

VERMILION PARKS & RECREATION BOARD
Minutes of May 19, 2020 - 7:00pm | Zoom Meeting
Live streamed on www.cityofvermilion.com/meetingvideos

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

Also, Present: C. Kuhns, RECREATION DIRECTOR; Tony Valerius, SERVICE DIRECTOR; Mark Weisenberger, PARKS SUPERVISOR

Guests: Mayor Forthofer, Homer Taft, Mike Rini

B. Scholtz, Vice Chairman called the May 19, 2020 meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

B. Wakefield MOVED: J. Keck seconded to approve the meeting minutes of April 21, 2020. Roll Call Vote 6 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

CORRESPONDENCE/AUDIENCE/COMMUNITY GROUP USE PERMIT:

Marilou Suszko said that Main Street Vermilion has a public art project called the postcard project and they have 15 sponsored postcards, which are oversized re-creations of nostalgic and historic postcards that depict Vermilion; mainly historic and vacation like scenes, and they have identified 15 places throughout town for their placement. The two she is bringing before the Parks Board will be placed at Rotary Park – it is an image of the old McGarvey’s and the way it is positioned is that you’ll be looking through the bridge at the site where the old McGarvey’s existed. The second one is in Friendship Park and it is the Vermilion bridge. Both are positioned that the back unfinished sides will go up against landscaping, so that you will not look at an unfinished edge. If they are not acceptable after they are up, they will invest in doing the backs. The installation is up in the air, but they should probably start installing on private properties within the next couple of weeks. It’s a seven-week rollout.

E. Wakefield asked what the Rotary Club thinks about having this postcard in Rotary Park. M. Suszko did not ask as she thought it was a park. E. Wakefield said they take care of this property and she mentioned it to the head of Rotary who heard about it but didn’t know anything about it. She said the postcards are stunning and of high quality, but her concerns are about putting them in these parks because they are so small and they already have a lot of things in Friendship Park with display areas, tables, etc., and she thinks it will overdo it. If they put something on the ground level, they are asking for a lot of vandalism. M. Suszko said not every location has a building available and she understands about vandalism which is something that is always a possibility, but they can’t do something on the basis of what might

happen and they're willing to take the risk of repairing them. They also have coatings on them should something happen. She picked Rotary Park mainly because it's one of the more unutilized parks and people don't come there, so they thought this would be a good location to bring people to this park. E. Wakefield said if they put up this postcard won't it take away some of the vista too. M. Suszko said not where it's located. E. Wakefield said it's just a small park and she could see Sherod and Showse as they have bigger spaces, and she is concerned about these two parks.

B. Warden said he has a problem with them being on the ground too and unintentional damage could result from people touching the surface. B. Scholtz said if there are issues with vandalism, will Main Street take care of them. M. Suszko said the agreement is a five-year installation and then they come down, and yes, they are responsible for taking care of the maintenance. They will not be flush with the ground though. They are meant to be photo opportunities as well. E. Cann said she loves the McGarvey's postcard and thought it would be a great placement as she drives by this park every day she does feel it's unutilized, but overall thought it would draw more traffic and awareness of this park. She said if approved, they should make sure that Rotary is on board and comfortable with it. M. Suszko said she would make sure they are okay with it. She said that Rotary is sponsoring one postcard that will be placed in the middle of town. She said the placement is by the seating area, but it's off to the far northeast edge of the park. E. Cann said regarding the vandalism it's a valid concern, but she would imagine they will take care of the artwork quickly, but she suggested that if it is a vandalism issue, then they could have a backup plan to move it. M. Suszko agreed and said they don't want to repair it every week and they would remove it. Every postcard could be vandalized, but they don't want this to stop this project. M. Weisenberger asked if the postcards would be placed in existing landscaping and M. Suszko said yes. E. Cann said with the ones lower to the ground maybe they could investigate a commercial non graffiti coating in clear for artistic purposes, so maybe they could explore this. M. Suszko said the anti-graffiti coatings are clear and they have explored this with the artists. E. Cann said she is excited about the project.

