

**Minutes of the Park Board  
City of Sheffield Lake, Ohio  
March 16, 2015**

The regular meeting of the Park Board was held Monday, March 16, 2015. Chairman Lewis called the meeting to order at 7 PM.

**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:**

Present: Lewis, Albaugh, Farris, Kovach, Prokay, Mayor Bring

\*Motion by Albaugh/Second by Farris to accept the minutes of the January 16, 2015 meeting with any noted corrections. Yeas All.

**CORRESPONDENCE: None.**

**PRESENTATIONS: None.**

**PARK SUPERINTENDENT/RECREATION DIRECTOR REPORTS:** Mayor Bring advised obviously we are coming off of the winter but it is technically spring time. Very shortly here we are going to have to start getting some bids on the boat launch and that will make Jim happy because we are going to have to get that cleaned out. We haven't been in there to assess how much sand we have in there because I think it is still frozen inside of there. That is a yearly thing and being short-handed in our staff we are probably going to farm that out so that we can get it cleaned out early enough to get the boaters in there. I would imagine in the next few weeks we are probably going to contact a couple of people and see how much it is going to cost us. That is one of the major things that we are going to start off with. Chairman Lewis asked will the state allow you to just dredge it out and just put it in the lake? Mayor Bring answered we have 3 areas that we are able to put the excess sand in. We have to follow what they recommend. Member Kovach asked aren't you just going to bring in, in theory the guy with the machine that goes in right off of the dock and we can place that anywhere we want once it is out of there. So of those 3 we can physically place it after its out in its designated area. Mayor Bring stated again we are short-handed so we are going to see how this all goes, once he gets that cleaned out we may even stick our machine in there for a little bit to tidy it up after he is done because even with that big machine sometimes we still have to get the mouth of that boat launch cleaned up. There is some spots out there. I know that we also talked about doing some pavilions, we are going to get that and I already got the quotes on those which I think you guys have or if you don't I am going to bring those to you. Then we will talk about the placement of those and again that will be kind of up to you guys on where you

want to do it. Like Guenther Park, Pat and I were talking about taking those 2 basketball poles out and putting the pavilion on top of that asphalt right there and the reason for that is that if we move it down further and we don't have a hard surface there then they would be in the mud. Even though you have a roof over top of it is going to stay soft and muddy, so we thought that would be a good idea. So again if you guys talk about that or think about that, that is something that in the next month whether you think that is a good idea or not so give us some feedback. The other one will probably be over here in the Gary Green Park and we may just put the pavilion up for now and put maybe some gravel or something as a hard surface to start off with. It is dependent on how much money we have. On the rest of the parks in the walkway, that new trail that we have and have that wood walkway over top of the wetlands; I would like to put a cover over top of that too and I am going to get a price on that. We are probably going to get some more benches and put them together and add those to that area and people can actually use that as a resting spot if it is raining out or whatever and seems like everybody likes to stop there. I don't know if I do that, if I put those poles in the ground there if the EPA is going to complain about that or not so we might have to get permission to do that too. But I don't think it is going to cost a lot of money and then maybe put some lights underneath the cover. Chairman Lewis advised I saw a couple of kids skateboarding on it. Mayor Bring stated they were there actually one time and they said something to me, I told them I really don't mind that actually as we have got the boards going all the same way so it works out pretty good for them. They have got to have some place to go and I have no problem with them going over and doing that, I think they have been pretty good about it. Chairman Lewis stated I am just saying I saw 2 kids were skateboarding, kind of neat but it also points out the need to put a skate park in somewhere. Mayor Bring stated I think they are still going to use that too because it just gives them another place to do some stuff too. Chairman Lewis asked is the county going to fix that park the rest of the way up that trail? Mayor Bring answered we had called that guy towards the end of the year there to talk to him and he had not returned our phone calls so I am probably going to give him another month and give him a call. I know that they were looking to get permission from the EPA to go through the woods and the EPA was giving them a hard time so I don't know what their process is going to be. If they are going to do anymore with that existing trail but the one that we saw they wanted a winding trail to go through the whole woods there. But I will find out but it will probably be another month before I find out. We still haven't done anything with Memorial Park over there and I would like to do something this year too. I need to address that but there has just been so many things going on. I really want to make a point to address that to honor those people who have fought for us. Even that wooden fence and everything else is getting kind of bad, so we need to

