

**Minutes of the Park Board
City of Sheffield Lake, Ohio
March 21, 2016**

The regular meeting of the Park Board was held Monday, March 21, 2016. Chairman Lewis called the meeting to order at 7 PM.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:

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

Attending: Councilperson Gee

*Motion by Kovach/Second by Gee to accept the minutes of the February 15, 2016 meeting with any noted corrections. Yeas All.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

PRESENTATIONS: None.

MAYOR/PARK SUPERINTENDENT/RECREATION DIRECTOR REPORTS:

Mayor Bring reported Gary Green Park we had talked about the pavilion and we did order that the other day. I believe that material is coming April 1st. So we will start getting construction going over there and I think we are going to do it the long way so everybody can see it. We will probably put that pavilion up, take out some of the grass and then pour the concrete underneath after they have finished it. I don't of any of you that went by yesterday for the Egg Hunt where we had a tremendous amount of people there even though it was a very cold blustery day. Julia Mohrbach did a great job and had a fantastic event. Mayor Hunter was there and we had at least 300 people there and probably more than that. The participation went extremely well. The park over there at Shell Cove, Cindy Heindrick's grandfather who lives there did some work there last year on his retaining wall and he had asked to go through the park again. He called me the other day and they are going to put some gravel down and go back there and pour some concrete and stuff so I approved that. They are going to clean that all up when they get done. We are going to put that walkway there and everything else anyway. But it will give them some access through there and he said would repair anything that he damages. I just want to let you guys know so if you see concrete trucks back there and some of the things that are going on. We did allow them to do it last year and I thought it would be a nice gesture to let them do it again. They didn't cause any damage last year. Superintendent Hastings reported I wanted to report on the grants this evening. I see in the minutes it was noted that it was denied for the skate park and in fact they were concerned on injuries so the Mayor and I looked at some alternative equipment that is still very popular and I re-approached them and they

actually gave me an opportunity to resubmit and the city was actually awarded the grant. So the grant is two-fold and involves the city Park's Department, the school system and one of our local businesses – Karate Studio. The idea is that it is an extension of the bike trail into the park, you know asphalt and then we would have this concrete pad. It is not traditional skate equipment which is called a pump track and basically it is for bicycles, skate boards, roller blades, all of the like. It is designed to be appealing to all the ages and so forth. I explained to them that we were trying to excite the kids out from in front of the televisions and get them into the park. It was a dated park and we wanted to invite new equipment and they were stuck on the traditional basketball and football and so forth so I included on this concrete pad, both this portable system and then portable basketball hoops. So we can excite several different activities over there that would go through a series of kiosk's similar to the ones at Shell Cove Park where it would describe healthy habitats; in other words healthy choices for food, diet, less sugar and all the traditional things you see but it catered to the younger minds that need a little education that kind of thing. With the idea that the gift that we received was to be utilized, 1) one with your permission and 2) to match grants or at least double the funds. The Mayor has basically sent me on 2 agendas this year, 1) one was this park and 2) is the deck at Shell Cove Park. That is \$85,000.00 grant and has been processed through NOACA through Coastal Management and through the Historical Society, so it has passed all of those criteria but I still haven't got an official answer. That being said my goal was to get your permission tonight to at least utilize the funds to do our part in the receiving of the grant. Now because we are linked with the schools the city's portion was \$20,000.00 for the walking trail and the pad and so forth and some of the equipment. Then we got another \$10,000.00 in cooperation with the schools and that is going to put a hydration station right at the trail as well and that is effectively a glorified drinking fountain where you can put water bottles and fill them up and that will be in the schools. The whole idea is to link us better. So at least for tonight's meeting I was hopeful I could get a motion and approval to match with the gifted funds I guess up to \$30,000.00. Obviously if I went anywhere near the \$25,000.00 threshold it would go to City Council but I don't think that would be the case. But we also need to have capital to buy stuff and then get reimbursed from the funding source. Member Prokay asked for clarification of what Superintendent Hastings was asking which he explained. Member Kovach asked how big is that? Superintendent Hastings answered the one we are looking at is 125 feet total length which is 55W X 21D. Mayor Bring advised Bay Village has one over there which was \$120,000.00 and obviously we didn't think we could do that much but this is very similar. The good thing about this is that it is actually portable so not only can we put it in that park if we decided we wanted to move it we could move it to another park and throughout

