

**Minutes of the Park Board  
City of Sheffield Lake, Ohio  
March 16, 2026**

The regular meeting of the Park Board was held Monday, March 16, 2026. Chairman Wright called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:**

Present: Wright, Fritz (late), Keely, Barker, Mayor Radeff (late), Council Representative Kovach, Rec Director Pederson.

Excused: Service Director Hastings.

Attending: Councilman Fogel.

**MINUTES:** \*Motion by Keely/Second by Barker to accept the minutes of the February 16, 2026 meeting with any noted corrections. Yeas All.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

**PRESENTATIONS:** None.

**MAYOR REPORT:** Mayor Radeff reports recently we did meet and talk about the events and things we're doing this year. Scott's got a lot of good ideas. I talked to a couple other people about some ideas we have coming too. It's real exciting. Like you said, we're going to continue to progress, obviously keep the events that really had great turnout and adjust and make new events that we're excited for. One thing that also is moving forward is our Dunkle Day. There's a separate group that's putting together Dunkle Day, which is going to be at the boat launch, correct? Representative Kovach replies right, and that's set for Saturday, August 8th. Mayor Radeff says we're hoping to kind of make that a new yearly event. Representative Kovach says we're going to be going over to the VFW and giving a presentation Thursday night. Mayor Radeff states I just talked to the newspapers and they're going to do a little article on it. They're going to have an art show with it and stuff. Additionally, like I announced at last council meeting, we did receive another \$500,000 from Bob Latta towards the rec center. That was something that we applied for a year ago and then they never actually brought that section for a vote. This year they voted on it and we were one of the projects that were picked. So, we're excited. That puts us over a million dollars we have funded towards that rec center. I was at an event this weekend I met a couple that moved into Sheffield Lake a couple of years ago. They lived in Avon Lake, they lived in Avon and they were just really touting how much they like our parks and our walkways. They're excited to know that the connectivity trail is going to continue on their side. They're on the west side of the city and that's kind of where we're going next. It was just nice to hear from somebody who said that they've lived in Avon and Avon Lake and worked there, that they prefer it here and they liked the community and they like how everything's going. They love the parks. Obviously, I just want to give the

kudos to the park board, because I know the parks have been something that's been worked on for the last 20+ years. So, those are the things that we really want to continue to promote in the city, is it's a great place to raise a family and have kids. We have the recreation and we have the parks and we have hopefully soon a rec center that is going to be an extra advantage to the citizens of Sheffield Lake. Those are things that people really look for when they're looking for a place to live. You can always go to another city to shop and eat but to be able to want to stay in your town that you live in and enjoy the amenities there is important. If you haven't seen, they are working on putting the new fence up at Ferndale for the baseball field.

***SERVICE DIRECTOR REPORT:*** Service Director Hastings is excused.

***PARK/RECREATION DIRECTOR REPORTS:*** Rec Director Pederson reports Later this week or this weekend, I'll have posted a full schedule of our big events for the year coming up. We do plan on doing 3 movie nights again outside. We're gonna do the 2 food truck events. One of them, I'm hoping to incorporate more with an end of summer bash that would be ideally at Guenther Park. So, we'll see where the splash pad's at by that point, but looking at August 16th for that, that would be a kind of a food truck, splash pad, kids' play date, community. We could cook or supply some food for the community at that event. Just have a good community day right before the start of school. Member Fritz says just a point; we start school I believe August 17<sup>th</sup> this year. Rec Director Pederson replies it would be the weekend before school. Whether or not the splash pad's done, we'll be having something that day, because this past year we did 5 play dates for the kids in the community, and so this one to kind of encourage the maybe a little bit older kids to come out to some of these. The fifth one would now be part of this back-to-school bash. We'll have the foam party at that, play some basketball, etc. So, the other big thing is this year, looking at putting a 3-on-3 basketball tournament together. I had talked with one of the basketball coaches and youth basketball advisor, Justin Lopez, about kind of what his thoughts were, and he thought it was a cool idea, so I'm hoping that maybe we can even get some support from the high school team, the players there, or even the middle school players to put something on this summer. As far as some things coming up, this week on Wednesday, if you've seen the advertisement, we do have Zumba classes that are starting at the community center. So, I believe we're at 12 officially registered. Then today at the Monday coffee group, the Zumba instructor came in and we kind of gave a real brief rundown of what Zumba is. She was there for questions, and we may have gained another 2, maybe 3 coming. That's 4 weeks that we're trying this out, and it's gonna be at 5:30 the next 4 Wednesdays. In addition to that, some more fitness opportunities. I spoke with a lady, Heather Gillespie, who is a yoga instructor, and she's looking to do something here with yoga, and even with the seniors doing some training. She would be interested in coming Mondays to the senior group and doing some chair yoga with them as well. We got a parents night coming up on April 10th. So, we're gonna start that back up for the last couple of months of school before summer

