

**Minutes of the Park Board
City of Sheffield Lake, Ohio
January 28, 2013**

The regular meeting of the Park Board was held Monday, January 28, 2013. Chairman Lewis called the meeting to order at 8 PM.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:

Present: Lewis, Kovach, Farris, Kovach, Mayor Bring, Service Director Smith
Absent: Albaugh and Kustra (excused)

*Motion by Kovach/Second by Farris to accept the minutes of the December 17, 2012 meeting as presented. Yeas All.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

PRESENTATIONS: None.

PARK SUPERINTENDENT/RECREATION DIRECTOR REPORTS: Park Superintendent Smith reported we finally got the dump truck back in service. It was down for a while, Jerry was using the Dodge and what the left of the Dodge sparingly. But the new mechanic got the dump truck up and repaired and on the road and it is running pretty good. It is going to need a clutch but as far as right now, all the issues are taken care of. The Dodge is in very bad shape but we will make do but we are going to put tires all around on it as they are all bald. We plan on having the excavator down at the boat launch, moving sand around the first week of March – by March 1st is our goal. The split rail at Lakewood Beach Park is going to stay down until the sand is moved. FYI – the Memorial Park sign is done but not installed. Jerry is going to landscape around the area, he had another alternative of putting it on the mound and maybe putting some landscape around the mound instead of having it face Howell Street.

OLD BUSINESS:

Designated Skate Areas: None.

Memorial Parks: discussed above.

Neighborhood Parks: Park Superintendent Smith advised we are cleaning up the plant area over at Freedom. We do have mounds of dirt at Ferndale and as the weather dries it out we get the dozer down there and have that leveled out and continue doing that. The last thing I want to do is open up that parking lot at Guenther Park, we want to get in the back and cut down a lot of that brush/square it off/put a small fence section up on the south border and then add grindings in down there to make that pretty nice.

Lakefront Parks: discussed above.

GRANTS, GIFTS & AWARDS:

- a.) **Brookside Bike Trail/Covered Bridge** – Park Superintendent Smith reported we did the rest for Ferndale Park and the other connection. David will be bringing us up-to-date on that. David had some business tonight he had to attend and because of the grant situation he wants to be able to get some direction from you guys as to what you want him to do and what type of grants you would like him to go after. Chairman Lewis advised the one through Kaboom that I couldn't get through last year.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

CITIZENS COMMENTARY: Jonathan Wright, 788 Idlewood advised I was recently recruited onto the Sheffield/Sheffield Lake Youth Soccer Association Board and started working Josh there. As a 501C3 they have abilities to go after monies that the city is not necessarily eligible for and I of course going to do my best to help them with that. That being said I want to work with Josh and some other community members in putting a plan starting specifically with Guenther Park and how to make changes to Guenther Park or improvements rather. I really wanted tonight from you guys some direction or parameters or what we can or cannot do and what we may need to present to you in the future for approval; things like that. Member Kovach advised I think you are going to have to put a preliminary plan together. Mr. Wright advised our plan right now is to recruit a landscape architect, take measurements of the entire area and get it down on a print exactly what we would like to do with it in a phased approach as the money comes in. We would then present that plan that looks feasible to you guys for approval and go from there. You know Josh mentioned that baseball field has to stay. Park Superintendent Smith answered yes. Mr. Wright questioned why? Park Superintendent Smith answered it is a neighborhood park which he explained each neighborhood park. Mr. Wright asked are there specific dimensions that have to be maintained? Park Superintendent Smith answered no, it uses the one soccer field, well soccer uses the outfield. They voted U8 over there, they have 2-U6 fields over there in the outfield. You have got the ability to move but to shrink the ball diamond in just to the infield and then you got to remember this baseball season overlaps soccer very little, I think there is only like for about a month. Our Youth Baseball Association starts way earlier than a lot of people which is why they are kind of caught over soccer. They respect that too. Mr. Wright stated the reason I ask is if there is a better use of the overall space by moving the location of the ball diamond if it is all possible I wanted to know if there was certain dimensions that we had maintain. Park Superintendent Smith answered no you would have to get the baseball field dimensions, there are dimensions like but you can get them. Chairman Lewis advised I wouldn't have opposition to moving the field as long you kept the field. You know if it is better suited somewhere else or turned a

different way. Park Superintendent Smith advised you have to remember that is why the concession stand was put there. What happened was Sheffield/Sheffield Lake Youth Baseball left the city and went to form their own non-profit, purchase their own and started their own. They got away from the city fields being used as part of it. About 4 or 5 years ago though they ran out of practice fields so the addition of Western Cuyahoga County Traveling Teams; several of them within the city requesting a city field to permit to play in which of course doesn't overlap soccer because they are a different scheduling. They will permit that field along with Ferndale too. It is actually used it is just that – it would be tough moving it, you are looking at a capital investment and then Park Board would have to decide whether or not they want to put a new fence up, new backstop and all that but it is a possibility. Member Farris advised I think the best strategy is to figure out what you want to do, get us something on paper and bring it to us and see what happens. Chairman Lewis advised if you do decide move the field, I don't think the city should be responsible for replacing the fence and stuff – you would have to. I don't think the city should incur costs because you want to put a soccer fields there. There was a brief discussion of existing condition of ball field now. Mr. Wright continued on grants; the Ohio Department of Natural Resources is accepting applications for their nature works grant up to May 15, 2013 I believe. It is a great grant to get some work done in the parks, it is a 75/25 grant though. They award anything between \$5000.00 and \$125,000.00 grants annually for park projects. That in mind that is something that I am going to try on my end to try to get enough information together to present that maybe the Soccer Association and the city could partner on that grant. We have until mid-May to submit that application. Chairman Lewis advised as much information as possible to give to Dave so he understands what the grant is and also what the plan is for the money to spent on. Park Superintendent Smith advised if this Board did decide that they did want to get rid of that baseball field, you guys could do that. Member Farris stated I don't think that is a good idea to get rid of it, it is good to have it there. Even though it is not playable; I don't think it has a pitcher's mound or home plate but for neighborhood pickup games – that is perfect for them and I wouldn't want to take that away from them. Mayor Bring advised the only thing that would be viable to move would be possibly those basketball courts which I would like to do because we need to put new ones up. Member Farris concurred those definitely need to be redone. Mr. Wright stated I think the only thing that really wouldn't change is the location of concession stand, even though that building may change; the location wouldn't because your utilities all run into there so it makes sense to keep that there. Mayor Bring stated we did have a gentleman that was possibly looking at doing some bathrooms out there and I would have to approach him again because he had asked about donating that. We would have to do a follow-up on that. Mr. Wright advised that is the kind of money that you can submit towards the state and say this is part our 25% in-kind donation.

MEETING ADJOURNED: With no further business before this committee,
*Motion by Kovach/Second by Farris to adjourn at 8:20 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

James Lewis

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 Park Board Of January 28, 2013.

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

Rick Rosso

and/or

COUNCIL PRO TEM

Eric S Elliott