J. Keck MOVED; E. Cann seconded to approve the two postcard project locations at Friendship Park and Rotary Park. Roll Call Vote 5 YEAS; 1 NAY (Wakefield). **MOTION CARRIED.**

Judy Kernell of Main Street Vermilion said in living near the beach she sees all the people that are not respecting the social distancing regulations that the Governor and Mayor put forth, so she thought that Main Street could get maybe three banners reminding people about social distancing from their neighbors. She said in Florida they had a big sign in Florida saying, "What is social distancing at six feet, and the reply was, remember alligator." So, she thought maybe they could do something fun and positive and they were thinking on getting three 8' banners, one on either side of the walkway on the south side and in the middle of the north.

She said they thought of wind vents, so the wind goes through them, so they are not like balloons.

E. Cann asked if Main Street will bear the expense and J. Kernell said yes. M. Weisenberger asked how they would be hung. J. Kernell said they would somehow attach them onto the deck, so it would not damage the deck. She doesn't know exactly the size, but somewhere between 8' wide and 3' tall. G. Fisher asked if this would need to be approved by the Historic Board. J. Kernell replied yes. G. Fisher said they may want to check with the building department on temporary signs. T. Valerius said if the Parks Board approves this, then the building department wouldn't have an issue with it as a temporary banner. J. Kernell said they would take the banners off when it was appropriate to do so.

E. Wakefield MOVED; B. Warden seconded to approve the banner placements at Main Street beach as discussed. Roll Call Vote 6 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Alex Marks, Executive Director of Church of the Open Door said he had an opportunity to speak with the Mayor this morning and he is bringing to the Parks Board an opportunity when exploring multiple locations within the area – Avon Lake, Elyria, Lorain as ways to fill the gap during the existing COVID-19 health crisis, by reaching needs in communities that are further exposed. One issue brought to the forefront is food insecurity in the way of fresh produce. He noted that Second Harvest and others have done an amazing job with a lot, but fresh produce has a larger need than what has been fulfilled from what they are seeing. So, drawing on some of his past experience and what Open Door has done, they have begun conversations with other cities about putting together Urban Micro-Farms on vacant lots. It caught momentum in Lorain and Elyria where there is an amplified need. They were able to work with them on a few grants and partner up with National grants to put together a couple of micro-farms in Lorain. They thought this was a way Open Door could reach communities they are serving and if there are needs in Vermilion, then this could be a partnership opportunity where Vermilion and Open Door could be providing the resources to produce fresh food. It gives them the opportunity to employ folks who are unemployed maybe because of the health crisis. It's something that Open Door has some financial capacity to do and with some of the projects they have met about 50% of the costs, but they really would be looking to see if this would be of interest by the City of Vermilion and then they can strategize on how to implement it in the city. In meeting with the mayor, he suggested that the Parks Board with their space might be interested in the concept. The grants they put together for the other cities provided about 3,000 square feet of growing area under hoop greenhouse cover. They are looking at about six months of growing and materials are around \$5,000 - \$6,000 and the labor investment is about \$9,000 for two employees for a six-month period. They had block grants through HUD to meet the income of the residents. They are wide open to see what the City of Vermilion could do when pursuing. Mayor Forthofer said in the conversation with Alex, they are basically looking at space. The employees and materials

would come from the grant and he thought that the Parks could have space at Sherod or Showse. He asked Alex to articulate the size of space they are looking for. A. Marks said they can design different sizes, but they were using about 15' wide up to 90' long. He shared visual pictures of what the greenhouses would look like. It's a covered hoop house. E. Wakefield asked if they considered doing something like this on the Open Door property as she believed Sandy Kish Jordan had a vegetable area that she was growing about six years ago. A. Marks said there is space available and depending on the location it's nice to have something like this within the community, so they have community around the church, but they would also like to use space that is under-utilized by the city. However, they certainly would consider this area.

Mayor Forthofer asked the board if they have space that could be used for this purpose. B. Scholtz said it sounds really interesting and he would be interested to learn more about it, but also would like to know what M. Wiesenberger's thoughts are on it. M. Wiesenberger said it definitely is something they can look into as there are a lot of parks that have done community gardens, and this is a step up above that. He said they can look at areas that they potentially can place them. He asked Alex what type of timeline they are looking at. A. Marks said they can operate off any timeline, but obviously they are in the beginning of the growing season. They have a six-month growing season, but they can start it as soon as they can identify and approve a location.