the city if we wanted to do that. We have been talking about a skate park for the kids forever. After a brief discussion, *Motion by Gee/Second by Prokay to allow the money to match the grant for this proposal up to \$30,000.00. Yeas All. Mayor Bring continued I pretty much made it for these next few years to start really enhancing that part of our parks and stuff like that. It is nice to have the property but if you don't equipment and anything to go to they will be underutilized. Like yesterday, we didn't have any porta potty's or anything and the grass was wet. This is all things that we have to look at in the future and we have those kind of events and you got 350 or so people show up. I don't think anybody was too upset the way it was but there were a lot of people that came and left because their kids had to go to the bathroom and even the parents had to go and there is nothing there. So it is more things that we just have to look at and I think that participation in more of these is forthcoming. You know with the Christmas decorating, the Egg Hunt and there is a lot of other things and I know the Church wants to get involved in some things. I just think we need to start doing that. Member Prokay stated how doable is it to get at least in one of the parks a sprinkler system? Mayor Bring asked what do you mean? Member Prokay answered where the kids can play in the sprinklers during the summer. Superintendent Hastings asked like a splash pad? Member Prokay stated something like they have in Crocker Park which she explained. Member Gee concurred that is a great idea and I have thought about that myself. Mayor Bring advised it is not a bad idea but the only thing is that you are probably going to use it maybe 3 months out of the year and then the rest of the time you may not use it. So right now I think what we are looking for is a little bit more, you know I want to get started with a few more things that are going to be utilized a little bit then that. Somebody else did email me one of those about 3 or 4 months ago and we did look into that a little bit I think and they are pretty costly. Superintendent Hastings answered yes triple figures. Chairman Lewis stated pretty costly and I think of freezing and that factor. Mayor Bring advised you have to not only run all the drains and stuff, anything can happen but then when you get rid of that for the winter you just don't shut a valve off, you have to blow all those pipes out and make sure all the water is out so the pipes don't crack because any time there is water in a pipe when it freezes it expands and breaks the pipes. So there is maintenance and everything else that you have to make sure you do on that stuff. But I know that it was over \$100,000.00. Superintendent Hastings stated in my opinion it is a wonderful idea but the biggest hurdle is funding. It would be a small opportunity for grants but you might want to consider it an entire comprehensive plan for the parks which we have done several times in a funding source. I mean I hate to say it but be it a levy or something along that line, very small would fund a fantastic recreational improvement in the city. Member Gee advised I had no idea that that would be so expensive, you wouldn't think so but yes that is too much

money and also the maintenance. Mayor Bring advised the concrete pad for this thing we talked to a local concrete guy and he wants to donate some of his time. That pad alone is pretty expensive by time but we are doing all in-kind work; the digging out and laying all that but all that stuff is pretty expensive. When you start doing the piping you have to be a certified plumber or something because I am sure there has got to be certain specifications to put all that stuff into and if you got somebody doing that it gets to be expensive. Superintendent Hastings advised I can at least put numbers together for you so we can see what we are talking about on a level basis.

OLD BUSINESS:

Designated Skate Areas: addressed above.

Memorial Parks: **None.**

Neighborhood Parks/Lakefront Parks/Grants, Gifts & Awards: addressed above.

Lakewood Beach Park: **None.**

NEW BUSINESS:

Brad DeLuca, Sheffield Village advised I came in at the last meeting representing the baseball/softball league. I am the General Manager and today with Mike Rosso who is also one of our trustees on our Board. He passed out what they had put together which is attached to these minutes. I thank you for considering our suggestion which was to look into what could be put into Ferndale Park seeing how there is a existing baseball diamond in there and see what could be done, everything from fixing up that baseball diamond itself to make it a little bit more useable. It looked like it had been a little while since major upgrade or anything has been done to it and it definitely has some drainage issues. If there is anything like back-stop repair or anything all the way up to possibly something along the lines of a training cage/batting cage. At the end of the meeting I was asked to come back with something to give you a little more an idea of what we were talking about. He reviewed the submitted ideas with the Board. After a brief discussion on costs of proposed improvements. Superintendent Hastings advised I missed last meeting due to another meeting at the Community Center. I just wanted to have a better understanding, were these improvements for designated games or practices? Mr. DeLuca answered it would just be for, I don't think we would ever have games there. I think maybe once or twice in the past few years I can't remember, I think in a pinch we have maybe had a game over at James Day. We are usually able to have all the games over at our fields. Superintendent Hastings stated but to practice, you fill your fields up and still need to overflow into the community. Mr. DeLuca advised right we just finished up putting our teams together and we have 43 teams this year so we have 5 fields and have just broken ground on a 6th field. So once you divide that up that really only gives teams 1, 2 practice spots a week

