTATIONS: None.***

***PARK SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:*** Chairman Smith advised he is busy getting shrubs and stuff with other things. I know I have helped him reestablish some of the contacts we had with our plant people that we got plants from. So he has been doing that with the city stuff. So I haven't really talked to Joe enough but I do know about the vandalism, not vandalism – it is just graffiti and they are tagging the stuff and they are doing it with spray paint. There was a fire at Ferndale Park at the old concession stand and it burned all the wood up and left the concrete blocks but they were cracked and falling down so the city immediately took that down to eliminate any hazard. We had the fire at the Warwick building, he (whoever it was) stole some gasoline cans from a couple of the neighbors and he poured it on the fencing that we had stored on the side that is right on the side of the building and he lit that on fire. The Fire Department was great, they got there quick and it didn't destroy the building. Then another fire incident at Ferndale again with a little dinosaur toy and the crumb rubber was ignited I guess. Then I just noticed the bus shelter was tagged and I talked to Jerry and Jerry said he has been able to keep up with the stuff but it is the same stuff that was on the boat launch. Mr. Kovach asked for clarification. Chairman Smith answered no that is a separate they graffiti-ed the bus shelter at Shell Cove on the glass and that was taken care of. But it is the same symbols and the same stuff, the same group probably. Mr. Kovach asked is this like a gang thing? Chairman Smith answered no I just think it is somebody who is angry – a kid. Mr. Kovach asked at the parks? Chairman Smith answered no, why would they be mad at the parks? Mr. Kovach asked what else have they hit besides the parks? Chairman Smith answered I think he graffiti's it because it is there in the open, it is public and

it is his way of rebelling I guess. When he gets caught we can analyze, trust me I am going to and it would be nice if we can get community service out of him. Mr. Kovach stated arson is probably more then community service. We don't really need an arsonist to do community clean up. Chairman Smith stated I am just saying these are all the incidents that have occurred in the last 2-1/2 weeks, who knows if it is the same exact person. But the police are on it and we will go from there. The wind turbines were put up and the Mayor had his flip the switch ceremony and those are working fine, they don't work when the wind blows 8 miles an hour.

**RECREATION DIRECTOR REPORT: None.**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Designated Skate Areas:** Chairman Smith stated I know you went to Council. Mr. Kovach advised I think the interpretation the way it should, they were concerned that it was going to be right on the side of it. Mr. Kovach explained and noted they have been made aware of it and it is on the table.

**Memorial Park:** Chairman Smith stated I am very surprised that it wasn't hit with graffiti considering the street that is right in front of it is Howell Street and all the construction signs and there were cars on Howell parked on the side of the road that were all graffiti-ed up with paint and there was road construction signs were graffiti-ed up but nothing in Memorial Park was and I found that interesting. It is very selective.

**Neighborhood Parks: None.**

**Lakefront Parks:** Mr. Kovach asked have they been back down using Lakewood Beach? Chairman Smith answered yes Lakewood Beach has had cars in it sporadically, one day it had a bunch in it – 4 or 5 at one time because I couldn't turn around because of the way they were parked but the other times probably 2 cars in there. As it gets hotter I think it will probably get a lot more use. Mr. Evans advised they were busy today, I rode my bike down there. A lot of people were being dropped off, cars were coming in and dropping people off and leaving. Do you think it would help if we actually lined parking spaces? Chairman Smith answered we actually went through that at one time and at that time which was when we paved it, right after it was paved the Mayor I believe was a major discussion on whether we line it or not and it made it more accessible not to line the parking spaces because depending on how many cars in there determine where people park. The only time that it really gets tough, they get more cars in then parking spaces would allow I guess you could say when it is packed. Then we thought about it, we even had at one time a turn around in there and then when the condominium complex had a issue with the lights going in from the cars pulling in so we had to move the entrance to one side and when there is cars in there that shouldn't be in there after dark to begin with but the cars turn around in there then the neighbors complain. So it is one of those situations we wanted to keep it as liquid as we possibly could depending on how it works. It would

