

**Minutes of the Park Board
City of Sheffield Lake, Ohio
April 16, 2018**

The regular meeting of the Park Board was held Monday, April 16, 2018. Chairman Lewis called the meeting to order at 7 PM.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:

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

Attending: Concerned Citizens

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

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

PRESENTATIONS: None.

MAYOR REPORT: Mayor Bring advised I have a couple of things and then I am going to turn it over to Superintendent Hastings. He continued we had the Boat Launch cleaned out the other day via the barge. So, I think you should be very happy. I don't know if you guys saw the storm but I was looking at the lake because I live on the lake but I lost stairs and everything else. My biggest fear is that I hope that that sand didn't go back in to the boat launch because the waves were coming in over the top of the rocks. It was really bad, very bad. Member Kovach stated the level that is in there is at or above the level of the deck. I was looking as it looks like there is some debris right where the cars go in. Mayor Bring advised they cleaned that out today. But like I said, I just hope it all worked out. Chairman Lewis quipped they got a telephone pole if anybody wants to remove. Mayor Bring advised the other problem is that Shell Cove Park, that observation deck. I was standing there yesterday watching the waves come up but Saturday the waves were almost splashing over that deck. So, that area around the front where we had the concrete pillars is pretty much all washed out and all those gabions that were in there are almost all gone. So, we have some issues down there that we are going to have to take care of.

SUPERINTENDENT – PARK/RECREATION DIRECTOR REPORTS:

OLD BUSINESS:

Community Center: Superintendent Hastings advised the Mayor let me know also that our Community Center outfall is taking some damage which I have yet to look

at today, next to the deck is an outfall that within 15 feet of it is gone. So, the lake is challenging. Chairman Lewis asked are you going to put on an addition? Superintendent Hastings answered no, an actual addition to the Community Center, a couple thousand square feet. So, the goal was to seek funding to get the addition which had been talked about in various committees and then the Mayor said let's expand it for the seniors as well as the community. Tonight, for example I was just there, we have one on one side – a cooking class and we have one on the other side – the girl scouts. It is in full use tonight and I ran immediately as fast as I could. But the building is getting a lot of activity and attention and I have been told and also by the Mayor, let's see that building used for its intention and we have made its turn. Chairman Lewis asked so you are renting it out for events? Superintendent Hastings answered absolutely. Mayor Bring advised Pat does all the scheduling for all of the rentals but we tell them if there is something going on and we have to reschedule, then we are going to have to have some kinds of sheets. Superintendent Hastings advised I was contacted again and somewhat ironically for Shell Cove Park for weddings, wanting to time block it out for several hours and I have yet to respond other than at this time, we are not reserving and it continues to be a first come, first serve. But just so you know, this interest is growing and it might be something that we have to address

Skate areas: None.

Boat Launch: Superintendent Hastings advised the boat launch was dredged. We did use engineering this year and we did use the barge option this year and it did cost us more than it ever has going that route. So, hopefully this is more thorough than ever I can only hope.

Shell Cove Park: Superintendent Hastings advised continuing on the deck, we did meet with the State of Ohio ODNR to expedite the replacement of armor stone in front of it. They have a very detailed permit process and they have very specific structural requirements and basically you go out in the water and build it up with various sizes and so forth. But they are receptive to a quicker turn around with some mild engineering involved and then a greater plan of coming back in and doing a more permanent job. It is very expensive, even a temporary fix that I am working with the Finance Director on. My best hope is to have something mobilized within 4 to 6 weeks due to the conditions of the lake right now.

Guenther Park: None.

Covered Bridge/Trail: None.

Lakewood Beach Park: None.

Ferndale Park: Superintendent Hastings advised we have done quite a bit of work to the infield, regraded it, brought in some new sand and set that into motion. Unfortunately, the rain is keeping us from finishing it completely.

Freedom Park: Superintendent Hastings stated the preliminary dog park numbers are coming in at about \$7,200.00 for an 80 X 120 foot fenced in area. That would include removing the sod to stone (gravel #8 size), drainage for it and a fence and also an entry fence for it if you will. Typically, you enter that and acclimate the dog and send them in with the group. There is a grant opportunity which is bark for your park which I am on their mailing list and should be soliciting applications at any time now as it is typically in the spring.

Gary Green Park: Superintendent Hastings advised the Easter Egg Hunt was held but I did not attend personally but I have heard good things. It was well attended and the thousands of eggs were scooped up rapidly.

