

**Minutes of the Park Board
City of Sheffield Lake, Ohio
January 24, 2022**

The regular meeting of the Park Board was held Monday, January 24, 2022. Chairman Wright called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:

Present: Wright, Gee, Dailey, Mayor Bring, Service Director Hastings, Council Representative Kovach.

Excused: None.

Attending: Citizen.

MINUTES: *Motion by Kovach/Second by Dailey to accept the minutes of the Nov. 15, 2021 meeting as written. Yeas All.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

PRESENTATIONS: None.

MAYOR REPORT: Mayor Bring reports chairman, I know you asked for the budget, in addressing that, it is in a format so you can see where the money is. As far as spending, how and where it goes, it is the administration that does that. The finance director sits down with Mr. Hastings at the beginning of the year and goes over all the upcoming projects and she puts the money there. It is already put in line for a specific purpose and some projects can take almost 2 years to come to reality. I just want everyone to understand. There is money sitting there, but most is already spoken for. Chairman Wright replies the reason I asked for the budget is generally for our education as board members. At first glance, you can see so much of this budget is for staff and you can't touch that. Then where it appears that there is some open money, like the large blocks of it, that is for grant funding. There really only appears to be a few line items that seem accessible. Those would be for small repairs around parks. I do believe the board members should fully understand how the money works within the park district. Mayor Bring responds I agree, it is a benefit for the board.

SERVICE DIRECTOR / PARK/RECREATION DIRECTOR REPORTS:

Service Director Hastings reports on projects/earmarked funds. The first one is a 400ft. long pier and the first step is to apply for the design and lateral drift studies. That is \$100,000. This project is out for a CMAG Grant to pay 50% of the cost. The splashpad at Gary Green Park is going to be the subject of Nature Works 2022. It comes in at about \$178,000. The board was approached about a bowl at the skate park, and I asked for a design/cost estimate. We did get some that came in around \$136,000. Some quotes from day to day expenses have come in. We need to replace one of our zero turn mowers. Lincoln Trail is under construction now and earmarked to be paved in spring. We installed posts and ropes at the covered bridge. The city continues to expand our recreational opportunities over at the community center like boy/girl scouts, etc. Our latest discussions are to

reenergize and return to the youth craft programs. Mayor Bring says the goal of the civic center was to have these types of activities at the community center.

Chairman Wright asks what does Ohio Edison do to help with the lighting? Service Director Hastings replies the floodlights are paid for by fixture costs. All the streetlights in the city and some in the parks are paid with a flat fee, so if we have issues, we call Ohio Edison.

Memorial Park: Service Director Hastings has no report.

Freedom Park: Service Director Hastings has no report.

Ferndale Park: Service Director Hastings has no report.

Gary Green Park: Service Director Hastings reports more damage. I no sooner ordered \$800 in parts and there was more damage found. I have to consider whether to keep investing in this or not. Mayor Bring states we had our police look into this and are going to put some cameras up. We have a good idea of who did it. We contacted the father and said if we do find out it was him, you will have to pay for the damage. Since then, there has been no more. Service Director Hastings says I reached out to Ohio Edison about the lighting here and they installed new poles and lights. I also asked for improvements at Ferndale Park and Freedom Park.

Guenther Park: Service Director Hastings reports we started concession stand repairs and we have been clearing out brush along the nature trail.

Erie Shore Park: Service Director Hastings has no report.

Boat Launch: Service Director Hastings has no report.

Shell Cove Park: Service Director Hastings has no report.

West Shore Park: Service Director Hastings has no report.

Lakewood Beach Park: Service Director Hastings

Brookside Nature Trail & Covered Bridge: Service Director Hastings reports has no report.

Lincoln Nature Trail: Service Director Hastings has no report.

