

**Minutes of the Park Board
City of Sheffield Lake, Ohio
March 20, 2017**

The regular meeting of the Park Board was held Monday, March 20, 2017. Chairman Lewis called the meeting to order at 7 PM.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:

Present: Lewis, Albaugh, Kovach, Gee, Mayor Bring, Superintendent Hastings
Attending: Councilperson Gee, Councilman Erdei, Concerned Citizens

*Motion by Kovach/Second by Gee to accept the minutes of the February 20, 2017 meeting with any noted corrections. Yeas All.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

PRESENTATIONS: None.

MAYOR/PARK SUPERINTENDENT/RECREATION DIRECTOR REPORTS:

Superintendent Hastings advised a couple of things, we were requested to look at the swings at Memorial Park I believe and we added crumb rubber to the site to bring things back up to where the kids will not have some difficulty reaching the swings. I think they fortified a little bit at the Community Center too. The city was successful again on another couple of grants. This one for the Lorain County General Health District again, just under \$42,000.00 and this is for our program that would be tying our third pavilion at Freedom that we talked about and the new playground that is going in at Freedom. Then add a brand-new playground to Guenther and then use those 3 satellite spots to reintroduce a summer recreation program to compliment the craft program that is already at the Community Center at capacity. So, this will be similar to what we did back in the 90's and probably prior to that. We are coordinating with the Girl Scouts to bring them on staff if you will, for a couple of hours to man the parks and have crafts and things like that. So, that was an excellent grant. The city also participated with the school district and was awarded just under \$7,000.00 more and that is to install Turnstiles with the track so that the public both in Sheffield and Sheffield Lake can access the jogging track up at the High School after hours and so forth. The logistics are still being worked out but the funding is there at least. So, between the two we did very well and I would just need your opinion or your direction on the playground at Guenther. I know that in talking with soccer and the Mayor has talked with residents on the concern of the playground so close to the parking lot, we have a strong inclination to move that down by the pavilion that is there now and kind of vacate that area where that older equipment is and actually turn it into more soccer

fields. But I would obviously need your approval to do that. Chairman Lewis stated that sounds like a good idea and Member Gee stated yes it does, I like it. Member Kovach advised if dimensionally it works out? Superintendent Hastings advised yes and I have some snapshots, some renderings. Unfortunately, I was sick and missed a few days of work, so I am a little behind. But I can even email them to you, it is about a 4000-square foot footprint and it is a traditional single set with all kinds of different activities and a separate bouncy unit of some sort, I don't even know what they are called and then a separate swing set beyond that. I would be happy to share it with you and I do apologize. Member Kovach asked is that going to be similar to what we have over here at Gary Green Park structurally?

Superintendent Hastings answered yes, that concept exactly. The color, unless you have an objection to go with the reds that are typical of our High School colors and soccer leagues and so forth that are there. The Freedom Park brand new playground will be in green. So, if everybody is on board with that I would move toward getting it done. Member Kovach asked are we going to do anything about getting signage to kind of match what is over at Gary Green for the 2 other parks? Superintendent Hastings asked do you mean for the new playgrounds? Member Kovach answered yes. Superintendent Hastings answered I can, sure. I mean I hadn't pursued that but we have another Solid Waste grant coming up and I could certainly do that. Member Kovach stated that would kind of make them all look uniform. Superintendent Hastings stated no doubt and they are a couple of thousand dollars a piece. Member Kovach stated I know, I was involved in the purchase of that first one and I am sure they have gone up a few dollars.

Superintendent Hastings stated if I could help the city get the funding through grants, it would be wonderful. That is actually going to be coming up here.

Member Kovach asked now that \$42,000.00 is that a match? Superintendent Hastings answered no that is 100% grant. We do have matching money in there, I built in the fact that we are building a pavilion and I built in the fact that we will have in-kind labor, I built in the other playground as this collective program that we are really reaching out into our neighborhood parks with like three satellite pavilions with brand new playgrounds at each one and get these kids back into the parks. Hopefully to match the success that we had at Ferndale. Mayor Bring advised the concern that was at Guenther was the fact of the parking lot being so far away from the parents and the younger kids and somebody grabbing one of the kids and taking off. I actually had several residents call me about that and in discussions with Pat, we looked at putting a fence up which was about \$5000.00 which we still may end up doing but we are going to do maybe partial this year and then we will see what is going on next year. But even with that it is so the parents can keep a better eye on the kids while watching the other kids play soccer. It just makes sense. Member Kovach concurred it makes more sense that they would be

sitting in the pavilion closer and logistically it makes sense. Superintendent Hastings stated yes it would be east of the pavilion because they just built that kick wall, actually we did it for them but you know we don't want to invade on that space. On the schematics of it all, it looked good. Chairman Lewis stated it sounds good to me. Member Albaugh asked is that the way they have their field set up now currently, the soccer league? Superintendent Hastings asked are you saying would it interfere? Member Albaugh answered yes would it? Superintendent Hastings answered no I reached out to all soccer people. Member Albaugh stated okay I am fine with it and for safety reasons I think it is a good idea.