Memorial Park: Superintendent Hastings stated I believe the Park recently received some attention regarding flag poles. Councilperson Gee advised Easy Up Pole Company came out and replaced all of the flags for us and I have 2 volunteers that started work on the park and the weather has slowed us down. Hopefully, this coming weekend we will have all the rest of it done. Superintendent Hastings continued the other thing is we have cut through the road and attached to the sewer system working on improving the drainage of both the park and the streets around it. The streets around it are on our target paving list as well so the whole area should benefit from that.

Member Kovach asked anymore on your short summer program for the summer crafts? The proposal bringing back the summer craft program? Superintendent Hastings answered Debi Suarez is leading that up, that is earmarked to begin June through July as well as I have been in contact with Heather Gillespie for the Yoga classes which are scheduled on Wednesday from June 15 through July 23 and most likely she will be in the little room for that and she will do it in 2 age groups, 9 am to 12 noon.

NEW BUSINESS:

Grants: reported above.

Lincoln Nature Trail: Superintendent Hastings reported I got the last bit of information from the government agencies that I am working with. I thought I had brought it with me but I didn't. So, basically, they identified about 5 different birds, 2 turtle species and 3 fish species, all of which will be impacted by the Lincoln Nature Trail potentially. I wish I had brought because it was quite impressive. So, anyway, I have it all in order now for the city to reach out to an environmentalist group which I have to get the Mayor's approval on if I am even entertain that expense now to build a nature trail. Mayor Bring stated who knew we had all that wildlife there. Member Kovach asked what kind of fish?

Superintendent Hastings answered one was a sturgeon and one was a channel something and the other one, I had never recognized. Member Kovach asked are

these like really small, like salamander size? Superintendent Hastings answered well a sturgeon isn't small. This survey that they do is within your project area and one mile. So, if we are in the northern end of that trail, obviously within a mile of the lake. If we are excavating and digging and sending debris down the storm pipe that can get into that lake, that kind of thing. It is not saying that the project can't be done, they are doing their due diligence in identifying every living creature from here to the lake. But that report is what I needed to reach out to an environmentalist now who can help us circumvent around it, where we can leave this tree so, the warbler can survive. Then you leave this pond, so the spotted turtle can breed and things like that. Member Kovach stated I believe we went through something very similar when we put in that Brookside Trail. Superintendent Hastings concurred we did. Mayor Bring recalled when we put the drains down there at the last pump station and there were some bats that were affected according to what we had heard. Pat and I didn't really think that was true and we went there and talked to a gentleman who said oh, yes they are all over the place. In retrospect, we were glad because I guess there are quite a few of those things flying around. What kind of bat? Superintendent Hastings answered Indiana bat and spotted turtles and the Indiana bat is prevalent in 88 counties which I think is everyone in the state. Mayor Bring advised but there are quite a few and we want to keep them. Superintendent Hastings stated this is just a necessary function that identifies the level of engagement that you do now with state and federal agencies. I can tell you the city spend \$25,000.00 to go through 700-feet of an undeveloped street on our sanitary force main project because of the Indiana bat. So, that was 700-feet and we are looking at almost a mile here. So, the cost might be prohibitive but I will share all of that with the Mayor once I get it. But I was waiting for that report but it doesn't mean the project isn't going to happen, just a lot of hurdles. Member Kovach advised that report will be good for the future too. Superintendent Hastings concurred absolutely. Member Kovach stated I mean everything would be in place, I am just thinking that I have a feeling that we are going to be spending a lot of money down on the lake this year. So, perhaps to move along with at least a preliminary but I don't see us going ahead with a lot of the construction this year. Superintendent Hastings advised right, but I did apply for a grant to boot, maybe they will fund it but even in that we would have to provide matching money. I have applied for 2 different grants for the project 1 is about 80% funding and the other is about 60%. I asked the Mayor to use the Park Board as kind of a sounding board at a Senior Citizen's Round Table at our Community Center here a week ago Monday. It was a great meeting, we talked a lot but after the meeting I was approached by several people who are alone, widowed or whatnot, home their home and so forth and talking about different things from transportation to various other things. One of those things was possibly yard maintenance, taking care of