clean that up and make that look a lot better and then put a nice sign there. I was thinking about doing a cedar sign with some of those boards but I saw somebody that does stuff with a fake stone and I think that might be nicer. Member Prokay asked is that the one on Lake? Mayor Bring answered no that is over there off of Lake Breeze. Member Kovach advised this would be the time to do it I think because number one we have that Liberty tree coming and it is our Bicentennial and would be the best time to do it I think. Mayor Bring advised if you guys have something other than what I have been thinking about, it is up to you. I did go to a fair and I saw one of those guys that had the rock thing and it looked pretty neat but like I said it isn't a real rock. Member Kovach asked is it similar to what they put up at the entrance to the baseball field? Mayor Bring answered yes I believe so. I think it needs to be a little bit more professional and it has been neglected for a long time. Chairman Lewis asked how much more fill are you going to put back there at Guenther Park? There is a lot of fill back there but are you about done? Mayor Bring answered no we are still figuring out what we are going to do with that too but they are probably going to be quite a bit more of that. Even though it looks like a lot, our bulldozer is up and running now and Pat went over and leveled some of that stuff off but we are going to keep adding to that and we are going to take some of the dirt we have out here and add to that and make that a little bit nicer but we are probably going to raise that up quite a bit yet. Chairman Lewis asked what is the plan, you going to put baseball or soccer fields? Mayor Bring answered I was talking about doing a BMX bike trail back there and Pat said something about some recycling things so we are still kind of kicking it back and forth yet. My thought was to put a nice hill even for snow sledding and do that but that would have to be very high and then do some hills for the kids with the bikes. Again we are still thinking about that one though, that would require a lot of dirt but we have a lot. We have dumped probably 60 or 70 tandem loads of dirt and it hasn't even made a dent. Chairman Lewis stated it needed it though because it was really bad. Member Farris asked which park? Mayor Bring answered Ferndale II. Member Farris stated I think the hill for sledding is a really good idea, there isn't anywhere to go around here. Mayor Bring advised the thing of it is though, if we put the hill in which we have plenty of room to do – it would be nice for the kids but if we block something off I have to figure out how we are going to do this so that everybody can see and nobody can sit behind the hill and a lot things like that. Member Kovach asked what is he talking about with recycling? Mayor Bring answered picking up leaves, we are thinking about also picking up leaves for residents and then taking them over there and grinding them up and use that. Then people could come over and use that for gardens. So it will be one or the other. But Dan makes a good point, there is no place for these kids to go. Member Farris advised I think it is Bay Village over by the beach, is the only one that I know

around here. Mayor Bring stated yes, there is James Day but it doesn't even have to be that big. As long as you make it something for the kids to play on. Member Farris stated you could probably do both, the recycling and that – there is room. Chairman Lewis stated we have to talk about where to put those pavilions. Mayor Bring advised yes you guys got to talk about it and maybe take a look over there and see what you think. If you got that nice hard surface there and it is not utilized right now because the basketball hoops – very seldom do the kids go over and do that. So if you have a pavilion there then all the families would be able to sit down with soccer there and we could add some grills and a few other things there, maybe benches. I think it would be utilized a lot more then what it is right now. Again if it starts to rain, there is a cover right there. Member Farris stated thinking on pavilion, I am not a fan of taking away the basketball court – for me it would be taking something away from the park but adding the pavilion would be a great idea. Kind of like at Oster on the baseball fields, maybe in the future to either move or build a concession stand at the end of it. People could have parties during the summer, they could utilize the concession stand when they rent the place. Mayor Bring added we are also considering putting restroom facility in there also. Member Farris stated the other thing too is all the playground stuff way over in the park, not that far actually but when you are having events with children and parents usually stay at the pavilion – so that is kind of far away. You would probably want to have your pavilion kind of close so it would be right there. Mayor Bring advised that is why you guys are up here, you make good points and we thought about the same things too. Nothing is set in stone right now. Member Farris stated with that baseball field – its not a baseball field. Mayor Bring stated we are talking about getting rid of that and taking the fence down. Member Farris answered you might as well because there isn't anything there. Member Kovach advised remember your soccer league does want to adopt that park and they have actually been asking for years if that was a possibility to eliminate that. I mean it has met resistance because yes that neighborhood, there are kids from time to time who want to pick a ball game or something but if you guys want to make that decision. Maybe we could get Jonathan Wright coming back to our meetings and he can get you some input and maybe some funding. Member Farris stated I mean the soccer league utilize that play. Member Kovach advised I am just saying that maybe we can work together and maybe get some funding out of that. Mayor Bring agreed you don't necessarily have to have a backstop to play baseball. Member Kovach advised there is a baseball diamond at Guenther, there has always been one there forever. When Sheffield Lake Youth Baseball used to use the field before the complex was put in; they used Guenther and they used Ferndale fields. Then once the fields started going in there they still used this as practice fields and there was a couple of traveling teams that used them from time to time. But the traveling teams that had