be kind of hard to put in spaces in there and maintain that but we could always Joe to entertain it again, I mean it is not a bad idea but just at the time we discussed it probably 2 years ago and Mr. Gardner was very adamant about it that it would be better this way. Mr. Kovach stated it sounds like it is a drop off destination more than anything. Mr. Evans stated I just noticed today when I went down there because I wanted to do a little rough measurement of the space to see how it could be done and there were only 2 vehicles parked but when you let people park wherever they want to park of course they take up more space than they need to and when I was there the one car pulled in to drop off. If they didn't drop off when they parked that would have been the end of it, we would have had 3 vehicles parked in that entire space and there would have been no other parking space because of the way people were parking. So I am just thinking if we put lines in then it is like any other parking lot. When you start thinking about it and maybe we can double the capacity just by sort of letting people know. It is like any other place get it between the lines, don't leave 10 feet away from the wall because you don't want to park carefully but that just takes away from everyone else. Chairman Smith advised well that is just common sense in that situation. Mr. Evans advised common sense doesn't exist anymore as far as I am concerned, you have to give some people some rules and regulations to deal with. Chairman Smith advised well we will toss it up to Joe and see what he thinks and go from there. Mr. Evans advised on Shell Cove, I think we need to do some maintenance on the bench of the shelter. I have noticed when I have ridden by it the front board is bowed and because it is not supported anymore – somebody has removed 3 of the bolts underneath so it is not attached to the metal brace. Chairman Smith advised one of us can get a hold of Jerry. Mr. Evans asked do we own the old Rax building, is that part of the shopping center? Chairman Smith answered yes that is the city's. Mr. Evans stated then I think we should take the 3 picnic tables that were in front of it and actually put them in parks so they can be used – they are just sitting on that concrete slab there. They look like they are in good shape. Mr. Kovach asked they are not physically attached to the concrete? Mr. Evans answered no because I have been up to the building several times and they keep sort of changing positions and I don't know who is doing that but they are the round ones that have the benches and I think they would be used more if we put them all 3 like at Guenther or Lincoln Park where people could actually have access to them. Chairman Smith stated good idea and we could speak to the Mayor about that or Steve. Mr. Evans continued turbines – I was just questioning, I have been by them the last couple of days and one has been spinning and one hasn't, are they both supposed to work at the same time, they are facing different directions so I don't know if that has something to do with it? Chairman Smith answered it has got to do with the wind speed, from what I understand one could be adjusted a little different than the other. I don't know, I don't really know the answer. I asked if something was wrong with it and Joe at that time told me no or not Joe but I forgot the guys name. When we were down there at the launch when they were doing the thing and

the same thing happened and they said no, calibrated differently. I don't know but we can find out. Mr. Evans stated I have been riding my bike down there every day and the last 3 days the one on the west has been spinning furiously and the one on the east has been dead still but they are both pointing in different directions and I didn't know if that had anything to do with it? Chairman Smith stated I am wondering the same thing because it has been a couple of days. Now I did go down there the other day when the wind was up and they were both going full tilt and that was when the wind were out of the northeast. Mr. Evans asked the boat launch, when that was being designed did anybody consider terracing instead of sloping plan? Chairman Smith answered yes. Mr. Evans asked is there a reason why it wasn't done? Chairman Smith answered yes purposely wasn't done because of the – let me see if I can remember the exact. The design incorporates a boardwalk park walkway which is where you go down underneath the bottom level where the walkway is – that is functional not for just a walkway but it is functional for removing sand to. That is why there is one that goes down on the other side and there is one that goes on the other side and that was at the height where we could have it from what I understand. Mr. Evans stated I am talking about the grassy area. Chairman Smith answered really there shouldn't be anything really much into that cliff, it was just a gradual area and we tried to get it to slope down as low as we could so we didn't have impairments of walking down to get access plus it gave us that smaller area above the blocks where picnic tables area in there. If you are talking about terracing it, that was discussed too and it went out with the discussions. I don't know the exact reason. Mr. Evans stated it seems like it would be a very functional space if we could terrace it because it would become like an amphitheater on the lake for us. Chairman Smith stated well we can still use it but we actually get more usage out of a slope then out of a terrace, believe it or not. One of the things that we did down at West Shore Park where we had cliff/cliff – we sloped it to get access so you could walk down safely – we did that purposely. I really don't know the exact answer for you on it, I know it was discussed. Mr. Kovach advised I think there is a grant application for consideration of making a walkway that is handicap accessible, like almost on an angle across from the area of the east windmill on an angle toward – that walkway was terrace wasn't it, it went down in steps. Chairman Smith answered no, I believe it had a landing in it, like a pad – flat. Mr. Kovach advised if the future foresight was to put a crosswalk in there, you wouldn't want to do that on a terrace. Mr. Evans advised it would have to be angled so it would be wheel chair accessible. Chairman Smith stated terracing was brought up way back in the discussions several times and the whole point, we had to have the parking lot at a certain height and the boat launch at a certain angle which required a certain degree and we had to have X amount of parking spaces too. So the modifications to the original grant were to accommodate things that we had to have as it went from a conceptual to actual working design and the parking spaces which changed from the state and we had to have more of them and move back out. There was a brief recall on discussions. Mr. Evans stated I am thinking back because

