

**Minutes of the Park Board  
City of Sheffield Lake, Ohio  
July 20, 2009**

The regular meeting of the Park Board was held Monday, July 20, 2009. Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 8:05 PM.

**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:**

Present: Smith, Kovach, Fugate

Absent: Kempton, Evans, Mayor Piskura (excused)

\*Motion by Kovach/Second by Fugate to accept the minutes of the June 15, 2009 meeting as presented. Yeas All.

**CORRESPONDENCE: None.**

**PRESENTATIONS: None.**

**PARK SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:** Chairman Smith advised Service Director Arendt has attached a summary status report on the parks. Member Fugate advised I am seeing some damaged fencing in the parks. I practiced at a couple of them not too long ago. Chairman Smith advised he has been fixing them if you read in here. Member Fugate stated they were bad, they were poking, stabbing. Chairman Smith advised yes he has got stuff done at Ferndale and he has got stuff at Guenther. On the back of the report he has also got the criminal damage to city property due to the vandalism that we had with the fires and graffiti – so we are aware of that. Member Kovach advised they did get the guys and as far as I know they have been charged. As far as reclaiming any monies which really we had some loss. Chairman Smith stated that will be up to the Judge right? Member Kovach answered yes charging for restitution and actually collecting it is two different things, gauging by the caliber of criminal that did this. We are really out the \$170.00 for the wood and the padlock. We didn't have a major loss. Joe's reports are pretty concise and complete. Chairman Smith agreed.

**RECREATION DIRECTOR REPORT: None.**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Designated Skate Areas:** Chairman Smith advised I know that Mike Evans has been inquiring about some Kaboom grants and he is working on a few things. I don't want to speak for him so we will just wait for him to get back. Member Fugate stated I have had a lot of people asking questions about it and I just told them times and dates of when our meetings are.

**Memorial Park:** Chairman Smith stated a couple of weeks ago I had a complaint about the mowing here and I made it a point to spend the weekends and several days

during the week just to keep going out and checking on what the parks look like and how we are doing it. There are some managerial decisions that are made by Joe and/or Jerry depending on weather conditions and/or equipment efficiencies whether equipment is working at that time or something and those issues I don't believe that I need to put my nose into or anybody else does. That is an internal situation and that is good enough for me. I have to say that the parks look really good, I am checking them on a routine basis and they look very good. Member Kovach stated I think he is pretty much keeping up with everything, I am there is from time to time something is not. You know it is going to be an inch longer then it normally is and it is going to be cut tomorrow instead of today and somebody sees it. You know the grass isn't 12 tall. Chairman Smith stated he has been grooming the fields and doing a lot more things plus everyone seems to forget, we have a policy here when this graffiti was being done to get it as quick as we can. As quick as it would go on we would get it off as quick as we possibly can and that is just part of being in this business. You know you try to get the graffiti off on our end of it so other people aren't denied the use of it. Member Fugate asked can this graffiti be stopped by simply putting up signs? Chairman Smith answered we have codes on the books. Member Kovach advised actually our boat launch cameras caught. They were down surveying looking clean-up the other night, I told them take over some cones and stand them up but don't block the canvass but put some tape on it that says boat launch is going to be closed tomorrow. The cameras work, I guess there was someone in there removing rocks. Chairman Smith advised the cameras cover a lot and there is more then 3 cameras in there – to give people an idea. Member Fugate stated I am saying even if there isn't cameras, what about just a sign. Chairman Smith answered there is law. Member Kovach answered it is mostly kids and they don't care. Chairman Smith advised years ago we had some of our slides getting painted, marker paint with written graffiti consistently and it just - all you can do is get the good stuff to take it right off. Member Kovach advised it comes and goes too. Sometimes it is heavy and sometimes it is light. Member Fugate asked summertime is probably the most?

**Neighborhood Parks:** Chairman Smith advised at this time I would like to talk about Guenther real quick. \*Motion by Smith/Second by Fugate that the Sheffield/Sheffield Lake Youth Soccer Association be permitted to use Guenther Park for the 2009/2010 season and the 2010/2011 season. Yeas All. Chairman Smith answered yes and continued the parks look really good and Jerry has done a great job and Joe has done a great job in setting up what needs to be done. Member Fugate stated there was talk at least months ago about black-topping some of these basketball courts. Chairman Smith answered that was one of the things that Jason was looking into with pricing and stuff, so I would refer that to Jason to find out what kind of fact-finding he has got done. Member Fugate stated I pass Guenther quite a bit, you can really only shoot one basketball hoop – did you see how it is bent and hanging. Chairman Smith stated they were going to get in there and move it. I know Jerry had talked about maybe straightening it out with the tractor. Member

Fugate stated you could pull it and try to pour some cement. Chairman Smith advised it has got to be reset or replaced. Member Fugate stated just pull it out and reset it probably. Chairman Smith stated I will make a note on that.