Superintendent Hastings stated personally I don't really know where their lines are other than seeing a goal. So, I reached out to them and copied the Mayor and we were all kind of in an email link so that we could present it to you guys as being in agreement. Member Kovach stated that was my question dimensionally. Member Gee stated I think it is a good idea, *Motion by Gee/Second by Albaugh to move the playground at Guenther Park east of the pavilion. Yeas All.

OLD BUSINESS:

Designated Skate Areas: **None.**

Memorial Park: advised above on crumb rubber application.

Lakefront Parks:

Grants, Gifts & Awards: advised above General Health District and School District grants.

Shell Cove Park: Superintendent Hastings stated Shell Cove Park was put out to bid and we have the award which we are going to reach out to a company who are out of Cleveland. However, the name escapes me, I can get it off of my phone if you need it for the minutes. I researched them as did our engineer which they are paid to check into their credentials but they certainly have built a lot of park structures. They are based in Cleveland and they have done the Cuyahoga and Lorain County Metro parks. This will include the deck, the boardwalk to traverse the unlevel ground on the way through and then once you get to level ground we are going to mimic the paver stones that are off of the Memorial now. I have already reached out to that company. We can get both in-kind donations, in-kind labor and then wholesale pricing. So, that will match as well. That is going to be awarded and I am going to have some dates for the Mayor to sign here by tomorrow I think the engineer will have it and that does have a deadline by the end of June. So, the deck will be done by the end of June.

Freedom Park: Superintendent Hastings advised it is scheduled for April, beginning of May.

Recreation Program: Superintendent Hastings advised this will kick off in July at the conclusion of their event and they can help promote it. So, it should be an eventful summer for our parks this year.

Guenther Park: Superintendent Hastings advised with your approval now will be done by June.

Erie Shore Park: None.

Westshore Park: None.

Boat Launch: Superintendent Hastings advised I will be applying again for a restroom at the Boat Launch. I found another state grant and I assume that is something that you guys still want to do? Member Kovach advised to keep applying, you got to wear them down. Superintendent Hastings advised it is a long shot. We have done a few with them, they are very competitive, but you got to keep trying. Mayor Bring advised I think all the boaters are looking for that too. We are going to have that triathlon, the gentleman for that called again this year. So, we will do the triathlon at the Boat Launch again this year. Then he is going to do line skating along with the jog. Member Kovach stated are the kayak people coming back? Mayor Bring answered, I haven't heard anything from them, but I am assuming. They didn't contact us until probably late April last year. Superintendent Hastings advised they are promoting the Black River clean-up's right now, so that is probably the focus.

Bike Trail & Covered Bridge: Chairman Lewis asked is Lorain County Metro ever going to finish that stretch of pathway? Mayor Bring answered actually Mr. Hastings has talked to Jim Zimmenick and we have made mention of that. We are actually dealing with Senator Manning on that and a couple of other things. He advised the EPA stopped it from going through the woods, it is wetlands. That is why it never got put through. Chairman Lewis stated so you're going to have to build a platform. Mayor Bring answered well, there is other ways around it and doing things and that is what Pat has been working on. Chairman Lewis stated either donate lands or something. Mayor Bring advised there is retention ponds also.

NEW BUSINESS: Superintendent Hastings advised we have the Boat Launch scheduled to be dredged and if they are still there I am not sure, but today a barge was passing through and broke down and used ours for safe harbor. But I don't know the status of it currently. Unidentified advised it is still there because when I came up Forestlawn it is still there. Superintendent Hastings advised so they are working on it and they did contact the city. But I suspect that with spring coming soon that we will be able to get it cleaned out and open. Chairman Lewis quipped did you say they could park it there safely if they dredge it out for us. Superintendent Hastings quipped I am going to throw that in tomorrow if they are still there.

CITIZENS COMMENTARY:

Pastor Thomas Hicks, First Baptist Church 633 Harris Road advised I was informed that I should make an appearance for the Cardboard Boat Race as