I lived in Cincinnati, the entire river front of downtown Cincinnati has this thing called the serpentine wall and this is just this curving, undulating wall that is nothing but a series of steps all the way from the park all the way down to the river and when the river floods it literally comes all the way up almost all the way. It is made with the idea there are terraces to sit on and then there are steps that go down through it and it becomes a very usable public space because there is so much sitting area and I am thinking if that could be done and the reason that is top in my mind is watching the destruction of the shopping center we would have all the fill we would need to fill in the steps and then possibly creating a floating stage that could go out into the lake and be anchored to the retaining wall so you could have concerts. You are not going to have parking any more accessible than the shopping center gives us. It is a lakefront area, how many other cities have any kind of lakefront access where they can hold public events. Chairman Smith stated we actually planned on having a stage there, that is why it is level down on the bottom, that is why it is a cup shape. That downward angle, maintaining the incline and our height requirements it is also cupped and it is as level as we can get it to get down into that situation without creating something that is going to cause a hazard and we planned on it. As a matter of fact we spent some money on putting electricity on the other side of the ramp and getting the electric power over there just for that reason. Now it turns out, not only do we have it over there for that but now we have bigger electricity from the wind turbines. It was discussed though. Mr. Kovach stated that doesn't mean it couldn't be addressed in the future. Mr. Evans stated it just seems – there is an awful lot of space there, I don't know what the dimensions are from the top to the bottom or what the fall is from the parking lot down but it seems like we could get 4 terrace levels within that space that are 10 feet deep which would allow a lot of people to sit plus walk around to get to open spaces. You could put 2 levels or 2 sets of stairs going down to the base and would be easier to maintain. If we filled it and still put grass it would be 4 levels of flat grass to mow instead of a slope. Or you could the retaining wall up and fill it with rubble from the shopping center and just put a smooth flat concrete surface over it, it is going to be hotter but there is going to be absolutely no maintenance involved there. Chairman Smith stated it is a thought and we can bring it up in the future. We got it on the minutes so you brought it up but still to answer your original question, I remember the exact reason why it was but I remember it was discussed. Everyone had a different vision back then we had meetings after meetings after meetings after meetings after meetings. Mr. Kovach stated that is all fresh fill and land and they were factoring in the settling of it too because that is going to settle for a while. That was all armored and that armoring in that area and most of the armoring was where that landfill is. Chairman Smith stated we had to bring that level out, that level had to come out to extend the parking – that was a cliff up there and we didn't have enough to work. When the rock was done it was fractured, there was an area off of the rock and the rock was a drop down. Like the rock started downward, I don't know how many feet but I remember that was an issue. Mr.