***Lakefront Parks:***

Chairman Smith advised likewise, they are keeping up with things and doing great. There is the walleye fishing championship this Saturday at the Sheffield Lake Community Park boat launch. Erie Outfitters is the organizer or part of it and I would like everybody to take note and welcome and greet them people and welcome them as much as we can – weather permitted of course. Member Fugate asked who was in charge of the fireworks for Community Days this year? Chairman Smith answered CCC I believe. Member Fugate stated it was amazing, it was great. Member Kovach advised we didn't get everything off though. Member Fugate stated my wife grew up in Elyria. Member Kovach advised they did not have theirs this year. Member Fugate stated she used to go to Lorain and watch them and watch them in Elyria and then we watched this actually from our sidewalk and she came in the house and those are the most amazing fireworks I have seen. Member Kovach stated they were really impressive up on the lake. There was a brief discussion on the show. Chairman Smith stated I think a word of praise should go to CCC because I think that this years Community Days was probably one of the smoothest that I have seen as a spectator. I ended up doing 2 days worth of walking but not all 4 and got a real complement and it didn't see much trouble and it seemed like the place was packed every night. The Police presence was up there and the orange shirts from CCC were every where. The other thing that I want to compliment CCC on was in the Fire Department and the control of the boat launch blocking it off for the fireworks the time that they allotted and at the same time were quick and responsive on getting it back opened up after everything was done. Everybody did a great job. So if you would pass that along Mr. Kovach, I was very impressed. Member Kovach advised yes but if it was a little less windy we would have got the whole ground show off. Chairman Smith stated everybody was really impressed, I thought it was one of the best displays I have seen. There was a brief discussion on weather conditions for the display. Chairman Smith stated the Firemen did a great job and it was nice seeing everybody talk to Firemen. Chairman Smith continued I had a call from a lady who was the launch not this weekend but last weekend and we had congestion issues going on and we currently do not have designated lanes there because you can get more boats in and out of the water by not having it designated. People are going in around the same time and people are coming out around the same time. So we have more efficiency doing it that way but she had expressed there was one time during the day where there were several boats tied up of which I was one of. So I witnessed what she was talking about but I don't remember there being six boats – I remember there being 3. There were 2 of us that were talking and we were sitting there watching the traffic, Mr. Erwin and I and there was another boat that was just resting and then they went back out. One of the things that she brought up was there seemed to be an issue and I had

told her our long term plans is to have a tender down there/parking place down there. So that is an issue where we can tender boats and I think what is going on, I think there is a lot of people that pull up to that center launch ramp/the walkway there – the floating dock and they park their boat and they get up and they run over to the gas station. Several times I have seen them standing, instead of taking the time and moor up to the side of the boat launch – they will go right up there and they will take a loading bay. So maybe at some point we are going to have to go back to what we started last year, what the Mayor actually with allowing Jerry to actually confront that issue. Member Kovach stated when are we running into that though on really busy days? Chairman Smith advised I know of 3 times that I had to park in the overflow parking and I was number 8 in the overflow. Member Fugate stated if you just put for instance a small wooden dock off to the right would that stop a lot of that. Member Kovach advised actually we have a dock that is going on in there anyways. Chairman Smith advised I am just bringing this up because she asked me to bring it up to the Board and I want to fulfill her wish that we would look into it in the future here. But they need to learn that that mooring is free for them to tie up onto the breakwall and I don't believe that we have done a very effective way of advertising that. I mean there is no signs that they mooring, so I don't know if people think they are not allowed or what the issue. Member Fugate stated see if you were to say that to me I don't know what mooring means? Chairman Smith answered to tie up. Member Fugate stated do these people know this? Member Kovach answered well if they should. Chairman Smith stated another issue that was brought up is that we got cars parking in the trailer spaces which is another reason if we have an attendant there that we might be able to utilize that and at some point; another thing is the we got no sign at the mouth of the boat launch telling boats and jet skis not to hang out right in the front of the boat launch. There were a couple jet skis that were doing their circles and stuff right in front of it but I also saw some fishing boats sitting there and I even saw a little 7 foot sailboat swimming back and forth in and out of the boat ramp. When boats are trying to come in and out and this little sail fish was trying to come in and go out and come in and go out. So we have no signage there and it is probably something we should probably explore about maintaining an open entrance into the lake – an open egress. I don't know how you would do that but maybe we could take a look at what other cities do. Member Kovach stated I know this is a known concern about the kids swimming in there. Chairman Smith stated they should be on the east side, they should not be anywhere else. Member Kovach advised they have been jumping in from the outer breakwall swimming to the island and then over to the pipe and I guess that is kind of cutesy but you mix a youth with a boat and a propeller. The police have been down and the Service Director has been advised. Member Fugate stated the whole Board could just go down there and meet and all take a look at it. Chairman Smith stated we just wanted to bring it up, basically if you are at another place and you see other facilities and look at what they have done to solve the situation. It is not a big issue, I think our congestion issue is