break. Today at Monday Coffee, we had St. Patrick's Potluck. We had about 40-45 people there. We had visitors from the police, fire, and service depts. come hang out as well. They had a lot of corned beef and a lot of different Irish foods. In that group also coming up April 20th, they always have done this mind challenge, which is an independent group that puts on a big trivia contest. That's where the one group from Sheffield had won the \$2,500 the one year and came through and got the bocce ball for it set up. Representative Kovach states they actually won a smaller prize last year. Rec Director Pederson responds yeah, and we've got, I think 17 of them signed up for it again this year. That will be at the community center for 4 straight Mondays. We host and they bring their vendors. They do all the running of the trivia contest, but we just supply the location, the tables, coffee, all that kind of stuff. Next week's a pretty fun one for that group. We're bringing a lot of the outdoor games inside just due to the weather, but there's enough space in there that I'm gonna put up a pickleball court. We're bringing some cornhole boards, ladder golf and then one of the people said that they had a, like small putt-putt course that's mobile. So, doing some fun stuff next Monday.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Representative Kovach says we did pass the legislation for the donation for the pavilion to be put up over at Memorial Park. Mayor Radeff says you also passed the funding for the splashpad. Chairman Wright asks do we have construction dates for either of those projects? Mayor Radeff responds he plans on the splash pad being built in July and ready to open by August. Grants/awards- Mayor Radeff reports just like I said is the 500 grand towards the rec center and we should be hearing from a couple of these grants that we filed regarding, actually one of it is for the outside part of the fields that should be hearing back from that soon. I believe we should hear from the CMAG grant as well within the next month or two as well. Representative Kovach says they should be starting on the next phase of the connectivity trail. Mayor Radeff says yeah, those will be moving forward this year. Then that path, like I said, as you can see, they're already almost done there. I think they're just going to wait for the weather break and then pave it, the Metro Parks. I know that Councilman Fogel and Pat and I have talked about doing a couple bridges there too, because when people build their own bridge, it's made out of anything, but if we could get some bridges that look consistent and safe, that's be nice. Chairman Wright says I would ask any members of the park board, if you are supportive of the Rec Center, you know, that we've been talking about for quite some time now, and planning and working towards, please show up. As I'm sure you guys are all aware, if you pay any attention at all, there's some pretty vocal opposition to it. If you support it, then please show up at a council meeting and say your piece. Again, we've sat here at these park board meetings and we've talked about it, we've gotten excited about it. I've long held that parks and recreation here in the city is, I mean, not only is it a quality of life thing for the people who already live here, but it is, as the mayor alluded to earlier, when people are looking and shopping for a home, driving around our community and seeing the parks and the

progress that's been made and the amenities that we have here is obviously something that's going to make people more interested in bringing their families and their money into our town. I do think that this park board and this community has done a fantastic job over the last 20 years of doing renovations, of planning, of putting new state-of-the-art equipment in and continuing to progress in those places. Obviously, I'm a supporter of the community of the rec center and would love to see it happen. I have been to council meeting and raised my voice. I've seen a lot of people who were at that same meeting who were there in support of it and said nothing, which was crazy. So, as a park board member, if you do support it, you know, find some time to show up and have a voice in support of it.

