

**Minutes of the Park Board
City of Sheffield Lake, Ohio
March 19, 2018**

The regular meeting of the Park Board was held Monday, March 19, 2018. Chairman Lewis called the meeting to order at 7 PM.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:

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

Absent: Member Dailey, Law Director Graves (excused)

Attending: Concerned Citizens

*Motion by Kovach/Second by Gee to accept the minutes of the February 19, 2018 meeting with any noted corrections. Yeas All.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

PRESENTATIONS: None.

MAYOR REPORT: Mayor Bring advised the survey you just filled out, we had asked several questions and to my surprise in the survey probably 70% of the people that filled them out said we need to enhance our parks. Member Kovach advised I agree with that because they always can use enhancement. Mayor Bring stated I was just surprised and I don't know if people are actually paying attention, of what we are doing because I think that we have spent like \$450,000. Superintendent Hastings concurred last year yes. Mayor Bring added and we are going to probably put another \$450,000 into it this year, but I was just surprised at the surveys coming back because I have been reading just about every one of them coming saying that parks need to be enhanced. There were several other comments about other things that were going on too. They want a skate park, they want a soccer park, they want basketball hoops but we have all of that. I don't know how to get out to all these people. We went to a Mayor's luncheon the other day and the Mayor of Avon did a video of Avon and I thought it was a great idea. So, I was talking to Mr. Hastings and we were thinking about maybe doing a video for our city and doing the parks and some of the other stuff and then putting it on our website. I don't know what else to do but I think that people just don't even know what we are doing. Member Kovach stated that has been the ongoing discussion for 25 years. Mayor Bring responded I realized that, but when we have actually done all this stuff, then they we want this and that, I don't know, but I think I read over 20 of them that said we need new playground equipment and we have all of

that. I just wanted you guys to know that and I just wanted that on the record and I will probably say something at Council just so everybody understands what is going on and whether people are paying attention or not. We are only 2.5 miles and it doesn't take too much to find out what we are doing around here. Member Kovach stated of course we don't get much input from our Journal rep because he is off and on and what big following does the other paper have, you know the Avon Lake Press. It is a good paper, but only so many people get it. Mayor Bring advised the other thing was about the senior center at the Community Center which we have been talking about for the last 6 to 8 months and they keep asking for that too, maybe we will surprise them when we actually do it. Member Kovach quipped I still want to know where it is, you have flashing lights with arrows and Pat walking up and down the sidewalk and sandwich boards. Mayor Bring continued the other thing was the utilization of the parks on the lake, they said that we haven't utilized that either. So, I am a bit confused.

SUPERINTENDENT – PARK/RECREATION DIRECTOR REPORTS:

Superintendent Hastings advised I wanted to report that the city was audited by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for a grant that we received 33 years ago. They want to make sure that the equipment is still there and that the signs are still there recognizing their donation of \$7,500.00 to Mayor Fragassi. He continued ironically, I built that stuff when I came here. The signs have rotted and have since gone. It was for picnic tables and grills and some of the playground equipment that you have seen at Shell Cove. Some of that is rotted and gone, but some of it is still in our parks inventory, so I will be responding to them. Member Kovach stated well, we have gotten replacement grills, it is not like we haven't updated the original. Superintendent Hastings concurred we have upgraded picnic tables and everything. They are literally checking in on equipment that we bought 33 years ago. Member Kovach added they are wooden picnic tables that we 33 years old. Superintendent Hastings advised like the frame is still there for some of them. I literally remember the sign rusting and rotting and being removed at a couple of the parks. I am just shocked that they exhaust the energy to pursue that. I just couldn't believe it. Mayor Bring stated, but when you ask for money they want to make sure that they are getting their money's worth because they are allowing the city to take money that is available, so they are checking up on us is all they are doing. So, we can't jump up and down and scream, we just follow along and be thankful that we have somebody here that still remembers that because otherwise the city would have no clue. The other thing about those surveys too, they want us to finish the bike trail which is the Metro Parks, they don't realize that is not ours. The other thing they said they want is more walking trails and that is what we are trying to accomplish also. A lot of the things that they are already asking for we have already done and then in the future we already have plans on doing it. I would

