

**Minutes of the Park Board
City of Sheffield Lake, Ohio
September 21, 2015**

The regular meeting of the Park Board was held Monday, September 21, 2015. Chairman Lewis called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:

Present: Lewis, Albaugh, Kovach, Prokay, Mayor Bring, Superintendent Hastings

Absent: Farris (excused)

*Motion by Kovach/Second by Kovach to accept the minutes of the July 20, 2015 meeting with any noted corrections. Yeas All.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

PRESENTATIONS: None.

PARK SUPERINTENDENT/RECREATION DIRECTOR REPORTS:

OLD BUSINESS:

Designated Skate Areas: Superintendent Hastings advised I was originally looking at a Tony Hawk Foundation grant but I have since switched directions with the Lorain County General Health District. There is more money available and a quicker turn around, upwards of \$50,000.00. They are promoting a nutrition and environmentally changing spaces such as; walking trails, parks and my goal is to spin this skate park into that. To satisfy all of their criteria of the grant though I want to label it something along the lines of healthy habitat with a walk off of our trail to the skate park which you guys have kind of designated in the middle of Ferndale Park and they have would walk through a series of kiosks identifying nutritional advantages; carbohydrates, energy, etc. The catch to the grant is you have to have several organizations involved so that is sustains being built and I have contact our school system as one of the participants that would help provide nutritional guidelines as well as a wellness program, menus and that kind of thing. I have also reached out to our local business here, the Karate Studio as he is actually semi-pro skater at one point. That would promote another healthy alternative for the community to participate in their programs and then have them come quarterly to teach the kids safe operation. So I just wanted to let you guys know that is the direction the Mayor has sent me on with Lorain County General Health District and it is due by the end of November and I will have it done. I will get the commitments of the other groups here hopefully within the week. Chairman Lewis advised very good, that sounds promising.

Memorial Parks: Mayor Bring advised I think we have been talking about this for a while but October 11th which is Sunday we are going to have a dedication to Memorial Park. Rosa Gee and her husband Joe have organized a pretty good group of people here with VFW and Amvets, some local Veterans and other people. We are going to put a fence up, we are getting a new vinyl fence which we have to dig the holes for. We are doing a walkway, we are doing a little monument and I am going to donate money for the monument along with somebody else in our city. The monuments that are there are going to get refurbished and that is from a gentleman over on Brookpark Road. He is offering to do that for free. We are getting some statues; the little soldier statues that we are having painted by the Art Students at the High School. We are going to plant a tree there from the Girl Scouts and we had 2 flag poles donated and we are getting a flag from the State House that is going to be given to us as a dedication. That should be a very good thing coming up so everybody is welcome to that and there should be a pretty good crowd for that so hopefully the weather is nice. We did put power there so that we can light that up and we are also trying to get a cannon as you see in a lot of parks and tanks are in a lot of them. We are trying to actually get a helicopter there, a decommissioned helicopter. Some of these cities will pay the \$50,000.00 to have the helicopter decommissioned and they never pick them up so we are looking into possibly getting something like that. That will not be there for the dedication but it is something that we are looking at for the future and if we do get that we will put that over there and fence that off. I think it would just add to the park, I want to make it more just as a Memorial park for the Veterans and then Rosa is also doing the bricks with the names on them. We are doing that, we had several of them dropped off the other day. The process is finally starting and it is something that we have talked about for a long time. I am extremely pleased by all the work that they have done. The Veterans also do a poker run and they go to all the different cities and they have never come to the City of Sheffield Lake so we are on their list next year to come here for that. So that is all very positive and lots of good things.