**CITIZENS COMMENTARY:** *Councilman Aden Fogel, 4351 Brockley Ave.* says the Metro Parks trail, they have been doing a great job on that. I talked to a couple of the contractors for the Metro Parks. They took a lot of topsoil out of there. I think it was like a combined idea. I know Chief Kory had mentioned it. A couple of the residents had mentioned possibly putting bridges across from the dead-end streets. I talked to Pat. I was envisioning like maybe a metal park bridge. He said he would just put culvert pipe in and cover it. So, it would only be like \$5-600 dollars for each one. I think that's probably the best option. Mayor Radeff asks how many streets are there over there? Councilman Fogel replies I don't know how many come all the way out. I think we had it at like 8-9. Mayor Radeff says they put all that money into doing that path, we can put the bridges. Councilman Fogel says it makes sense to me that you can access that trail from those streets rather than ride all the way around the Ferndale. We talked about putting a bridge over to connect Sheffield Rd. to the trail that curves that goes into Ferndale and Forest Lawn. A couple ideas for that, make a memorial bridge. We have the Brookside Memorial Park that you have to be a Brookside graduate to get a brick in the park. There's a lot of people in the city that, like my mom, my mom graduated from Lakewood High School, but she lived here on and off for like 51 years. She can't get a brick in the park, but we could get like a brass plaque to mount on the bridge. I've been talking to Pat about it. I know I talked to the mayor about it. I also thought maybe we could dedicate that bridge to Aaron Bober. He grew up a couple of streets away from there. So, I've been getting some bids, not really bids, just kind of estimates from a couple of different companies. I talked to one company that did all the bridges for Lorain County Metro Parks, they did bridges for Summit County. He's supposed to get back to me with a couple of ideas. Mayor Radeff asks and that would connect to where? Councilman Fogel responds you have the trail that runs down, it's actually Forest Lawn paper street, the trail. Then it curves and goes into, it ends at the Day Ditch and then it curves around and it goes across the wooden bridge, I think Pat built, that goes into Ferndale Park. So, it would go, you'd be able to access, the bridge would be off of Sheffield Rd. So, you'd come over the bridge and then you'd be right where the trail kind of turns. My vision would be to add 2 parapets, like brick parapets with stone tops on each side. Then you could have like metal, I don't know what they're called, but they kind of like guide you onto the

bridge and it keeps people from going off the side. I think a part of that was, there's a community curves, community comes around, there's like a wooded area that goes through to Forest Lawn or Marion that dead end into that wooded area. I think we're gonna try and put a trail through there so that you'll open up the whole west side of the city to the trail system. Then you can go into the, maybe even put a trail on that wooded area. There's a sidewalk there now next to the house that's on Ferndale, it's like one house before you get to Belle. So, that would connect the whole west side of the city to the trail system. Now tomorrow, I know we have the developer from Harbor Woods coming in and I mentioned to him at planning and asked him if he might consider donating a park or opening up the park in there. They had a park planned for their development. It's gonna be private. So, I looked at Ferndale Park and I thought, what kind of park don't we have in Sheffield Lake right now? We got a dog park, a pool was out of the question, too expensive, and I thought of an inclusive park. So, we're back into Ferndale, where the mound of dirt is. I think that would be perfect for an inclusive park. I'm gonna ask them again tomorrow if they'd be willing to, I think you said that the project, the total value of the project was gonna be \$16 million. So, I think \$160,000 towards a park. I don't think that's unreasonable. It's less than 1% of the total value of the project. Chairman Wright asks when you say an inclusive park, what do you mean exactly? Councilman Fogel replies so, I know this girl that has an autistic adult son. I asked her, I said, are there any parks that are like designed for autistic people or, and I said, handicapped people and I guess that's not politically correct anymore. So, it's disabled persons. She sent me a bunch of pictures. She said there's a park in Avon, that was the closest park to her, but they go all the way from like South Amherst out there. They have like different, equipment. They have like a swing that you can put a wheelchair in. There's other equipment that's kind of like sensory, playground stuff. So, I think \$160,000 is less than 1% of the total value of that project. I don't think that's unreasonable to ask him for that. So hopefully they'll agree. I talked to Rocky about it. He said he thought Ferndale was a good spot too. I think rather than move that dirt out of there completely, you kind of put like a semi-circle buffer in the back that you have the natural barrier with the trees along the path. So, it kind of keeps it quiet and kind of relaxed setting back there. If you guys, if you can come to the, like you said with the rec center, if you support that, if you know anybody that supports that, if they could come to the work session or one of the public hearings with the developer, that would be great. I got a lot of good response back on Facebook too. I know the one girl, Ashley, she said she set up the adaptive league for the Sheffield-Sheffield Lake Youth Baseball. She had some good ideas. So, and I also sent her some grant information over from Norfolk Southern. My friend is the community ambassador for Norfolk Southern. So, if you use her name, there's a better chance of getting the grant. Then if the grant does get accepted, she'll come out to the city. Chairman Wright says what you're describing there used to be my specialty once upon a time and I'm definitely in favor of it and in support of it. I wonder if there's enough separation between the baseball field. Ultimately, those sorts of playgrounds have a very large footprint, like a very large footprint. I just