your grass. I started researching the concept across the state and to my surprise a lot of cities actually offer that service. I was thinking about proposing a pilot program and it would require the use of our park equipment and probably a summer part-time student and maybe a park worker. A pilot program with a very limited number to start, maybe a dozen and they would have qualifications of a) owner occupied, b) 65 and older, c) income requirement and d) a waiver and so forth. But it was just another topic that came up in kind of a desperate plea from some of the older folks that I was talking to on the challenges that they have on maintaining their residency here in the city. So, it is very unique and not unheard of, it does happen and I just wanted to present to the Park Board on any thoughts or ideas and whether I should continue researching it. Chairman Lewis asked would there be a fee involved? Superintendent Hastings answered no. Chairman Lewis asked no fee, so you would do it for gratis? Superintendent Hastings answered yes, based on the income. Cleveland for example does a program at no charge. However, they say they will be there once a month. I would try to do it certainly more regular than that but I would limit it so that we could absorb it, I know we could absorb the work especially if we get a couple of summer kids in here. I mean the staff that we have are fantastic, I haven't seen it so well in quite a while – they are very good. We have new equipment, everything is pretty efficient, so it is something that you could at least entertain and it is just another unique service. Aside from transportation it is probably the number one private thing that was talked to me about. The Mayor said he actually saw a grant in the paper here arbitrarily which I can research but knowing the grants I get, typically don't happen overnight. If this happens, I would like to do it over the next couple of months. Mayor Bring advised as we continue to look at things, Pat and I sit down every day and discuss stuff but you know just like the Civic Center over there I have always thought it should be for the people and now we want to help the senior citizens out. People say why don't we do something for younger people but in the whole array of things we have to look at everything we possibly can to help people out a little bit. It is always in the back of my mind, what can we do for these people and what we do for those people. Basically, we don't want to spend tons of money but I still think there are certain little things that we can do. The transportation thing, I think when I first became Mayor that was one of the things that I talked about doing. We are still trying to figure out how that is possible, but I think in the near future that is possible too. This little program here I think would be good and we had some people call here last year asking for that help. I don't think it is going to be too detrimental as far as our work force or even the equipment. We will have to have somebody oversee that and I can't keep dumping everything on Pat but regardless, I think it is a good program. We do have to get your permission to use the equipment and stuff. So, if you think it is a decent idea we will move forward

and get some thoughts and see what you think. Member Gee advised I think it is a good idea. Member Kovach stated how would that go along with like the lots that we end up cutting because they are over running. Superintendent Hastings answered totally separate, this program you would sign up for to establish your residency, your age, your income. The other ones are pure neglect and mostly abandoned. Member Kovach stated I get that but what crew is going to do this? Superintendent Hastings answered we would have to hire out an independent contractor then we bill them and put it on the tax lien and then the county ultimately collects and returns it to us. Member Kovach stated now the grant that you were looking at, how is that? Superintendent Hastings answered I personally haven't seen it. Mayor Bring advised it was in the paper, there is other counties, cities and states that are looking into doing this as we all get older, like me. People are either disability or say the husband passes away and the mother is there and can't do things or whatever. Some of it maybe only temporary until something, you know until they can move or sell the house. There are programs out there that they are looking to do. Member Kovach stated is this a cash type of grant where they just supply funding for what we are doing because I am looking at is okay, we could apply for this grant, even though we wouldn't get it, is it the type of grant that we could use any monies coming in for maintenance on the equipment that we have used previous to that? Mayor Bring answered I did not read the entire thing so I am going to have to get that paper and we are going to have to look at that a little bit more. Member Kovach stated if it is a funding type thing, then we could use our equipment and then this could come into it. Mayor Bring advised normal wear and tear, if you change the oil and sharpen the blade and you do that once a year. The equipment, as long as debris is picked up there shouldn't be that much abuse. As long as there isn't any like rocks sticking up, things like that. But whoever does it is just going to have to pay attention. For the most part, I don't think there should be that much of a maintenance problem on the equipment. Superintendent Hastings advised I would be willing to bet the properties that apply are in decent shape. People have pride in their ownership and that is why they want to stay there. I think the grant can expand or help to fund, not necessarily the first year. I have some databases that I can go search through rather quickly. My goal tonight was to present it to you because we need your permission to even do it and if you are open to it then I would build the program for your approval. Chairman Lewis stated I think I am open to it but I would like more specifics on what exactly is going to be the income cutoff, how many families can we afford the first year, so on. Superintendent Hastings advised like the City of Cleveland, I use Cleveland a lot because they are a major city and they have a ton of information. They have a waiting list every year, they have it all setup and signed up by April and we are already behind the 8 ball but it being a pilot program but if we are successful to