recommended from the Civic Pride Community. We would like to initiate the first annual Cardboard Boat Race off of the Boat Docks during Community Days. It would begin sometime around 4 o'clock, beginning of Community Days on Saturday is when we would like to do it. The purpose is to promote Community Pride, working with local businesses and organizations who would build cardboard boats. It would be teams of 4 and they would launch off of the dock and certainly there are a lot of logistics that would go along with it, but basically there would be 2 buoys out there and they would paddle out and go around the buoy and come back. Awards would be given if they actually made it and awards would be given for the most fantastic sinking, it is called the Titanic award. We believe that the dock is a perfect place for this. This idea came from Put-in-Bay during one of their pirate days and so we watched this happen. It is possible to float a cardboard boat if you haven't seen it yet and it is very possible to sink one. It is an enjoyable time and I understand that legalities are always an issue. The internet is a beautiful thing and it provides you with a lot of things and so if you go on there you can find multiple things of statements of release forms so that those that would be signing up would be signing a legal form stating that they cannot sue or anything like that. This is put on by the Civic Pride Committee, they do not hold insurance and so one of the questions that was brought up that I do not have an answer for at this time is that they don't care insurance but the church does. We carry insurance obviously as property, would we have to be the main sponsor for that. So, that is an answer that I don't have and so if anyone has a recommendation of someone I could go to find some of those answers and to even look at the entry forms. Member Kovach asked would the church have a problem sponsoring it? Pastor Hicks answered no of course we don't. Member Kovach stated well, I am just asking, with the question that you are asking I see no problem with you being the sponsor of the event. Pastor Hicks stated we just didn't know if it was a Civic Pride Community thing and then it would be turned into a First Baptist Church of Sheffield Lake event if that would have been an issue. Mayor Bring stated, we can ask our Law Director David Graves just to make sure and confirm it. He is here Monday and Tuesday during the day and then Wednesday and Thursdays in the afternoons. He has court in Avon Lake on Wednesdays and court in Lorain on Thursdays. Pastor Hicks clarified so Monday and Tuesdays during the day? Mayor Bring answered, correct. Pastor Hicks asked he would be willing? Mayor Bring answered, I am sure he will let you know. Pastor Hicks advised at this point that is the information that I have. I don't know if anybody had questions and I am more than willing to attempt to answer. Chairman Lewis asked Lifeguards? Pastor Hicks answered, I do not have any Lifeguards setup, certainly we could certainly contact multiple organizations around that would be able to provide those things. I don't know if the YMCA would be available or if somebody like that would be able to provide some

assistance. Chairman Lewis stated I would assume you would all wear life jackets? Pastor Hicks explained the boats themselves as far as maintaining that nothing falls to the bottom of the lake there, what they do is they tie around these cardboard boats empty milk jugs that the material remains floating so that they are able to bring that back. One of the conversations that we had and I don't know if this is a different conversation for a different committee, but because we need to inspect the boats to ensure that nobody has covered them, you know, water proof paint and then check them and then they go back and change them, is possibly storing them in the empty spot at the Shoreway Shopping Center, in one of those areas? So, I don't know if that is a possibility or not, but that would be an additional thing we would have to look into? Mayor Bring answered yes. Pastor Hicks continued we want to include them in the parade and really make it a big thing and then hopefully just build the community spirit is all we are really going for. We would like to invite the school systems to be a part also. Also, if city workers wanted to build one, I mean truly anybody that would like to do this, it is just getting in a cardboard boat with a few paddles and having at it. Chairman Lewis stated it sounds like fun. Councilman Erdei asked is there going to be an age limit for each vessel? Pastor Hicks answered we believe that it should be no younger than 16, that way we would be able to include the High School into it but certainly no younger than that. There is discussion of whether or not we should do 18 but I think that 16 would still be good, but again because we would love to see the school and the Girl Scouts and I think that would be great to have them. I think Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts already do something like this anyway and they may be able to provide some guidance. Chairman Lewis stated they may have a Lifeguard merit badge. Pastor Hicks laughed yes, a Lifeguard merit badge, love it. Also, the dock is set up perfect for this because you can line people around it and we think we could have a pretty decent following. Member Albaugh asked is Saturday going to impede on anything? Member Kovach answered no, we pretty much had everything worked out there as to when it was going to happen. We gave the approval last month for this and it is pretty much just to keep us up-to-date as to where you are at more than anything and how things are going. I don't know if they would be willing to come out a second day, but if one was clever, one might contact the Coast Guard Office and involve them in the event. I know they will be out the night before. Pastor Hicks clarified they will be out for the fireworks on Friday, right? Member Kovach answered yes, but it is a thought you could contact them.

Councilman Mark J Erdei stated on the Coast Guard you could probably get the Auxiliary, a couple of guys from the Auxiliary because they patrol the lake. It would be a lot easier because I know the main Coast Guard is limited now and they are not doing too much at all. Even when you get broke down, they are having the

towing companies come and get you. So, Auxiliary would probably be your best bet.

Dawn Dailey, 4354 E Lake Rd., advised I wanted to check out the Board as I saw on my water bill that they were looking for Board members and I thought the Park Board would be something of interest to me since I have three children at home and I want to get them involved in the community and I want to be involved myself. So, I kind of wanted to see how it all works and stuff like that. I want to help out wherever I can and that is why I am here. Chairman Lewis thanked Mrs. Dailey and advised you will be a welcome asset.

MEETING ADJOURNED: With no further business before this committee,
*Motion by Gee/Second by Albaugh to adjourn at 7:25 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

CHAIRMAN
James Lewis

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 20, 2017.

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL
Rick Rosso