

## VERMILION PARKS & RECREATION BOARD

Minutes of February 18, 2020 - 7:00pm | Municipal Complex Courtroom (687 Decatur)

Roll Call: T. Parker (Chair), B. Scholtz (Vice-Chair), W. Warden, D. Brudney, J. Keck.  
Not Present: E. Wakefield; E. Cann

*Also, Present:* C. Kuhns, RECREATION DIRECTOR; Tony Valerius, SERVICE DIRECTOR

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T. Parker called the February 18, 2020 meeting to order.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

T. Parker acknowledged for the record that Dennis Brudney is serving on the Pool Subcommittee and is making good contributions.

**B. Warden MOVED:** J. Keck seconded to approve the meeting minutes of January 21, 2020. Vote 5 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

### **CORRESPONDENCE/AUDIENCE/COMMUNITY GROUP USE PERMIT:**

T. Parker conveyed that at the recommendation of the Parks Supervisor he sent a letter to the Associate Director for the Center for Public Impact at Bowling Green. They're trying to apply for an Environmental Protection Agency FY2020 Trash-Free Great Lakes Grant Program focused on Trash Removal in Great Lakes Communities. He explained that if the grant of \$12,000 was awarded it would allow the City to purchase a smaller beach cleaner because the bigger beach cleaner the Parks Department uses doesn't work on the narrow City beaches. The smaller one can be towed behind a tractor.

T. Parker said the City did receive notice from the YMCA to see if they could use Main Street Beach for Beach Bootcamp. However, they were informed they needed to submit a Group Use Permit. To date the board has not received a permit, so this matter was tabled.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORTS:**

Chad Kuhns, Recreation Director reported that basketball season has another two weeks or so.

T. Parker shared on M. Wiesenberger's behalf that the winter projects list is progressing. He reported that on Friday, September 21, the Parks Supervisor has invited Erie Metroparks, ODNR, Erie Soil & Water, and Coastal Management to talk about potential plans for Sherod Park. They will meet at the Main Street office from 9am to noon, so if any Parks member is

interested, they were advised to contact Marc. G. Fisher reminded the board there can be no more than three members from the Parks Board.

#### Budget/Finance Subcommittee Report:

T. Parker said last month they approved the encumbrance of \$60,000 for the beach restroom project, which was from the 2019 capital budget, and they have another \$60,000 set aside in the 2020 capital budget, so he thought it would be a good time to encumber the money even though they don't have to spend it yet. If Western Reserve knows the money is coming it can count as a local match towards some of the grants they are trying to get.

**B. Scholtz MOVED;** B. Warden seconded to encumber \$60,000 from the 2020 capital budget for the use of the new beach restrooms. Discussion: B. Scholtz said this is something he was comfortable in voting for because it was something they had intended to put in the budget. Vote 5 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

#### Main Street Beach Revitalization Project:

T. Parker conveyed that the Mayor has sent a letter to Eric Plato who has been the caretaker and who has been paid through February. His services will be terminated at that point. This will save some money in the excess donation fund as they get into more planning expenses.

He said the Morning Journal had publicized an article with regards to the 'Concerned Citizens' group. He sent the board correspondence regarding questions about development restrictions on the Inland Seas Museum Property. He said any existing or future improvements must be park improvements. They can't be for residential or commercial uses, or as government offices. Any fees associated with reserving park enclosures must be put back into the property and cannot be a revenue source for something else. Additionally, when they finalize site plans, they must be submitted to the Western Reserve Land Conservancy for review and approval because of the conservation easements that are on the property. Another concern he has is what happens to the allowable square footage of impervious surface if the mansion remains? He noted that the Wakefield House is 0.072 acres and the Museum Addition is 0.127 acres, so roughly two tenths of an acre is in those two facilities. If they're talking about adding a pavilion at some point that roof would be impervious. They're also talking about cutting in from the west side of Main Street into the property and regrading it for the expansion of the parking. He said impervious surfaces cannot exceed .6 acres on the whole property. This includes the current parking lot that's at the top of the hill, sidewalk and stairs, any patios they would be put in, and new parking. It is their intention to share this specific information with the 'Concerned Citizens' group as soon as they meet. They will have somebody from Western Reserve attend as well. Additionally, future improvements must be typical to a park. This whole area is a city park now since it was acquired. Whatever is done there has to be typical to a park by the conservation. Again, it can't be residential, commercial, or for uses of government offices.

He said this correspondence explains how the subcommittee got to the concept they came to. They started out by looking at the survey and saying – refurbish what's there and make it a

public venue. Gradually things got whittled down to what they could really do there with predictable revenue sources and the ability to raise money for all the capital stuff. Another concern he noted is that if there were uses of that facility for offices and events, they already have a parking problem down there at least in the summer months. Will they have more competition for the limited spaces they have; adding 15 – 20 spaces of that. These are some of the concerns he feels they should share with the ‘Concerned Citizens’. They can’t give up any square footage from their concept. He noted he couldn’t find Tom Bodde’s rendering of how many square feet that added parking would be.

B. Warden asked if the proposed parking spaces on the east side of the property will be hard surfaced or permeable. T. Parker said permeable is considerably more expensive and the city will be doing the street part of this, so it’s out of their lane. He said the utilities will be renewed before the street is paved and this would need to be addressed by the administration and City Council. However, the concern remains – they need the square footage for parking. How much they need if the museum addition is gone is one thing, but does this leave them enough. He was uncertain because he didn’t know the square footage. B. Scholtz produced a copy of the rendering, so T. Parker explained that 5,662 square feet is needed for the added turnaround loop and new parking area. The Museum north addition is 4,973 square feet and the Pilot House is another 222 square feet, so they would be 700 feet short if the Mansion remained.

### **Vermilion Community Pool Update:**

T. Parker explained the subcommittee had their second meeting tonight and they had a guest from Vortex attend. This is a company that makes water features such as splash pads. As they move forward, they hope to develop various concepts to show the public and get their feedback. If spray pads are a good idea, do they build one in conjunction with the pool or do they build it somewhere else.

### **Strategic Plan/Operating Plan:**

T. Parker tabled discussed on this plan until the March meeting. He provided the board with his recommendations via email. G. Fisher asked if he could forward this email to her as well.

### **Financial Reports:**

T. Parker stated he hadn’t received reports for January. G. Fisher apologized for not sending them as she received them on Friday and forwarded them to City Council but forgot to forward them to the Parks Board. She advised the board she would email the reports to them in the morning.

B. Warden said he noticed the clock in Exchange Park is no longer working and wondered if they could put in a battery-operated mechanism behind it. T. Valerius said it’s wired, and he wasn’t certain what happened and didn’t know if a battery-operated mechanism could be installed to run it. They would need somebody familiar with clocks look at it. T. Parker noted

the clock was repaired three or four years ago but would make a note to pass this along to the Parks Supervisor to investigate getting it repaired.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**J. Keck MOVED;** B. Scholtz seconded to adjourn the meeting. Vote 5 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**NEXT MEETING:**

Tuesday – March 17, 2020 @ 7:00 pm

*~Gwen Fisher, Certified Municipal Clerk  
Vermilion City Council/Boards and Commissions*