Kovach asked did you live here before that launch was there and that wall was armored there. Mr. Evans answered yes I have lived here for 13 years but I don't think I ever stepped foot in that area so I don't really know what it looked like or how it was constructed. I didn't start paying attention until the tents went up. Mr. Kovach asked was did they first armor that about 20 years ago. Chairman Smith answered 92 or 93 Mr. Sherrod Brown got the money from the federal government. Mr. Kovach advised we were losing, it was eroding and to save the library and the back of that park they got the Army Corp of Engineers in there and that was the best plan to save that and it was all with the big armored rock which is what the launch is made out of now and when then the launch went in that of course came out. Well there is still the armoring behind the library. So if you figure that all the way to where the windmill is and it was out probably midway across that grassy area and then there was a fence across from the library all the way to the windmill and it actually jutted, the cliff by the library was here and the windmill and it came in on a curve. Like I say there was a wooden fence up there and a lot of people would step over that and go down into the armor and fish and stuff like that but it was kind of dangerous to do that. Like I say that area was all pulled out and then it was all fresh fill that has been settling there for some time. Mr. Evans stated well I was just looking at all the stuff that has to be hauled away from shopping center demolition. Chairman Smith advised when they made the bid for the shopping center demolition, the bid was that the people got rid of the stuff too – that is how we got a low price the city did was they recouped some of their money on the prices for recycling materials I believe if I am not mistaken. That was one of the things that they get rid of everything. Mr. Kovach stated well you are talking dirt and concrete and stuff like that. Mr. Evans stated anything that needs to be used to fill in a void, instead of paying for it it is right there being made for us across the street.

**GRANTS, GIFTS & AWARDS:** Chairman Smith advised nothing new at this point on any grants that I am aware of. I believe Mr. Gardner did carry on the process for the informational sign but that is about it that I am aware of.

- a.) **Brookside Bike Trail/Covered Bridge** – Chairman Smith advised Joe did start cutting out the turf for the Brookside Bike Trail and putting in the stone but I don't know where they are at or how far or an ETA, I don't know what his schedule is on when he plans on doing that but it would be nice to know.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Mr. Evans asked have we ever circulated any kind of question ere throughout the city concerning people's response to the parks, what they want. Chairman Smith answered yes we have, we did it extensively. Mr. Evans asked where are the results of that, is it public record anywhere? Chairman Smith answered Kay has it downstairs and she could probably get it. Mr. Evans asked when was it done? Chairman Smith answered before we applied for the boat launch grant which would

have been 2002 or 2001. Just before the master plan was done through the Planning Commission because it was part of the process of the parks plan, it was 2001 or 2002 somewhere in there and that is where we had the mandate to go ahead and develop the master plan from and yes we had more people that filled out questioners and surveys over that summer then all the people that filled out surveys in the State of Ohio for the ODNR master plan. There was more public input on surveys in our city then there was for the ODNR input from the public for their master plan for the State of Ohio which is really good. That will give you a little comparison on seriously we took it, we took it very serious. Mr. Kovach stated it is a pretty solid format if you would like to look at it. Chairman Smith advised yes Kay can get you all that stuff, just ask her and tell her you want the park survey. We are real proud of that one too and like I said I think that was one of the arm bending things that we took to the ODNR and the Division of Watercraft. Their master plan hasn't based on anything, ours was based on the input that we got from the people that live here and what they wanted.

Mr. Jonathan Wright advised the last time we were here we talked about creating a 501C3. I drafted a little flyer that I sent to Mr. Evans and I was just wondering I suppose how you would like because I would like to help Mr. Evans kind of get this thing off the ground if you are willing to accept that? Mr. Evans answered yes. Mr. Wright asked I guess the question is what types of parameters would be set on him, us by the Board how do you want communication to go back and forth between Mr. Evans and myself and the Board – things like that I suppose I am asking for assistance to kind of defining our roles in that? Chairman Smith answered we can't control it, the Park Board can't control it. It is a separate entity, it is a nonprofit separate entity once you file and for the purpose of whatever you deem in your mission statement that is what it is going to be. Mr. Kovach advised that is what sets your parameters. Chairman Smith concurred not us, your mission statement – that is your parameters. Mr. Evans stated I think you said about the only thing restrictive would be if something came up to a vote then I would have to abstain from voting. Chairman Smith stated I don't he said you had to abstain because I think that is an interpretation of the Law Director because it is going to amount to whether or not you have personal gain. When you are working for a nonprofit you have no personal gain unless you are an employee that is getting paid. So I would refer that to Dave on the technical stuff of that, you know the legal stuff. I would have Dave give you some insight our Law Director and I am sure he will but as far as what you want you guys would have to come to what you want your missions statement. Mr. Kovach asked are you going to design this thing on the lines of what the former group Park Pals was, something on the line of what you were going to call it or the direction you were sending it? Mr. Wright stated I am not that far, I am looking for education that is about it right now. We haven't spoken yet. Mr. Kovach stated well last we discussed, not to infringe on their territory but is that kind of the design of what you are looking to do though. They raised money for a particular park. Mr. Wright stated