Neighborhood Parks: Mayor Bring advised we had a little episode over at Guenther Park 2 weeks ago. As you know we let the Soccer Group adopt the park and we had 2 or 3 young girls that were out selling kool-aid on the outside of the park on the other side of the split rail fence. Well they had somebody from the Soccer Board and I will explain the whole thing here – they chased the little girls away and said they didn't want them there. I got very upset about it and Pat heard about it so we contacted Jonathan Wright about that and we couldn't understand why an adult would do that. We thought it was an adult that called the Police Department and asked if they had to have a permit to go down there and sell things and after asking questions we thought maybe somebody was selling fruits or vegetables and finally he stated it was kool-aid. Long story being the person that

did do that was only a 15 year old kid who chased the girls away and he made a terrible mistake and Jonathan Wright apologized profusely and we tried to find the little girls and I was going to apologize to them but so far we have been unable to locate them. But finding out that it was a young boy that did this I felt much better about it even though it was a bad thing but you can understand a young boy making a mistake. If that would have been an adult it would not have been a very good thing. I think they all understand now that there are rules to follow and adopting a park does not mean you own the park, it is still a public park. You guys have control over the park and so does the city, long story short if you hear anybody that has told that – that is exactly what happened, nothing more and nothing less. It was just a mistake by a young person that didn't realize what he had done wrong. The pavilion is up over there and we have to go pick up the lights. So that has been done but we still haven't done the gable ends but we are still short on manpower. Obviously the dog park thing didn't work out, we didn't win. But Pat who is also our grant writer has been actively looking for grants for more things for the park. We tried to get some equipment from the Tennyson School through the schools because that school is shut down. Mr. Rosso is working with the Superintendent of the Schools to maybe see if we can get that equipment and we are talking about putting that in one of the parks. That has not transpired yet and I don't know if it will but Mr. Rosso is working on that. Member Prokay asked with regards to the pavilion hopefully we are going to get a lot of use out of that. Are we anticipating the need to make reservations if we want to have birthday parties, is it going to be first come first serve basis? Mayor Bring advised that is a very good question and that is kind of what I thought. I think basically it is for the residents but it is a public park so we can't stop anybody from going in there. But I think if we start making reservations and stuff then you would have to have somebody overseeing that and then you will have phone calls and this and that which will make it very difficult. So I think it will be first come/first serve and if there is an event coming up, if they wanted to contact the city about it we could probably make sure that that happens but I don't want any preferences as far as just us using it but I think as we get going here we will add a few more pavilions throughout the city. I think at this time we are just going to have first come/first serve. Member Prokay stated I was thinking if we do get to that point maybe somebody on the Park Board like myself would be that go to person. Mayor Bring stated that is something that I thought about and I will be honest with you I have been thinking about that for a while because now we are talking about putting grills in over there. I think maybe after we get done with that, we will do Gary Green next year then maybe we will look into that and see how that works out. Chairman Lewis stated should have the ability to reserve them if you got a big party coming up like next week or whatever. Mayor Bring stated we could

probably get some kind of a sign that says “reserved” on it and something that changes the dates that we could put up. Chairman Lewis stated anybody can use it – I agree with that but a big event for family. Mayor Bring stated we don’t want people out there fighting over the pavilion and everything else which you never know. I would imagine that next year that that thing will be used quite a bit. It is the Soccer games now, when it is real sunny out people go underneath there and sit and enjoy the games. Member Prokay stated as we are trying to beautify our city I was wondering about whether or not there has been any discussion about placing a gazebo on that lawn area where the marina is that we could decorate for the holidays maybe like Miller Road Park does where they have musicians come and play that we might be able to do something like that in Sheffield Lake. Mayor Bring stated another good point and Pat and I talked about that recently and we are still kind of kicking that around. As a matter of fact I just gave him some brochures, it is a company called Lakeside Cabins. They build them to whatever you want and put them on skids so they are portable and we could put that down there and use that for selling ice, bait, etc. We did talk about that and then removing that in the winter time and putting it back out. Pavilions and gazebos I think are very good ideas and I wouldn’t be against that but like I said we would like to do the one over in Gary Green first and then the next after that probably 2 of them would be that walkway that is on the bike path now – covering that next year and then look at some of the other stuff. Not saying that we can’t do something down there because those things aren’t real expensive but they still cost money and we have a limited budget. I wouldn’t mind doing something like that and especially maybe where that grassy area is down there, it would be very nice and put some lights on that. We have cameras down there to watch all that also. Chairman Lewis asked what grassy area are you talking about? Member Prokay answered right there by the parking lot there. Mayor Bring stated right before the little ledge right there and then there is the grassy area with picnic tables. I think if we did put a gazebo there it would get a lot of use. Member Prokay stated even weddings, people like to take photos. Chairman Lewis stated maybe where the old Hardees used to be on the corner would be a good place for it too. Mayor Bring advised hopefully we will be able to get somebody else there with a lot of money. Member Kovach stated remember we already have a gazebo behind the Civic Center and is used for that purpose with the same lake view also. Member Albaugh asked would you be able to put power down there? Mayor Bring answered yes. If we were to decorate with Christmas lights there would be very nice. Member Kovach stated we already have power there on the power panel right next to the Library. Mayor Bring stated it would have to go all the way through there and we would have to figure that out. It would have to come from the other side.

