

**Minutes of the Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
Held in the Caucus Room of the Municipal Building, 36080 Chester Road,
at 7:00 P.M. on Thursday, March 9, 2017**

Chairman Tom Mitchell called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL:

Other members in attendance were: Jim Schmitz, John Weigman – School Board Representative; Mary Berges – Council Representative; Mary Brady – Mayoral Appointee

ABSENT:

Cady Cianciolo and Lee Belardo

GUEST:

Tony Rini

City Representative

Diane Corrao – Parks & Recreation Director

February 9, 2017 MINUTES:

A motion was made by Mr. Weigman and seconded by Ms. Berges to approve the minutes as submitted of the February 9, 2017 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission. The vote was unanimous in favor and Mr. Mitchell declared the motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. PROSPECT OF BASKETBALL COURTS AND SOCCER FIELDS USAGE AT AVON VILLAGE SCHOOL PROPERTY

Mr. Mitchell stated we touched on this at the last meeting and he asked if there were any updates.

Ms. Corrao said she spoke with Superintendent Laub and he is more than willing to allow us to use those fields. She stated they are going to move two U4 and two U5 soccer leagues to behind the Village School Board offices. Ms. Corrao clarified the U4s were coming from Northgate Park and the U5s were coming from Schwartz Road Park. She advised they are moving the leagues from Schwartz Road Park because we are not sure when construction will start on the proposed added roadway and parking, but it could go out to bid as soon as next month and construction could begin in May or June and this avoids a disruption. Ms. Corrao stated the field is large enough and she would be scheduling Port-a-Potties to be brought in and the existing playground area is perfect for the younger children.

Ms. Corrao stated the basketball court at the Village School has a large slab of asphalt that includes other activities. She said if we turned the basketball court to face north and south she would be able to have two courts next to each other. Ms. Corrao indicated the courts at the Village School are smaller because the basketball courts at Schwartz Road Park are full NBA size - 94' high, but 84' high courts could be added for high school/college play. She indicated she is seeking quotes to do an overlay on the asphalt and painting the court lines. Ms. Corrao said she is also pricing the cost of basketball goals. Ms. Corrao stated if she gets approval from the Mayor and the final costs provided she could see it being ready by this summer.

Mr. Weigman inquired if it was known the last time the asphalt was improved behind the Village School as he felt it has been at least eight years. Ms. Corrao indicated she did not know,

but it is in really good shape and may only require a sealer. Mr. Weigman felt it was a good thing and the School Board was 100% in favor of making it available to provide more offerings to the kids.

2. SURVEY REVIEW

Mr. Mitchell stated the strategy was to get some feedback from people on our first cut of the survey a month ago in the assigned categories. He noted the intent is to close it down that night unless they think of a reason to keep it open and do a final data extraction and Mr. Weigman would get it in a format that was easy to analyze and make a final pass through it.

Mr. Mitchell said he had Veteran's Park to sort through all the comments to gather themes. He ended up with four themes:

- Trails – Positive reinforcement of added trails or trail enhancements received the highest number of comments
- Logistics
 - Parking
 - Pavement
 - Second entrance possibility
 - Playground enclosure possibility
 - Lighting
 - Bike lane
- Sidewalks to get to the park.
 - It was noted that while sidewalks are not in every area of the City, the program has come a long way in recent years. Ms. Corrao added that you can get from park to park throughout the City by sidewalk.
- Port-a-Potties or restrooms by the east end of the football field

Ms. Brady reviewed the comments for Schwartz Road Park.

- Parking and entrance is the biggest concern
 - Ms. Corrao stated the bid packets were being finalized for the additional entrance and construction could begin as soon as May depending on timing of the bids and contractors schedules
- Playground equipment – Updating and Maintenance
- Hiking and Bike Trails – to all parks
- Beautification – more trees in parks
- Lighting and Maintenance
- Sports – too much emphasis vs. not enough emphasis
- Field Maintenance Issues
- Dog Park – wanted
- Dirt Bike Path
- Archery
- Sledding/Ice Rink
- Tennis Courts
- Restrooms/Concession Stands
- Concerts

Ms. Berges reviewed the comments for Little League Park. She stated she took the comments that were mentioned three times or more.

- Improving the quality of the fields
- Providing restrooms or Port-a-Potties in the back area of the fields
- More parking
- Moving the skate park away from the Little League Park
- Providing batting cages and extra pitching mounds

Actionable suggestions included:

- Providing recycle containers
 - It was considered in the past, but you cannot control people putting food in the recycle containers and then the whole container is no longer recyclable
- Cleaner restrooms
- Benches for the all the teams
- Old-timer softball league

Ms. Berges reviewed additional comments from the survey if they were mentioned more than three times.