I personally don't think it would be a good idea to call it Park Pals. Mr. Kovach stated I am not suggesting that, I am asking you is that the direction you would be taking – the same direction that they took? Mr. Wright answered for the most part with the exception that the focus of this 501C3 would not be one specific project, it would be a series of projects and the intent would be for it to be a perpetual organization with a plan on this is top priority and these are the things/the pipeline that will get to as we complete the first goals. Chairman Smith answered that is all done by your nonprofit; what you want to have fund raisers for, what you want to donate money to/for when that comes. From what I understand all donations have to be approved by Council now. Once there is a relationship started there, I am sure that is not going to be any issue at all but you determine this and that but you don't just determine the projects that are being done unless of course they are community build where you come and then you work with the city meaning the Park Board on community builds and you know how that goes. When you have a group of volunteers, say 50 or 100 people whatever you have, you are going to do a certain type of project from anything from painting a rock to putting in a playground. It depends on you are a separate entity, you are not affiliated with the city but you are in support of whatever department of the city you decide in this situation which is what you are talking about, you decide to do whether it is to support the Park Department, whether it is to support the Rec Department – whatever your mission statement concludes. Mr. Wright answered certainly but we would to work in conjunction with you guys. Mr. Kovach stated that is when you would come with a project or something. Chairman Smith stated that is what I am trying to say you would bring a project. Mr. Kovach advised an organization like that can go out and raise all the money they wanted as long as they are not flagrantly spending it on salaries, you know for the purpose of what you want. To change the names, stay away from that other thing – call yourselves the Friends of the Parks or Friends to the Parks and then you are dedicated to projects within city parks and should it spread to Recreation – it doesn't matter those people are still Friends to the Parks. Mr. Evans stated let's say we got this together as a group we came up with a list of 10 things that we were trying to raise money for prioritized. Once we got our first monetary goal established, what would be the next step to actually achieve that end result? Chairman Smith answered dependent on how you were going to make it happen and what the project was. Mr. Evans stated well let's say the first thing you wanted to raise money for, obviously he would like this modernized playground equipment for Guenther Park and we have raised the money and now we are ready to spend the money and get the equipment put in the park – what is the next step? Chairman Smith answered you would come to the Park Board and say listen we would like to make a donation to the parks and we would like to purchase this for the city and then the city does what David has to do or Council has to do and we have to do. Mr. Kovach advised I will go referring back to the other group – they didn't have the money raised when they came to us. They came to us with the idea that they wanted

to put a play space in, actually wanted to put it where the boat launch is at that park and that was put before Council and it was not a popular idea with the Park Board or Council. Chairman Smith stated we worked with them hand in hand. Mr. Kovach continued the bottom line was and it was an on-going thing, they were raising money, raising money all along and what they found about 2/3 of the way through was the sources started drying up and I don't know if was a loss in enthusiasm but number one they only had one goal which was a play space in the park and once they finished their goal they are an inactive nonprofit at this point. Chairman Smith advised what happened was they were going to put in a timber playground with a community build but it came out that wolmenized wood was not the best thing for children to be touching and absorbing in the skin and all of a sudden the money that they had saved in it, they couldn't get the wolmenized playground anymore so they had to go to the next thing which was a recycled material stuff for playground which was safe and that. The problem was it wasn't enough because of course the amount of dollars between recycled playground equipment and timber is a big difference so we all worked together with them on trying to speed up the process. The city got involved and they went before Council and got money, I think the city put in some money and we bought the crumb rubber and put in the drainage system underneath it. Mr. Kovach explained the way that was handled was almost like a grant and we supplied a match. There was a lengthy discussion on the previous nonprofit organization and project to help Mr. Wright determine direction/instructions to create a new nonprofit for various projects; discussions also were survey results, maps of the parks (dimensions), need for updating of city website to include a survey for public input.

**CITIZENS COMMENTARY: None.**

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** With no further business before this committee,  
\*Motion by Evans to adjourn at 9:27 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*

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 June 15, 2009.

---

ACTING CHAIRMAN

*Steve Kovach*

---

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

*Edward R Podmanik*

*and/or*

---

COUNCIL PRO TEM

*Richard Rosso*