wonder if you got a baseball team out there practicing, especially if they're older and you got some sluggers out there. Short back and forth about other baseball field/water tower/buffer. Councilman Fogel says I also would like to see a bathroom to put in there, just a unisex bathroom. Mayor Radeff says there used to be one there, right in between the two fields. All the plumbing's there. Councilman Fogel says one other thing that I did wanna say about Avon Lake, I think our trail system is above and beyond Avon Lake. Notwithstanding their trail behind the library is nice, but it's not real long, and I think the trail system is one of the biggest improvements for quality of life in Sheffield. I think that's probably the best thing that I've seen done here since I've lived here for almost 50 years. The boat launch was nice, but I don't think as many people use the boat launch that use the trail. I think that our trail system is phenomenal. Representative Kovach says took me over 30 years to put it in. Not to pat myself on the back, but that was a workload between myself, Len Smith, Bill Gardner who was the service director at the time, and many councils and approval of a lot of funds. Mayor Radeff says I think the bridge that Aden's referring to, I love the idea too of it being a memorial, because I think a lot of people don't realize there are a lot of people that lived here, but they didn't graduate from Brookside that have been successful or whatever. Representative Kovach says you could put a brick path leading up to it. Mayor Radeff replies right, that was a discussion. Councilman Fogel says my idea was kind of, because the bridge would be like the metro parks bridges that are kind of/have like the steel truss that have like the H look. So that we don't have to mount anything to the bridge itself, we could get some stainless-steel rails. I thought maybe the plaques could be the size of the cell phone, maybe a little bit bigger. We could have stainless steel rails on both sides of the bridge, maybe 4-5 high, which gives us almost an unlimited amount of space. We could have the stainless-steel rails pre-drilled so that it'd be really easy to mount the plaques. We'd set it up like Brookside Memorial, the nonprofit, which I even thought about maybe your nonprofit, Steve, or we could just create a new nonprofit just for the bridge. Let somebody do the same thing they do basically like Annette does with the Brookside Memorial. Just collect the money, order the plaques, and then either have someone come out, contractor come out and install or have someone from the service dept. install it. Mayor Radeff says the big goal with that too is we want to start connecting our paths to the west side. Rec Director Pederson says just a comment on the playground. I love the idea, especially since that space isn't really utilized for much anymore with that second baseball field being gone. The one thing I would try to push for is to improve the parking situation there. That park gets from 5-8 Monday through Friday, in the summer months, there's T-ball up there practicing and I'd hate to, you know, them taking all that parking and people wanna use the park. Councilman Fogel says here's another thing too, I own a lot in that right there, when you come off of the trail right by the fire hydrant, I own a lot there technically on Rowelyn. I think it's 40 by 100 foot deep. I would be willing to, I think I paid \$500 for it. So, if the city could use that, if they can incorporate that into a park, if they needed that for parking or anything else, I don't think I'm ever gonna do anything