like to find out how to address those people that are asking all these questions and show them what we have actually done. Chairman Lewis asked where is the Lincoln Nature Trail. Superintendent Hastings answered it would be the end of every one of the dead-end streets on Irving Park, there is actually an undedicated road. Mayor Bring advised there is a paper street over there. Superintendent Hastings answered yes, Lincoln. Mayor Bring stated there is actually fire hydrants there also. Needless to say, we have to address those anyway, so we have to keep clean so that we can get in for maintenance. Superintendent Hastings advised I did research and price a little bit of the matting that you have spoken of a few times and it is coming in at about \$2.99 a square and a typical basketball court is going to run you between \$12,000 and \$15,000 for that material. So, you would almost way that against asphalt and I am sure that the matting would last longer undoubtedly, but that was only through 2 quick reviews. Member Kovach stated like I say, it was worth looking at. Superintendent Hastings concurred absolutely, it is very unique in the color patterns and designs that you can get which is nice. It is forever more, but it is not cheap. Member Kovach stated I don't know where their funding came from, maybe some of it was donations or maybe they had a much larger park budget to handle such issues because it is a bigger community too. It is interesting though. Superintendent Hastings concurred. Mayor Bring stated as an update, we had told you last year that one of the grind rails at the park disappeared. It has now reappeared. Jerry was driving by and it was put back kind of where it was, so he went and bought new bolts and re-bolted back into place. All I know is I am glad we have it back and at this point no harm, no foul. Whoever had it, was actually using it because it is a little worn. Superintendent Hastings stated they are very expensive. Mayor Bring advised it was a \$700 piece of equipment.

OLD BUSINESS:

Community Center: Superintendent Hastings advised I met with Heather, who is going to schedule Yoga classes and we are shooting for Wednesdays and she is hopeful that the interest is such that she could have 2 classes. One for the 5 to 10 age group and then another one after that. So, that is moving along well. The *Community Center addition* is in front of the Lorain County Commissioners at this time and once that is approved then the county will draft the notice to bid.

Skate areas: None.

Boat Launch: The *restrooms at the Boat Launch*, we should have back some plans and designs here in April and that will immediately get sent to ODNR because they have to approve any structure that we put in the parks since they are funding it.

Shell Cove Park: None.

Guenther Park: None.

Covered Bridge/Trail: None.

Lakewood Beach Park: None.

Ferndale Park: We are starting to get back into the parks right now to focus on some attention before the season gets up and going. At Ferndale Park, where the infield for the baseball there was lacking quite a bit of attention, so we are getting out all the vegetation and I will bring in some new material. We are scheduled to pick up our trailer and new mower that we were able to purchase last year or at least order and that should be in a week or so.

Freedom Park: Member Albaugh advised I have one thing just from talking to people about this sled riding hill, a lot of people enjoyed that. I took my kids over there and we really enjoyed it, but there were a couple of things when you are coming off the hill basically there is some debris that needs to be removed. It is like cinder block and old pipe, stuff like that. Mayor Bring advised he walked over there and I pulled out some stuff myself. Member Albaugh advised I tried to kick some of it out myself, but it was pretty frozen solid in there. Superintendent Hastings advised I will definitely have it looked at. Member Albaugh stated other than that, a lot of people enjoyed it. It was kind of amazing that a lot of people didn't know that there was a hill back there for that too. Mayor Bring advised I was glad to see the kids on it. Member Kovach advised it was a good year for it too. Superintendent Hastings advised the idea was to have both the ice skating ability and the sledding, to have some winter recreation and the ice skating saw a little bit of activity. The Mayor and I had talked moving it from season to season, but we chose to keep it there because of the sledding so that we could try to centralize snow events. But I think next year we will consider moving that again. Mayor Bring advised we might some lighting over there too for later on for people that ice skate too.

Gary Green Park: Superintendent Hastings advised the Easter Egg Hunt is still on track and Julie is still accepting donations towards that.

Memorial Park: Member Albaugh advised on Memorial Park, it takes a long time for that to drain out and I didn't know if we could put some drains in it where Roberts Street was re-dredged already where the ditches were re-dredged and paved and Memorial Park is right at the end of that. Superintendent Hastings advised that is actually scheduled for the end of this year, Ivanhoe is on our paving program as well as cutting through Ivanhoe and digging all the way to the main. There is a main storm sewer there, about a 36-inch pipe. We are going to go through the park to get to that is what I am saying. So, all of that deep ditching on Roberts ultimately now is going to go through a new system through that park where we will have some surface drains. Ivanhoe and that little chunk of Roberts is scheduled or at least they are on the paving list, but we have not made our final determination, but to your point that is actually all scheduled to be addressed. Member Kovach stated going east and west there is several hundred feet of pipe

