

**Minutes of the Park Board
City of Sheffield Lake, Ohio
March 15, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Park Board was held Monday, March 15, 2021. Acting Chairman Kovach called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:

Present: Lewis, Wright, Gee, Dailey, Mayor Bring, Council Representative Kovach, Superintendent Hastings.

Excused: None.

Attending: None

*Motion by Gee/Second by Wright to accept the minutes of the November 16, 2020 meeting as written. Yeas All.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

PRESENTATIONS: None.

MAYOR REPORT/SUPERINTENDENT REPORT: Mayor Bring has no report.

SUPERINTENDENT – PARK/RECREATION DIRECTOR REPORTS:

Superintendent Hastings reports below.

Memorial Park: Superintendent Hastings reports there are some outstanding grants here and at Gary Green Park.

Freedom Park: Superintendent Hastings reports I started discussions with the Mayor, and we have on our target road list South Dr. which begins at Lake Breeze and goes in front of most of Freedom Park. We are considering expanding the paving of that area to incorporate parking. It will be based on the mayor's final decision and how the bids come in. This is one of the complaints we have there with the amenities we have added.

Ferndale Park: Superintendent Hastings has no report.

Gary Green Park: Superintendent Hastings has no report.

Guenther Park: No report.

Erie Shore Park: No report.

Boat Launch: Superintendent Hastings reports the benches that were removed are going to be replaced with some swings. They are prominent in state parks. They are blue and match the recent construction of the restrooms. I will reach out tomorrow about dredging. We were able to skip that last year because the lake level was so high. We typically don't bid that work because it is below the threshold of a public bid and usually ranges between \$15,000-20,000.

Shell Cove Park: Superintendent Hastings reports we finally received correspondence from ODNR and USACE and they have stalled our final permit of the Armor Stone we placed there. It is more of an engineering function, so it's not a problem. That is ongoing.

West Shore Park: Superintendent Hastings has no report.

Lakewood Beach Park: Superintendent Hastings has no report.

Brookside Nature Trail & Covered Bridge: Superintendent Hastings has no report.

Lincoln Nature Trail: Superintendent Hastings has no report.

Pier behind Community Center: Superintendent Hastings has no report.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Superintendent Hastings states I wanted to comment on the improvements we are doing behind the Shoreway Shopping Center which include a new road, new water line and also have sharrows which are bike and pedestrian lanes painted on the asphalt. The greater goal of that is to connect that with the Lakefront/Brookside Nature Trail and start to accentuate a 20,000 sq. ft. building the city owns and maybe start discussions of a rec center there. It is part of the master plan recognized by the city. Representative Kovach asks the bike path you intend to put there, is that going to be on the width of the pavement that is already there or is the pavement going to be expanded? Superintendent Hastings replies it would be the pavement already there. Member Gee asks how is the grant going for the splash pad? Superintendent Hastings replies both that grant, and the memorial grant have yet to be answered by the state. The Lincoln Nature Trail is a finished design and I hope to have that out to bid by late spring. If I knew we had the funding for the splash pad, we would incorporate and approach while we are paving to the pad. Member Wright asks you and the mayor have been discussing a rec center at the old bowling alley, correct? Superintendent Hastings replies yes. Member Wright asks how early on in the discussion is it? What are the things you are weighing to determine whether or not to do it? Superintendent Hastings responds the plan would be to get an architect to review the current structure, what it would need and then a conceptual drawing of a rec center and the cost associated with it. We don't believe it is something the city can fund itself but would consider a conversation of going to the public for a vote and small support. With a big investment by each household/income, we could have a fantastic rec center there. Mayor Bring states last time we sent out flyers for the master plan and most were answered by people 60 and older. We talked about sending out a different format like Survey Monkey so we could get some younger people to respond to something like that and see how much interest there is, because there may have to be a small levy or something. If we get enough positive response, we could possibly move forward. We would like to improve that building and area. Last week everyone was saying we shut down Ferndale Park. Well, we did for one day. It was because we got a notice from a resource officer at the school saying there was going to be a fight over there. The principal also emailed us. We went there and there was a congregation of kids. Many would not listen to our police chief, so we sent everyone home and closed the park. We are not going to put up with any nonsense in the park. A couple weeks ago we had a new resident move in next to The Civic Center. She was using the center for parking purposes. The city does not allow that. If we let one person do that, then anyone over there should be allowed to do

the same thing. At certain events, we don't even have enough parking to facilitate what is going on in that building. I explained we don't allow it at the Shoreway Shopping Center or the boat launch for the same principal. She proceeded to badger me and say she doesn't understand it, etc. and it got a little nasty. She said she would start complaining about any noise, etc. coming from the center. We are going to have the properties across the street surveyed and the property next to hers and we will probably put a fence up there because we are not going to deal with this all summer long. Representative Kovach asks on the potential center at Shoreway, that is technically not in a park, but are you going under the guise of parks and recreation? Superintendent Hastings replies as part of the plan, the city parks and rec would buy and own that building. The future of the Shoreway, as is the mayor's intent, is to sell it. Part of the rec center cost would be acquisition of the building by the city. We would buy that, still sell Shoreway, we would have the community funding a rec center and it would stay a rec center regardless of the sale or redevelopment of Shoreway. Member Wright states I spoke with Ed Honse and his associate about the skatepark after they presented. Have you heard from them since then? Mayor Bring replies no, I have not. I plan to soon. Superintendent Hastings states in my opinion their first step is to have the design that way we have a goal to reach. I can't blindly pursue a fund that I don't know the cost. Member Wright states we were talking about safety in the parks, etc. and the top sheet I am passing out is a playground safety checklist that I sent to Superintendent Hastings. We were looking to implement that with the park staff. It's a liability thing. It protects the city. The second thing I handed out is a job description I would like to enter into the minutes. I think the city needs a recreation director. Mr. Hastings and his staff have a handle on all the physical parks, the real estate and equipment, but I believe we need a recreation director. Someone who can be involved in helping the youth sport leagues, which are all struggling. This would help them recruit and maintain volunteers, logistics and programming. Our soccer league has pretty much folded. There is one team that exists and there is no administrative volunteer staff anymore to help and grow the league. I know the cities baseball leagues are struggling. I think if there were a rec director, it would be a great benefit to the community. Member Dailey asks did those numbers drop due to COVID? Member Wright replies no, but it certainly had an effect. This has been going on for a handful of years. Parents just don't want to volunteer anymore, no one is stepping up. Mayor Bring states this was brought up last fall and I sat down with the finance director to discuss it. She believes that we could probably put that in the budget. We have to make sure we get the right person. I didn't bring it up again because of what started happening with the pandemic. We can look at it again. Superintendent Hastings states I agree with the concept, I think it is what the city needs.

*Motion by Kovach/Second by Gee to add two documents to the minutes. Yeas All.

CITIZENS COMMENTARY:

\MEETING ADJOURNED: With no further business before this committee,
*Motion by Gee/Second by Wright to adjourn at 7:30 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 March 15, 2021.

CHAIRMAN

James Lewis

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

Rick Rosso