- Ice Rink – most frequently mentioned – Indoor
- Sidewalks to all the parks and the aquatic facility
 - Ms. Berges noted that hopefully sidewalks to the aquatic center would happen this year on SR83 from Kinzel to Detroit.
- Improve the park information on the City website
- More walking trails
- Recreation Center
- Bike Paths
- Dog Parks

Actionable suggestions included:

- Making information more readily available or clearer to understand
- City website to include more information on parks and recreation events and offerings
- Provide dog waste containers
- List when the Parks and Recreation Commission meets and provide agendas of meetings
- Provide recycle containers for all parks

Mr. Weigman read Ms. Cianciolo's review of the Avon Isle

Add (heavily repeated items marked with *)

- Fire pit* - The Commission wondered about liability for a fire pit.
- Second Entrance*
- Wider Driveway*
- Yoga/Pilates offered during morning/daytime*
- Cable/Satellite TV*
- Historical Signage
- Offer full day rates in addition to hourly rates
- Offer sitting area by creek*

Improve/More

- Improve Kitchen
- More Community Events* (craft shows/mini concerts)
- Make recycle containers available

- Better marketing of Avon Isle as to what it offers*
- Actionable items

- Add recycle containers

Mr. Weigman reviewed the comments for Heritage Square (Gazebo)

- Small
- Not a park
- Never visited
- Beautiful
- Great decorations in the winter
- Flowers are beautiful the rest of the year
- Update the landscaping
- Add concerts or events

Mr. Weigman reviewed the comments for the Aquatic Facility

- Love it!
- Add lazy river
- More shade / Umbrellas – Portable Umbrellas
- Access by Bike Paths or Sidewalks (Rte 83 frequently mentioned)
- More affordable\
- Improve Concessions
 - Healthier options
 - Cheaper options
 - Option to bring in outside food

Mr. Weigman reviewed all the additional comments on the survey

- Love Avon
- Love the Parks
- Love Parks and Rec
- A large number of people thanked us for giving them a voice with the survey
- Field House
- Sidewalks
 - Walking
 - Biking
- Make the city website more searchable for Parks and Rec offerings
 - Ms. Corrao indicated they use a sports software program and they are looking at linking it from the City website since her department has constant changes and updates. Mr. Mitchell added the website is much better than it was just a few short years ago. Ms. Corrao noted that even though the sports programs are not run by the City, they are held on City property and it would be nice to link sports sign-ups/schedules somehow from the Parks and Rec page.

Mr. Weigman indicated he glanced at the Northgate comments and a complete summary would be provided at a later date.

Mr. Mitchell reviewed French Creek Park and the question asked if it were to be developed as to what they would like to see offered at this park.

- Ice Rink
- Trails – walking, nature, gardens
- Dog Park
- Playgrounds
- Sled Riding
- Multi-purpose training facility

Each of the Commission Members stated the survey comments offered a lot of praise at each park reviewed.

Mr. Schmitz advised he is talking to senior citizens directly; he felt they were mainly interested in trails and hiking and walking and beautifying the parks with trees, shrubs and flowers. A brief discussion was held regarding the location of the paper surveys and whether those still need to be turned in and entered so the survey could be finalized and closed. He stated the seniors were interested in when the presentation of the survey results would be made to City Council. Mr. Mitchell said they have a tentative June date for presenting to City Council. Ms. Berges inquired of Mr. Weigman if he would email all the results to the Commission Members to which he replied he would.

MOTION

A motion was made by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Ms. Brady to close the Survey of the Parks and Recreation Commission. The vote was unanimous in favor and Mr. Mitchell declared the motion passed.

It was noted, the remaining paper surveys turned in would still need to have their data entered. Mr. Weigman commented that there was a 50% increase over the last survey. Ms. Berges said she would like to see the rankings for the different programs from the ones they have percentages. The Commission briefly reviewed the percentage results.

FUTURE DISCUSSION TOPICS:

- Survey Comment Results – First Pass Review – Close Survey
- City Engineer to come to future meeting – TBD
- Survey Report to City Council at the June Work Session
- Reevaluate Dog Park at July Meeting of Parks and Recreation Commission

COMMUNITY VOICE: - No updates

REPORTS:

- COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE– Ms. Berges indicated she had nothing new to report.
- PARK AND RECREATION DIRECTOR– Ms. Corrao stated the City Engineer is working away on the roadway for Schwartz Road Park and she hoped to have something definite to report next month. She advised the High School has a new trainer who is teaching a strength training program for 5th thru 8th grade. Ms. Corrao said she is partnering with Gabby Catana Augustin from the Avon Performing Arts and she would be doing a couple of mini sessions and she has musical and theater background. She said these mini sessions would be held at Avon Isle on Tuesdays and Thursdays and all the details are on the website. Ms. Corrao felt

there would be a really nice offering of programs for this summer and we are maximizing the Community Center at Northgate Park for a lot of the programs.

- SCHOOL BOARD REPRESENTATIVE – Mr. Weigman said the schools have multiple surveys going right now and once those are compiled he will bring the summation of them to this group as well.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS:

Mr. Schmitz had no comments.

Mr. Weigman had no further comments.

Ms. Berges said there was a nice article in the Sun News this morning about “Recreation Officials Ready to Evaluate Residents’ Survey”. She felt it was a very nice article and a lot of nice comments about Ms. Corrao and her programs and partnering with the different groups for the recreation offerings to the community.

Ms. Brady had no further comments.

Mr. Mitchell stated next time there is a power outage and they have to move the basketball game he suggested they check the Parks Board schedule first.

Ms. Corrao asked if guest Mr. Rini, of the Avon Soccer League, had anything he would like to say. Mr. Rini thanked the Commission for allowing him to listen in and he mentioned that he and Ms. Corrao were partnering to make sure everything is ready for the soccer season. He said he would try to come to more Parks and Rec meetings to try to stay engaged. Mr. Rini said it is really nice to hear what goes on at these meetings.

Ms. Cianciolo was absent.

Mr. Belardo was absent

ADJOURN:

A motion was made by Mr. Weigman and seconded by Ms. Brady to adjourn the March 9, 2017 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission. The vote was unanimous in favor and Mr. Mitchell declared the motion passed.

Transcribed by Barbara Brooks, Clerk of Council
City of Avon