probably maybe once. In the future, it is probably going to increase. Member Fugate advised I think the swimming is a big issue. Chairman Smith stated we want the swimming on the east side. I think where Steve is talking about is the north end of the breakwall where people are fishing. Member Kovach advised they are doing it between the breakwall and the island and the walkway. Chairman Smith stated they shouldn't be anywhere on the west side. Member Kovach stated they are riding bicycles into that thing and not just the guy from the carnival either. He is not the first and he won't be the last – they are riding in and swimming off of their bicycles. I think they should be advised to head on down to Lakewood Beach. Chairman Smith stated I love jet skis and I don't want to be rough with the guys but they were doing little circles and they were just hanging right there in the mouth and that situation created a danger for boats coming in because once you make that turn around you can't see and then right away you are into the way. So those are some issues that we will probably take a look at and address here between now and next meeting. I wanted to make sure that the lady's concerns were brought before this Board and we will go from there. He continued the wind turbines are just taking off. Member Kovach advised we were definitely charging Friday night and Saturday. Chairman Smith stated Lakewood Beach Park has been filled with a lot of people and I have anchored off of there several times. We probably should get the buoys, we probably should get the buoys see if we can't get some money to see if we can't buoy that or at least in some way – big boats are out there and people get out there pretty far and jet skis are zinging in and out which of course they are on the beach too which is fine. They have been very courteous and everything but it is an issue for incoming boats who are unfamiliar with the area. Member Fugate stated we got a compliment, my parents have lived in the area for over 33 years and the first time they went down there since it has been redone and they said it is just beautiful, it is just great-it looks good and it is about time they said. Chairman Smith stated that is good and I got stopped by several people at Community Days praising everything that has been going on too. Member Fugate stated it doesn't have to be huge just somewhere for people to go.

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

- a.) ***Brookside Bike Trail/Covered Bridge*** – Chairman Smith advised I see that Joe's hand in the city has been down there grooming and working on it. I know that the north/south trail run they got excavated sections of it and some of the stone laid in there and I believe that they are still making progress with that. We look forward to seeing that come to fruition. I see the gates, just out of curiosity I did see the gates went up on the metro park property. They have Idlewood gated off and they have Harris Road gated off. Member Fugate stated I just seen that the other day. Chairman Smith stated we will be anxiously awaiting a press release I guess. Member Kovach advised they may not want to release on that until it is under construction. Chairman Smith

stated I do know that our tie-in is going to be over for the bike trail, I did have a conversation with him and I saw a rough bike trail lay-out of the property and it is going to come around that corner at Idlewood and the ditch and then we can make our tie-in right there – right across on Idlewood. In other words go right from Idlewood right onto the corner there and then that will take us into his section which will take us to Harris and we will go from there. But it is just going to be like the corner of where the ditch is and then Idlewood comes through, we will tie-in right at that corner. There is going to be like a circumference type path in there, paved/walking trail. He continued Mr. Gardner doesn't have anything to add except for that I do know that Mike Evans is looking at Kaboom and some of the Kaboom projects and I would urge everybody to go to the Kaboom site and take a look at it. I talked to Jonathan Wright today, there are some straight cash awards that Kaboom does too, so I would urge everyone to look at Kaboom on the internet and see what they got to offer.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Chairman Smith stated I do want to praise the Sheffield Lake Police Department for a job well done in catching the vandals and the arsonists. I thank them very, very much it could have escalated into something very, very bad and they did a great job. He continued and read document from Jon Wiblin – we received your request to relocate 3 monument/markers and flag pole from Memorial Park. I don't know what this about, does anyone else? No voices were heard. Chairman Smith stated he would check with Joe. Member Kovach advised maybe they want to do some work in there? Chairman Smith answered actually it came from Wendy at Jon Wiblin's desk. Member Kovach clarified appears to be answering Mike, I wonder if that isn't just where he is drawing out the parks. I guess maybe you should give Mike a call on it. Chairman Smith stated there is another thing that I wanted to get to, I think that praise needs to go out to all the people who are involved in the city at this point and time for all the things that they have done because I got to tell you last week I cruised through the boat ramp and I check it on a regular basis I always cruise down through there as I do a lot of the parks. Oh I forgot to tell you Jerry did fix the bench down there at the bus shelter at Shell Cove. He continued just the fact that that is there now and watching how many people are down there and enjoying the lake. I mean everybody; Council, the Mayor and what the Mayor has done is unbelievable and how Council stayed at it and got it and I really thing that in the couple years things are really going to come to fruition. It is just amazing to me sometimes, I am overwhelmed by seeing what I see down there when I cruise through there. I had an elderly couple stop me and they knew I was involved with the parks and they said this is just unbelievable that we can come here and sit on those benches. They make it a regular point to go up there and sit on those benches and just watch and enjoy the lake. I remember a time when the only one up there on that cliff was Jerry trying to stick a piece of split-rail back in the post that was one of the