and the real problem that happens is once the middle of May rolls around all of those available times that we would have for practices now become game slots. So now you have 80% of the time slots that we could have used for practices now go away. Superintendent Hastings asked what is the time frame that you guys would begin practicing, I just want to know as far as performing the maintenance. Mr. DeLuca answered we usually we get practice around the first week of April. We are not putting any, again these were just as a suggestion and we wouldn't be putting any time line on this or budget. The magic wand date would be the middle of May because that is when our games start and that is when everyone starts to scramble and you have 10 teams that all have the same idea. Superintendent Hastings asked what do you see is the optimum time for a porta potty, the whole summer or May through July. Mr. DeLuca concurred May through July, our games end around the 20th of July. At that time everything winds down and our fields become available again for someone who wants to do fall ball or tournament teams/travel teams that sort of thing like that. So once the 20th of July rolls around it would just be community members that would be the other people that we would be saying that we would like that field to be over there for. It is not just for our teams but to be an all field for people to go over and play softball. Chairman Lewis asked you are building a 6th field from scratch? Mr. DeLuca answered yes. Chairman Lewis asked why wouldn't you upgrade this field and use it instead of building a whole new one? Mr. DeLuca answered because our property now and this is how it was explained to me that is how it used to be before our property where we are at. Before we had that there would be games at Ferndale and games at James Day and that was kind of the idea of why the people at that time got the property and built the fields there and everything is in one place. Superintendent Hastings advised but that is the complex for the joint cities there. He advised we used to baseball fields at Gary Green, Guenther Park, etc. Mr. DeLuca stated well we have permanent bathrooms there which is easier when you have multiple kids playing and also the concession stand. The time that we did have a game in a pinch over at James Day I think we had to have a couple of people throw chalk and rakes in a gator and drive down the road to James Day. That is the other thing too is we have to have our people to drag the fields and chalk them and a lot of our umpires are older brothers of kids who are playing so they get dropped off at the fields. Councilperson Gee asked do you have a batting cage in your complex? Mr. DeLuca answered no. Chairman Lewis asked why wouldn't you put the batting cage over there rather than here. If you have 6 fields over there, to me it would make more sense to put the batting cage over there. Member Albaugh asked in your opinion what would be number one priority on this list of yours. Mr. DeLuca answered just that the playing field itself, is as ready as it could be. Member Albaugh asked what would be number two? Mr. DeLuca answered any drainage

possible then the cage could be secondary. The overhang would be a lesser thing than anything that could be done to the playing field itself, any grading of it, additional dirt, drainage – that type of thing like that. It would be one more field that could be ready to play as many days as possible, that is kind of what we have to deal with. Chairman Lewis asked do you dress the fields before you play on them or do you drag them. Mr. DeLuca answered for games we will try to do that but practices they will do it periodically, they wouldn't do it like every day. Chairman Lewis stated so we wouldn't have to do that for you? Mr. DeLuca stated no I probably wouldn't be speaking for our fields department that they would go over there in addition to our fields going over there. Chairman Lewis asked you couldn't just pick up the drag and bring it over? Mr. DeLuca answered it is possible if it is there. Chairman Lewis asked you going to furnish the bases? Mr. DeLuca answered we could. Chairman Lewis stated if you put the bases out you have to take them in and I don't think there is anywhere over there to store anything. That would be the first thing that somebody would steal. Mr. DeLuca stated well if you didn't want to have bases of your own there because you are worried that somebody would take them. Chairman Lewis stated that is the first thing that kids are going to steal, you can't leave them out. There was a brief discussion on equipment needed, the field, bases and so forth. Mayor Bring advised Pat and I will go over and see what we can do and figure some things out. Member Kovach stated based on what the city's crew has to do I wouldn't be any more inclined to do any more than drainage, fix the bleachers and one porta potty. That batting cage has to be about 60 grand or more and if it is concrete it has to be double that. I don't see us putting that in. The Board advised we will do what we can do.

CITIZENS COMMENTARY: None.

MEETING ADJOURNED: With no further business before this committee,
*Motion by Kovach/Second by Albaugh to adjourn at 7:55 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

Park Board March 21, 2016

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 21, 2016.

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

Rick Rosso