been using that one haven't been back in the last couple of years to ask to use it – either of the fields. Member Farris stated well they are not kept to play, the one at Guenther is all grass. Chairman Lewis stated that is what Jonathan Wright was saying, you need to make one park for baseball and that is all baseball. This park is basically for soccer, so he is saying designate them. Member Kovach advised well over the years it has been politely asked for. Member Farris advised there is no point in trying to keep it there, you are draining into it for no reason. Member Kovach advised the soccer league is more than happy to continue on for that park and would be able to use that space and maybe work with us and possibly put a new pad in for a pavilion. You know technically for years that basketball court is in unusable shape as a baseball field. Mayor Bring stated the asphalt is so bad on it that is why I thought of using that and if we do do something with the basketball court – we would have to make a new one anyways. Member Kovach stated well by the same token, I don't know if anybody would have any interest but it has come up over the years where you can get those snap-together plastic panels. In fact where I saw the most display of it was over in Brooklyn where they have a complex over there and it has like a regulation size hockey – it is not ice hockey, it is field hockey. They have got basketball courts, all these fields were covered with it and I always thought it would be a good idea. I brought it but it just wasn't taken up as an idea. But maybe you could seal up and put those down and avoid a complete replacement or whatever. That is just food for thought. Member Prokay advised at this point we don't have a basketball league or anything like that in the city right? Member Farris answered well not in the city but you have the Middle School and High School Basketball Teams and stuff like that. There is pick-up games during the summer and spring. Member Prokay asked they play in gyms right? Member Farris answered they play outside when it is nice. Member Kovach advised you do have 2 better basketball courts; you have the one at Freedom and you have the one over at Gary Green and those are both in a lot better shape then what is over in Guenther. Granted it would take away from kids at that end of town which we tried to always have something for each part of town. But if they are willing to go to Bay Village to use the skateboard. Member Farris advised I am just not a fan of taking something out of a park but the baseball thing is so dilapidated so we should take it out as it is not worth it – you might as well scrap the fence. Member Kovach advised well it is you guys decision but I am just giving a little input of what we have gone through over the years and some of the suggestions. Chairman Lewis stated I think I would to designate use of the park and basically if that is not designated basketball I would take it out. Then you can concentrate on them if you have 1 or 2 that you want to keep up. The same way with baseball, keep one for baseball and keep that up. Mayor Bring stated Ferndale is utilized quite a bit for the baseball thing and that field is kept up pretty nice. There used to

be one over there by Steve's over there, that is how old I am I used to play there. Member Kovach stated I remember the field but I never played there. Mayor Bring advised baseball used to be a big thing in the city but the numbers are dwindling down on all that stuff too for whatever reason and I think it is ashamed. Chairman Lewis stated the kids are playing electronic games. Mayor Bring stated but you still have to have those areas for kids that still want to get outside and play plus families; even if it is not the 12 to 13 year olds, the 5 or 6 year olds just to go out there and have some place to enjoy themselves. Member Kovach advised we used to have a softball field over here at Gary Green but made more for ladies softball. Member Prokay stated if that is what we want to encourage as a Park Board to get kids out there, playing outdoors more so then staying indoors. We want to make sure that they have stuff to do outside. Member Albaugh stated I would want to just pull that basketball court out of there to designate it just for soccer. Member Prokay stated you said the soccer league has asked about adopting the park, would that mean that we would have to go through them to have activities? Member Kovach answered no, no, no; first off you could authorize permits for the use of the field for dates and times and even hours if you would want. It is still a community park and it would be through their asking in their scheduling where they would get first request in like Saturdays and Sundays and whenever they do their practice of their games. Chairman Lewis asked they would fund all improvements in the park right? Member Kovach answered I would assume that they are going to do a great deal of the funding. Chairman Lewis concurred that is what Jonathan told me, they should have first dibs on it. Mayor Bring advised you guys would have to give them permission to do anything. The Park Board, you guys run those parks. Like I said I can sit here and give you ideas and do stuff and tell you what we are funded for but you guys still want to control that and let us know and then we figure out how you want those parks utilized. One thing down at the boat launch, we got somebody that is probably going to do kayak training this year actually behind the library. They will utilize that beach over there. I think they emailed me a month ago already and tried to get things set-up because they have to pull a license for that and there is a minimum charge for having somebody do that. But they also have to carry insurance and everything. Chairman Lewis asked have we ever thought of charging for launching boats? Mayor Bring answered that boat launch was put in, part of the grant was we never charge a fee. I don't know if that is forever or what. Member Kovach advised there was also further discussion and then there was a thought of not charging Sheffield Lake residents but charging others and that is where ODNR came in and said no it has to be one way or the other. You charge or you don't charge. So I think you could charge. Chairman Lewis stated well Avon Lake got grant money and they charge and the Coast Guard charges, every ramp charges except this one. Member Kovach advised that