underneath that park that we have put in over the years. It may need more, but there is a lot of drain pipe underneath. Member Albaugh stated I think it is because of the way the land is that it holds water a little bit longer. Superintendent Hastings advised where the land is raised is where the pipe is, it is kind of odd that they did that, but that storm actually goes all the way down Howell to South Drive and then picks up Stark, Forestlawn and Oliver. So, there is a lot of water coming through there. Member Gee asked have we done any other research on a splash park? Superintendent Hastings answered, I have not, when we went after the grants and we got the Civic Center addition and the boat launch restroom, that represented about \$450,000. So, for the city to be able to have some matching funds to see that to reality, I kind of backed off on that. But it is definitely on my radar and I do have a company that I keep in touch with about every 6 months. Member Gee advised I just wanted to keep that conversation alive because I think that that would be very useful in the future. Superintendent Hastings answered, I agree 100%. I mean part of me personally, I was happy to see the Planning Commission include whether the folks are interested in a rec center and if we are and this is dreaming of the possibility of considering the city's ownership of the bowling alley for that. If you have the support of the community to put a rec center in there you then have a couple acres of land that we will have available and we might consider a splash park in that area because it would be forever owned by the city. So, that is kind of a bonus waiting one more year to see how that all pans out and I understand that is a lot to digest, but it is the kind of conversations that the Mayor and I have had. Mayor Bring advised probably 80% of the surveys support the rec center and 90% said if they were not funded. Member Kovach stated so they are not going to pay for them, which I was going to make that comment that yes, it would be great to put one up but unfortunately it takes money. Mayor Bring stated like I said they all want a rec center, but they don't want to fund it, so it just leaves us trying to figure out how we can do something like that. Superintendent Hastings stated the first Master Plan came right out and said that the interest in a rec center is strong, but to acquire or build a building seemingly impossible. We have the unique situation where we actually own a 20,000 square foot building. So, the cost is really half and it seems to me that if there is even enough interest to put a proposal out there, maybe a light architect's rendering. If we have even enough interest to even spend a couple thousand bucks to do that. You know, Sheffield Lake is small and personally I don't see a pool ever coming here, it is not logical. Avon Lake supplements theirs \$300,000 to \$400,000 in a year in addition to the fees that they collect. But a rec center with a splash pad in front of it seems realistic and it seems like a good solid goal.

NEW BUSINESS:

Grants: reported above.

Lincoln Nature Trail: Superintendent Hastings reported we have got some positive feedback about Fish & Wildlife and Ohio Historical Society authorizes our use but obviously it is contingent on common sense things. Unfortunately, the US Army Corp of Engineers has found traces of wetlands and/or streams or natural water courses and has recommended that we have a consultant be included for a greater review. That doesn't surprise me, I haven't run right out to get that, but I am going to put some quotes together for the Mayor to consider.

Member Kovach asked what are your thoughts on dog park this year?

Superintendent Hastings answered, I have been watching bark for your park website and they haven't given a specific date to submit, so I resubmitted my email to be contacted. But so far, the only information on the grant is that each spring they offer this grant. So, I am still watching it as I am assuming the Park Board would want me to pursue that for Freedom Park. Member Kovach suggested we go ahead and try and get it fenced in, funding permitting and then like phase it. If we were actually set up structures for it which we would be a couple steps ahead of other people. Superintendent Hastings stated you could apply for more parts of the grants because they will fund you for the creation of a dog park or they will fund you for equipment for establishing, so we could apply for both. You can buy a basic setup for equipment at about \$5000.00 but you have got to consider drainage, fencing, parking, but you can do it in phases most certainly and I can get a price for fencing. Member Kovach stated I am suggesting that we box it in and at the beginning kind of walk their dogs. Superintendent Hastings stated even to unleash their dog in an area is a good start. That is really all that Avon Lake's was at least some years ago, behind the Service Department was a fenced in area period. The parks have done a lot of work over the last 2 years installing even buying the come-along, a tool that pulls that tight to set all the components. So, we could literally buy the material and install it, so I will have that for the next Park Board. Member Kovach stated I was out walking with the wife, what about the vegetation which looks pretty good right now behind the fencing there. Superintendent Hastings asked along the railroad? Member Kovach answered yes. Superintendent Hastings answered it is heavy in poison ivy and poison oak and every year that we go after it, they are covered in it which is never really dormant. We have taken our boom mower there to try to keep it back, but really for the guys, it is a bit of a challenge. Mayor Bring advised over at Ferndale there was a gate that was put up because people are going back there dumping and I asked Pat to put up a fence to hook to the gate and they did that. So, now we don't have any problems with people going back in there and it looks really nice too, very professional.

CITIZENS COMMENTARY:

MEETING ADJOURNED: With no further business before this committee,
*Motion by Kovach/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 19, 2018.

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

Rick Rosso