fisherman sneaking down to the water edge to go fishing. It kind of overwhelms me and I just want to as a citizen of Sheffield Lake I want to tell everybody who has been involved how great that is and it has just been amazing to watch and amazing to watch the smiles on the kids. The nicer the day it seems the more the people there is, it is just something else of all ages. The overflow parking at the boat launch and sure there is a lot more going on, the boat launch is one thing but now watching what is going on at Shoreway and thinking when we put the blocks in the water as storage. Member Fugate stated things are coming, that Bakery is getting ready to open up over there too. Chairman Smith stated it is amazing, it is kind of like we have been here before when the blocks were in the water. Now the building is being demolished and the grass is being planted – we have green space over there. The Community Days went off without a hitch, maybe there were some ghosts concerns about this is going to be terrible for Community Days but things are really going along and Council and the Mayor both of them don't get enough credit for staying with it and making it happen. I for one am a one citizen who is damn proud of them. When you hear people, I will give you an example; my daughter is on a swim team in a far city on the outside of the county. I have to drive to Oberlin 3 days a week and I hear people talking about our boat ramp at Oberlin and talking about how nice it is and our town and how nice it is and what is going on there and the different things. That is a great to hear from strangers. I don't think we – the people of the city hear it enough that are involved in it and I think to hear more of it. I wish more people that are happy about things would speak up then the people who are unhappy about things. So I am going to be the first that I know to do it. Like I said there will be a walleye fishing thing here coming up on the 25<sup>th</sup>, Saturday. Member Fugate asked how is that going to work, are they coming in? Member Kovach asked how is it being advertised? Chairman Smith answered it is a series, they have their own group. Member Kovach stated okay so there isn't much advertising, more of a word of mouth thing? Chairman Smith answered no it is more of an organized group that does all over the place, all over the place. I believe it is the Lake Erie walleye association and Erie Outfitters is involved with it but they go all over the place from Sandusky to all over. We will see how much over-flow parking and that is the other thing the over-flow parking has been being used up there tremendously. Member Kovach advised the parking lot will be open, they should have all that junk out of there by Wednesday at least. Member Fugate asked does anybody know what is going on with the Old Hardee's up there? Chairman Smith answered just what the Mayors press release said, at some point in the future it would be demolished. He continued have we heard anything from the dog lady with the dog park? Member Kovach answered no, not even any back-up phone calls. So apparently the interest has temporarily waned. Member Kovach asked are we still meeting next month? Chairman Smith answered yes, it will one of the few meetings and if something comes up then maybe we can. Oh, another thing that I wanted to say I couldn't help but notice in the journal that Lorain Port Fest was going on at the same time

Community Days were? Member Kovach answered well we got it broken up last year but the thing is with Community Days there is one year like every 4 or 5 and this was the year that the week moves and even though we had gotten the problem worked out, we have actually moved back onto the week that had been separated. Chairman Smith stated I was going to say that I know there is a schedule that is printed with the Lorain County Visitors Bureau; they have celebration, events, affairs brochure that prints the dates of everything and I was just curious. Member Kovach stated we actually talked to them 2 years ago, we got it separated last year and then the dates fell back on. To be perfectly honest with you with the way everything ran this year they had absolutely no affect on us and by what I read in the paper this morning that at least their newest addition – rib cook-off, it wasn't actually a burn-off or anything like that but it didn't fair that well but I see that as a couple of reasons. I think that is a higher dollar eating type event, it was also its first year. It has to be developed and stuff like that. Chairman Smith stated Community Days – the parking was total again, I can judge just by telling you where I had to park to know how people were there. I can tell you that I mean you should have had a very good turn-out with CCC and how everything worked. It went off really well. Member Kovach stated I think we are kind of caught-up, we are in the middle of summer. We don't have any new projects coming up and then we are working on some stuff. Chairman Smith stated the bike trail stuff is going to be the stuff that is going to hit us first and it will probably hit us all at once. At least we are motivated to do our piece first, no matter how you look at it we are obligated to do our piece first and we will go on from there.

**CITIZENS COMMENTARY: None.**

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** With no further business before this committee,  
\*Motion by Fugate/Second by Kovach to adjourn at 8:46 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*

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ACTING CHAIRMAN  
*Steve Kovach*



A true and exact copy of the Minutes of the Board  
Of July 20, 2009.

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PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL  
*Edward R Podmanik*

*and/or*

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COUNCIL PRO TEM  
*Richard Rosso*