with it. So, I would be willing to give it to the city. Mayor Radeff says that's the other option too is with the mound, but also doing the parking in between those, so it's parking behind the fence. Councilman Fogel states Pat said he's in the process of demolishing the water tower. Mayor Radeff says and when the phone tower goes up, they pay us per month, which the goal is to use that money, just put back into that park. It's supposed to be a good chunk every month that they have to rent it from us, so. Councilman Fogel replies I think if we can get the developer to give us good foundation, get it started. I don't think that's unreasonable. I mean, we're gonna make 3 or 4 million off of that project. I figured 1%, less than 1% is probably the starting point. I don't wanna scare him off, but at the same time, I don't know. He said that they had donated a trail, something else to treadway Ponds when they did Treadway Ponds. Chairman Wright asks have you approached anybody for a design for that playground? Would you like me to initiate that conversation with someone? Councilman Fogel replies absolutely. Mayor Radeff says one thing when SSYBA and us worked with Ashley to put up that adaptive league is we get a lot of parents from all over the county. The biggest thing they say is they like it here. Like they do an adaptive league in Avon, but they don't feel like they're treated as well. So, like people like to come here and to have that park, I think it'd be a big attraction just in general. When you're doing things like this, this is where a lot of businesses like to donate money into is for adaptive anything. Chairman Wright states I mean, I can tell you that for a truly inclusive playground design, the price tag is, it gets up there. So, in order to chase those funds, having the design is very, very important. Then also understanding like, we definitely want to put in front of that committee of people whom you're talking about and get their input on it. But having that design and then the interaction with the community, especially people who are stakeholders, for lack of a better term, is very important, to sort of consolidate momentum and then go after the money. I know a company who does it very, very well. And, you know, at a minimum, I could get them out to Ferndale. I'll give you a call and maybe meet them out there and just start the whole design process. Let's get a basic design together, take it to your committee and start that all over. Councilman Fogel replies Leanna Stark made a good point; so, Ferndale, you know, if you have kids that aren't disabled, they can use one end of the park. So, you can take all of your kids there at the same time. Brief discussion about what can be done with the mound. Chairman Wright says the first thing you talked about, bridges, you know, anything that creates more accessibility to parks and recreation in the community, I'm always in favor of. I love the idea of all the bridges, bringing people into the parks or onto the pathways. You know, I'm assuming that sooner or later when the metro parks, you know, do whatever they're going to do in, what is it, Sheffield Lake Park? Mayor Radeff replies yeah, they call it Sheffield Lake Reserve Park or something. Chairman Wright says I'm sure there's gonna be some passive element to it where there's walking paths, so. Mayor Radeff says yeah, I know they've been waiting on the Army Corps for 4-5 years, because they want to do, like you said, paths with bridges and so they can still do it even with the wetland. So that's their long-term goal. Councilman Fogel says I thought maybe we might be

able to connect, like, courtside apartments off of Mariners Watch to the park and then maybe come down south to the hall or somewhere coming out on that side. I know that the girl that was here from the grant to do the transportation safety, she mentioned that they might be able to put a trail from on Lake Breeze to connect Sheffield Village to Sheffield Lake. There's also, the day ditch runs all the way from the tracks on Idlewood to, I think, Colorado Rd. and there's power lines that run through there. So, I don't know if there's an easement for the ditch or who has the easement there, but that would be a great place to run a trail. Maybe connect that along Romolo's property from Lake Breeze to kind of connect that. Brief back and forth about where trails would connect. Unidentified person says I would just like to add, when you're looking at designing, we're talking about these bridges at the end of the streets to connect to the Metro Parks Trail that just went in, and the bridge we're talking about over by Ferndale to connect over. Just keep in mind when we reach out for designs to think about spaces where people can stop and sit as well. I know we've got, by our bridge up by the lake, we've got a nice little picnic area. Representative Kovach replies the design of what you're speaking of on the long-term goal, there's gonna be benches all along all areas of the trail and going up to the park. Mayor Radeff says I know we applied for a grant that would allow us to put some solar lights in there, too, for parts of the trail. Councilman Fogel says we could have memorial sponsors. Brief back and forth on the gaga pits/Eagle Scouts projects.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None.

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** With no further business before this committee,  
\*Motion by Barker/Second by Keely to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:47 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.

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CLERK OF COUNCIL  
*Brandy Randolph*

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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 March 16, 2026.

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PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL  
*Rick Rosso*