was how the grant application was purposely worked. Chairman Lewis stated okay if we are stuck but we are the only one that doesn't charge. Member Kovach advised you are not stuck but you are also going to have to have somebody there to man and collect. Member Albaugh added and build a facility. Mayor Bring advised you really wouldn't have to build a facility because you can get the portable ones and they put them on skids. They build those sheds and you put them on that. We have running water there and you can actually do solar for electricity but we also have electricity there too. But you are going to do this because we have the wind turbines which we could hook up to that. It is very feasible to do it and as far as getting somebody to watch it you would have to pay them but you are also taking that out of the fees because that is what happens over there. Then you start selling ice and bait and a few other things. Chairman Lewis stated I know the one up next to the Coast Guard station – they have a booth there; they have a pencil and thing where you log your car and registration and stick it in the thing. Mayor Bring advised it would probably take a little bit of time to setup but I think it would be pretty easy to do and I already contact a few places that do the shed things and they build them and drop them off and at the end of the season you would be able to just pick that up and store it; it would be portable. Member Kovach advised I am just saying we discussed all of these over the years, we have thought of bringing in somebody that was going to run it basically like a hot dog stand but it would be for refreshments for the boaters and have bait. Member Prokay added fish cleaning? Mayor Bring answered no that is a health department thing. Chairman Lewis advised to bad we couldn't get Lewis from Erie Shore Outfitters to open up little shop up there. Mayor Bring advised I already approached him and told him that and he would do that. Chairman Lewis advised he would be good at that and there is a lot of empty places to put it. Mayor Bring stated well to even manning it, just having somebody that he knows down there doing that. All good ideas and that is why we talk about stuff. Chairman Lewis asked you have talked to Lewis? Mayor Bring answered I did 2 years ago. Chairman Lewis stated well I will have to talk to him again to see if he would be willing to open up a shop up there because he has got a good business down there for sure. Member Kovach advised remember we have an Easter Egg Hunt this Saturday through the Girl Scouts. Member Prokay advised in terms of Saturday in the Park picnic, one the things that I had tossed about was the possibility of having it in June versus August and I just wanted to get some feedback on that to see if that is possible this year. Chairman Lewis advised I have no problem with it. Member Prokay asked are we doing movies in the park again? Member Kovach answered we are going to but I gave it to Kerry to check on what dates he wants to do, so whatever he has available. I mentioned it at last month's meeting and they pretty much said to leave it up to what his schedule is. So we are planning on doing at least 2 but exactly when they are set for I am not

sure yet. Member Prokay continued the thought would be that this would be the initial start of the summer event versus end of the summer which clashed with so many other things that were going on last year that the turn-out was pitiful. But I am looking at the week of Saturday the 27<sup>th</sup> because I am thinking school is ending a little later this year because of all the school days. Member Farris stated June 3<sup>rd</sup> or something like that. Member Kovach stated it really doesn't matter because whatever dates you pick there is going to be people going on vacation – that type of thing. You are going to possibly get a bigger crowd if you get the promotion out and you are doing it a little bit earlier in the summer. Is half the city going to come – no but are you probably going to get a bigger crowd. Number one there is word of mouth out for last years and it should expand. Member Prokay stated well when the fair comes around, that is usually right after July 4<sup>th</sup> correct? Member Kovach answered it would be the week after the 4<sup>th</sup>. Member Prokay stated so either the 20<sup>th</sup> or 27<sup>th</sup> of June I think would be a nice open time where there is nothing going on and we could start off the festivities. So I think that June 20<sup>th</sup> might be a good date. \*Motion by Prokay/Second by Farris that Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup> be the date for our Saturday in the Park picnic. Yeas All.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

*Designated Skate Areas: above.*

*Memorial Parks: above.*

*Neighborhood Parks: above.*

*Lakefront Parks: above.*

*Lakewood Beach Park: None.*

*Community Boat Launch: above.*

**GRANTS, GIFTS & AWARDS:**

*Brookside Bike Trail/Covered Bridge:* Mayor Bring advised we will be looking into that, there is something else that is coming up and I can't tell you right now but I hope that in the next month or so I will be able to tell you.

**NEW BUSINESS: None.**

**CITIZENS COMMENTARY: None.**

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

\*Motion by Lewis/Second by Kovach to adjourn at 7:35 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

*James Lewis*

*and/or*

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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 March 16, 2015.

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PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

*Rick Rosso*

*and/or*

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COUNCIL PRO TEM

*Alan Smith*