

**Minutes of the Park Board
City of Sheffield Lake, Ohio
May 18, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Park Board was held Monday, May 18, 2020. Chairman Lewis called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:

Present: Lewis, Wright, Kovach, Gee, Dailey, Superintendent Hastings, Mayor Bring
Absent: None.
Attending: None

*Motion by Kovach/Second by Gee to accept the minutes of the December 16, 2019 meeting as written. Yeas All.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

PRESENTATIONS: None.

MAYOR REPORT/SUPERINTENDENT REPORT: None.

SUPERINTENDENT – PARK/RECREATION DIRECTOR REPORTS:

Superintendent Hastings advised under items below.

OLD BUSINESS:

Memorial Park: Superintendent Hastings has no report.

Freedom Park: Superintendent Hastings reported we are better than 2/3 done with the dog park. They have to custom make the gates which is the last part of it. The city started installing some of the features for it, but with the rain, a lot is concrete, and we haven't been able to set that. The Mayor and I have been discussing some parking options over there. One is the land across the street, a vacant parcel that the city tried to acquire on foreclosed taxes. When law Director Graves sent out for it, they sent us a bill, so we chose not to do that. However, South Dr. has a 60ft. easement so we would still be able to capture an area for cars to park by excavating the grass and putting in some stone.

Ferndale Park: Superintendent Hastings reports as you know, everything has been closed due to COVID-19. However, I have been in touch with the company that supplied the better part of all that equipment. The city does have a \$600 gift/donation they received from the grand opening there. I am hopeful to maybe add another feature this year.

Gary Green Park: Superintendent Hastings reported maintenance.

Guenther Park: Superintendent Hastings reported maintenance.

Erie Shore Park: Superintendent Hastings reported maintenance.

Boat Launch: Superintendent Hastings reported we were able to get the docks in, in early May. The sidewalk project from the covered bridge to the boat launch has

also started and been delayed by rain, with a delay on the pedestrian crossing flashing signs.

Shell Cove Park: Superintendent Hastings reported the city is working on the permanent permit for the ODNR and Army Corps of Engineers for the rock we put down, the armour stone. That was a temporary permit which has expired this month. We asked for an extension because we had to get some bathymetric, depth of the water measurements, which we were able to do.

West Shore Park– Superintendent Hastings reported maintenance. If the weather cooperates, we do have the goal of getting that once road seeded.

Lakewood Beach Park: Superintendent Hastings reported the city was contacted about using that park for access to do erosion control. The city has agreed to that in the past, but it was done in the off season. When David told the Mayor and I in early spring, we expressed that before we would entertain it, you have to take into account the beach season. I haven't heard back.

Brookside Nature Trail & Covered Bridge: Superintendent Hastings reported under construction, at least the extension.

Lincoln Nature Trail: Superintendent Hastings reports this is funded by a grant. The capital budget which is passed by the state legislature has not been passed. So, while the grant was approved, the funding is a formality that would otherwise have been passed. They haven't met to do so. Incidentally, that effects all of our major infrastructure projects too. The latest I read from ODNR, is that these projects will be postponed one year. They will not award the money until they can realize the loss and effect of the pandemic. Member Kovach asks those stand approved, just waiting for funding, right? Superintendent Hastings replies yes.

Pier behind Community Center – Superintendent Hastings reports the proposal like everything else has also been delayed. I am waiting to hear from them. Mayor Bring states I would like to add income tax is how we get most of our money in the city. With people being laid off, we are losing a lot of money. Last month was considerable and next month will be worse. We are going to be very cautious with spending money this year. If we don't have funding, we aren't doing anything. Member Kovach states I will guess that also the spark equipment that we were talking about over at Shell Cove is under that same premise. Superintendent Hastings replies correct. Member Wright asks you were looking to get new park equipment there? Superintendent Hastings replies yes. We explored several pieces of equipment in playgrounds and we are leaning towards a nautical theme. I wrote a grant, that wasn't awarded, but the Lincoln nature Trail was. We were going to consider self-funding it if we could. Member Wright asks what is the city's stance on using volunteer labor? Superintendent Hastings replies we would be receptive to it, but it's still a substantial cost. Member Kovach states we have done that in the past with Gary Green.

NEW BUSINESS: Member Wright states I would like to ask some general questions to catch up to speed since this is my first meeting. Has there ever been discussions regarding fees for pavilion rentals or permits for parking at the boat

launch? This would be to generate some revenue however meager, for the parks department. Superintendent Hastings replies we have three more years on the boat launch before we could charge anything. The pavilion has been talked about several times and we are of the mindset that we would develop a popularity with it. Our calls for it are pretty few and far between trying to reserve it. We have researched a reservation system if the popularity grows. We get a big draw for wedding pictures on the deck at Shell Cove. Occasional birthday parties at the Gary Green pavilion but nothing that I'd have to schedule. Lakewood Beach park also for weddings, about five a year. Member Wright states understandably with the COVID pandemic there's been a strain on the budget, but has there been discussion on hiring a Parks and Rec director? Mayor Bring replies the finance director and I mentioned that last year and we were going to discuss that, but right now we have a hiring freeze. Member Wright states last year he brought in the owner and lead architect of Deru Architecture to discuss a potential master plan for the park system and I believe that would be beneficial for the city. What happened with that? I know she did not get hired. Mayor Bring replies I had that conversation with Mr. Hastings, and I thought we were doing a pretty good job on our own for what we started with. So, we were going to continue the projects. We are trying to see how far we are going to get with him doing the grants, etc. We had a lot going on as well so at the time, so I thought it wasn't worthwhile to bring somebody into the mix with everything going on. Superintendent Hastings states we still follow the projects of the current master plan. We are still achieving those goals. In my opinion, a Parks and Rec director is a much greater priority. Mayor Bring replies I agree. Superintendent Hastings states I fell I am doing well assisting the Mayor as I was the former Park director in the 90's, so I've been at this for decades. I would just like the record to reflect that we do have a good representation and board and administration. I was disappointed when the former administration eliminated the position to save \$3500. Chairman Lewis states before we get any further, I think this is a discussion that should happen directly between Mr. Hastings and Mr. Wright and not at Parkboard tonight. Maybe come to some type of agreement before and address that at the meeting. Member Wright asks is the new sidewalk in front of the shopping center part of the parks district? Superintendent Hastings replies no, but we consider trail maintenance, the Brookside Trail, the Lincoln Trail, that connecting function of maintenance with our park staff. The goal is to connect the lakefront parks with these trails.

CITIZENS COMMENTARY: None.

MEETING ADJOURNED: With no further business before this committee,
*Motion by Gee/Second by Kovach to adjourn at 7:22 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

Brandy Randolph

I, Brandy Randolph, 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 May 18, 2020.

CHAIRMAN

James Lewis

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

Rick Rosso