Lakefront Parks: None.

Lakewood Beach Park: None.

Community Boat Launch: Mayor Bring advised we had several people that I know were complaining that we didn't keep up with the beach over there but I will tell you that we had several really bad storms and that beach was a disaster. There is only so much that these guys can do and they systematically go about doing things and they did clean up this year but it was a little bit late. The storm that came through pretty much washed all the sand away and put a large debris of wood on the beach area. Some of it we cut up and some of it we through in dumpsters but I think some of it we even ended up burying. Even though people complain it is very difficult to keep up with all the time, they did the best they could. Member Albaugh stated we have conduit under the parking lot right? Mayor Bring answered yes somebody was thinking. Chairman Lewis stated I thought I mentioned to somebody that I would like for you to write or talk to DiBenedetto about doing that property of the Park Board across the street from my house. Mayor Bring answered it is up for sale. Chairman Lewis stated I know it is but it is also wetlands and he could use it for a tax write off and he could also use it for basically off setting any wetland he has on any of the property. Mayor Bring advised I will call him because he periodically calls us but he was calling because they were talking about doing something over there. Chairman Lewis stated the benefit to him would be to use wetlands for other property and also get a tax write off. It would make a great park to go all the way through to the Black River Park on the other side, we could have a trail all the way across and down by the Steel Mill. If you get a chance talk to him about it because it would be a benefit to him and a benefit to the city. Mayor Bring stated he has called me about every 3 days on a regular basis there for a while. I will ask it never hurts.

GRANTS, GIFTS & AWARDS: Superintendent Hastings advised we were contacted by Jonathan Wright with the concept that there was somebody who applied for it but did not pursue it and that they were looking for a candidate rapidly. So I talked to the Mayor and the Finance Director because there was some matching funds and they told me to go through with it. The coordinator was out of town so it took about a week to touch base with her but as it turns out the candidate was moving forward so that unique opportunity wasn't there to get this built by the October deadline. That being said she forwarded everything to me to apply for the grant and they have 2 forms of grants and that particular one was a build it grant where the community comes together and builds this playground. Part of her concern even if it was available would be that the city and the weather here it would difficult to build with Ohio weather to get all that done by the end of October. But I need to confer with the Finance Director and the Mayor on how much we want to commit and which of the two grants to pursue. One is about a \$25,000.00 match and the other one the match is in-kind labor with I think about

\$8500.00 which is what I suspect that we would probably do but because of the time line and winter is coming I have kind of kicked that to the side to go after the skate park grant. Mayor Bring stated I had made mention about the park over there in Bay Village and Pat did contact those people and that was \$100,000.00. Superintendent Hastings advised surprisingly the people who design these are from all over the country and that particular group was I think Colorado. The company that I am working with now is called American Ramp and they are actually out of Missouri and they are coming out to see me the first of October. We are trying to stick with the Mayor's vision of concrete and precast, I originally started with that but they are just terribly expensive. So I think the goal for us would be to get a pad and get some initial equipment and then maybe expand on it in the future. They have precast too, they're factory is about 50,000 square feet and they are able to pour and then ship these precast pieces to us. So we can satisfy both worlds if we get this grant.

Brookside Bike Trail/Covered Bridge: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

CITIZENS COMMENTARY: None.

MEETING ADJOURNED: With no further business before this committee,

*Motion by Kovach/Second by Prokay to adjourn at 7:26 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 September 21, 2015.

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

Rick Rosso