bring some around in June to somebody who is sweating, how they are going to stay in their home this summer. You don't think like a senior until you talk to them, until you hear what they are facing. From I can't get to my doctor to I can't pay for my medicine or my food today, it was just tough to listen to. I can bring you more information if you guys are receptive to it. Member Gee stated I think it would be a good idea like on an emergency basis. But to say I just can't cut my grass you know for some reason or they can't shovel their driveway. I think on an emergency basis, that is a great idea. Mayor Bring advised we have a property maintenance officer, so if we had some applicants he could go there and at least talk to them and find out if it is something that is viable or not. If he spends 15 or 20 minutes with them then that is not that big of a deal. Member Albaugh stated you are looking at 12 properties basically? Superintendent Hastings answered that was my first thought as a pilot program, that we would definitely limit to something very manageable and something that you would define your learning curb from. These mowers are big and theoretically my property or anyone in that neighborhood for example; you would be in and out in 10 minutes. Member Albaugh stated so it is probably only going to be like days' worth of work, if that. Superintendent Hastings answered exactly. Member Gee stated you are not doing this like every day or every week? Superintendent Hastings advised 12 properties maximum with the idea of 2 visits per month. Member Gee stated that's why I came up with the emergency thing because we don't want it to get overwhelmed. Superintendent Hastings confirmed you would be identified and then get on a waiting list and I could grant money in the meantime for the next season should it be successful. I dare say that those seniors have been a part of our community for a long time. Mayor Bring advised when we had that survey that was sent out, probably and Rosa will attest to this but most of the people that returned them were probably 60 and up to 88 years old. Member Kovach stated I gathered that was probably most of the people that came that evening. Mayor Bring stated no, I am talking about these surveys and there was a lot that were returned from elderly people as they took the time to fill all those out. I will say that the younger people that did fill them out they filled in 1 or 2 items and left the rest of it blank. Myself and Rosa have been reading most of those and there are a lot of elderly people in this community. Member Gee advised the percentage of the elderly people that filled them out lived here 20 plus years and are homeowners. So, there is a need and some of those surveys asked about having a yard maintenance program. Member Dailey asked how many of those surveys were actually returned? Superintendent Hastings answered hundreds. Member Dailey asked how many were sent out? Superintendent Hastings answered 3500, every mailing address in the city. Mayor Bring advised we had people bringing them in on a regular basis and people were also mailing them in, it was a very good return. Superintendent

Hastings advised in the nature of our business in city government if you get 5 people to respond, you are doing well. We are going to do a public wide survey and comment period (Q&A) on the sanitary sewer system, a 1.2 million dollar project coming up here with the EPA. The last time I did this survey I got 1 response and I am about ready to send out another one for a bigger project. It just doesn't happen but the point that I am bringing up is this senior stuff, I reached out to them and they came both physically and on paper. Member Dailey stated I think it is a good idea, it serves a sector that is kind of neglected. Superintendent Hastings advised it is unusual to talk to your city Park Board but it is one of the few assets that we have. When you entertain the Road Department it is on a 14,000 pound tractor so this is why this Board is here. It just makes sense, they are professional in grooming mowers and all of that and the city is at a point right now where we really do have some great staff who I think could absorb it. Member Albaugh asked how would you find who is going to be picked, I am most of them don't have Facebook? Superintendent Hastings answered they would apply, it would be a first come first serve pilot program and then you are on a waiting list, it is as simple as that. Councilperson Gee stated most of them do and they got to the senior center a lot. Superintendent Hastings advised we are going to expand the senior community center into a preliminary senior center here, my goal is in 4 to 6 weeks. I just have to iron out some details with the Mayor so that will be the first line of communication on that program and several others. I hope to get the Boy Scouts involved and the referrals services involved, I mean some of these people are asking me who can do their windows, who can take down their drapes. He quipped I am not going to ask the Road Department for that. Mayor Bring advised we have got the Meals on Wheels program too and those women over there are pretty familiar with who needs help, so we can ask them too. Superintendent Hastings advised the good news is with little effort of advertising we will most certainly reach our quota of a dozen or so quickly. Then word will get out and we will see if the program works. Member Albaugh asked how old are the mowers now? Superintendent Hastings answered a brand new one in 2 weeks and the other one is about 2 or 3 years old. Mayor Bring stated that was another one of my things, the one mower that we had was probably 15 years old. We kept repairing that but we upgraded and bought a new one and we got rid of the X mark that was 15 years old and just bought a new one. We have a walk-behind and a couple of other things. The X mark's that we have are very large, 0 turns that they do the parks with and they are a very efficient mower. The walk behind may be used a little more than even those X mark's with these properties being small. I would like to get another one of those walk behind's too. *Motion by Kovach/Second by Gee to go ahead and get the paperwork together for a viable program for this. Yeas All.

CITIZENS COMMENTARY: None.

MEETING ADJOURNED: With no further business before this committee,
*Motion by Kovach/Second by Gee to adjourn at 7:33 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 April 16, 2018.

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

Rick Rosso