Pier behind Community Center: Service Director Hastings has no report.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

CITIZENS COMMENTARY: Scott Novak, 5210 Taylor Ct. Sheffield Village states I came today because I have been discussing with Rocky Radeff the possibility of a garden at one of the parks or multiple parks. I am part of a green team at Bendix and help initiate and organize green items throughout our facility. We started a garden at the company a few years ago and our new Avon facility has an employee garden. Rocky posted on Facebook saying he was looking at the parks and if there would be an interest in having gardens, etc. and I said I would be willing to help. I wanted to see generally, what the interest is from the city. We did some benchmarking with local communities that already have it. Mayor Bring replies Mr. Radeff did bring that up with us and asked if we would mind. We said absolutely not, let's get it going. We are on board with it and should sit down and discuss it. Service Director Hastings asks is this food or flowers? Mr. Novak replies typically you would have multiples of vegetable gardens, depending on size. At Bendix, we actually did a small plot of flowers. We did some studies on butterflies and honeybees, and so having something for them would be good. We

definitely need to sit down. Chairman Wright says I think this is a wonderful idea and I reached out to North Ridgeville's park director to try and get some information. He sent me their application for a plot. I think the biggest hurdle is having the infrastructure in place of who is in charge, who is taking care of it, etc. I think we have a major community park in each ward, right? There are at least 4 large community parks that would be great for a garden. I think there is space in each one for it. Maybe each ward could have a certain amount of area in each park, etc. Those are the kind of things we need to review. Mayor Bring says we have to be careful on cost, etc. We should start with 1-2 and not all at once. It is better to start small. I think a flower garden would be best to begin with. Mr. Novak says one more thing, you brought up boy/girl scouts using the civic center and my wife actually runs two troops for Sheffield Lake/Village and she knows many other leaders. They run into an issue where there aren't a lot of kids signing up. Much of their material is stored at each leader's house. The boy scouts actually rent out a space for theirs and use troop funds. So, my wife wondered if there was any possibility of somewhere in the city where there may be some type of storage for nonprofit groups? Service Director Hastings asks are all the items stored in a tote? Mr. Novak replies yes, typically. Service Director and Mayor Bring talk about the old parks/old firehouse building as possibilities. Representative Kovach says if you are thinking of starting with the flowers, I would think over at Freedom at the edge of the dog park, working on the equipment side and work it up the fence. Mayor Bring says there is one over on Lear by the Rock Pile, it is a really big garden, it's fenced in with a top over it.

NEW BUSINESS: Chairman Wright says I would like to go over the budget. As you can see, starting with park salaries down to sick bonus is staff. Stormwater is nothing to be messed with. Where are the line items where you have monies that are basically for grant writing purposes, etc.? Service Director Hastings replies they are spread out over park buildings, park maintenance, land management. The Windsor account fell off this year. The \$75,000 in park maintenance would be used for the boat launch. The zero-turn mower will take more than half of the equipment and repairs line. Park building and land management would be ones I would earmark for grant match. The city would also go to other 101 lines for engineering. It is not as cut and dry for a single line item. Chairman Wright asks about the concession stand at Guenther Park and would that come out of building and repairs? Service Director Hastings replies yes. Chairman Wright says I would encourage my fellow board members to visit the local parks and keep your eyes out on things like this. Service Director Hastings states I would also comment that the park budget wasn't always this robust. Chairman Wright passes out the charter for the park board noting the things the board is responsible for. Chairman Wright says the first chapter refers to a Director of Recreation and I would like to see that item filled. I think the position is critical for further development in the city. Some things I saw that were interesting was firearms and fireworks, you can't carry any in a park. The line right below that says no person shall appear in a park in a dress not properly belonging to his/her sex. Not sure if we have moved beyond that.

There was something about advertising and signs and maybe we should talk about allowing some. What are the set hours of operation of the parks? Service Director Hastings replies they close at dark technically, but those things can be clarified.

MEETING ADJOURNED: With no further business before this committee,
*Motion by Kovach/Second by Gee to adjourn at 7:45 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

CHAIRMAN

Jonathan Wright

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 January 24, 2022.

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

Rick Rosso