B. Warden asked if they are talking about this because there is no room by the Church of the Open Door. A. Marks said they can utilize this space, but he's an advocate of partnerships and collaborations and if they find an advantageous area to reach the community around it and/or utilize something that is under-utilized then this is the reason for this discussion. This is a matter of seeing if there are additional collaborations and benefits.

E. Cann asked if this is something they manage for growth and distribution or is this a family garden that has a specified area to plant and maintain. A. Marks said they would manage it like a farm and would distribute the produce to the organizations or directly. He said he has done community gardens that have been done well, but the next year they can degrade.

E. Wakefield said it's an interesting idea and the Parks Board needs to identify spaces that would be appropriate and then get back with him. B. Scholtz agreed and didn't hear anyone being opposed to this, so he would entertain them exploring it further. He asked the board if they were opposed to him, Terry and Marc exploring this further with Alex, so they can report back next month. The board agreed. B. Warden said the growing season is upon them, so they shouldn't put this off. G. Fisher suggesting having the three of them meeting with Alex, and then they could hold a special meeting if needed. B. Warden said it bothers him about the potential of the lack of security at Sherod or Showse. Who would be responsible for keeping an eye on this after hours? What would prevent somebody from cleaning out the produce. A.

Marks said this is risk he his willing to take. Generally, if somebody cleans it out, there is probably a need there. It is not the ideal way of distributing, but then it's probably not throwing tomatoes in the lake. They want to make this a partnership with the community so generally they find they're giving food away. By the end of the day if there is vandalism, then this is a risk they will need to take. Mike Rini mentioned that the parks are closed after dusk. B. Warden said based on previous experience with vandalism, he thinks people just do it to be a pain in the neck. He thought West Breeze Park might be a closer option that problems could be reported. If it was in closer proximity to the church, they would have better control.

B. Scholtz asked if G. Fisher could get Alex connected with the members mentioned above.

Maria Santoferraro was present to discuss the beach yoga she would like to propose . She understands the parks are closed till the end of June, but if they have approval for activities in the park after June, then can they proceed with beach yoga. She put guidelines in her proposal about people social distancing on the beach which shouldn't be a problem with all the space on the beach. She has a mic system so she can project her voice and she wouldn't bring any sheets down to the beach, so people are responsible for setting themselves up and she would make sure the distancing is upheld. B. Scholtz said they only decided on activities for June at this point. Mayor Forthofer asked how many people she has per event. Maria said anywhere from 10-30 depending on the time of the year. She cannot control the number because people just show up since it's donation base. She was thinking about doing it at Sherod Park because they have the huge grassy area overlooking the beach. Mayor Forthofer said the intent was to avoid craft fairs, beach class events, etc., that attract more people. He hates shutting down everything. Maria said she has received a lot of emails as people are wanting to be outside enjoying nature, but she wants everyone to be safe too. Mayor Forthofer suggested giving conditional approval presuming there will be about 10 or so in attendance, but if there is 60 people then they should revisit the permission. Maria asked if they should do this on Main Street beach or Sherod. Mayor Forthofer said wherever. B. Scholtz said they need to go on the premise that there is no more than 10 people in attendance. Maria said she will have more than 10 people, as it could be around 15-20 as the average. Mayor Forthofer said they need to go on the assumption that it's a small group that is extremely spaced out. B. Warden said if they stress the social distancing mandate this is the first step. Maria said she can control this. Mayor Forthofer said she may want to consider two groups of 10, so it remains consistent if another group looks at this. Maria said this year they are going to hold yoga on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and perhaps even Saturday, so this should help spread it out, and she can let people know they have to limit their attendance by limiting the number of times they come per week. E. Cann asked if the beach yoga is promoted and do they have to RSVP. Maria said no they just show up and this is based on donation. Mayor Forthofer said if this fits within the spirit of what they're trying to do with staying within the increments of 10, then she needs to understand if it becomes a problem, they will need to address it.

Maria said she will check out Sherod Park as it might be a place to spread out and give them a better option to social distance. M. Weisenberger thought Sherod Park might be a good idea and Maria agreed.

B. Scholtz MOVED; E. Cann seconded to approve the beach yoga through the month of June as a conditional use of Sherod Park with two separate groups of approximately 10. Roll Call Vote 6 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Grace Methodist Church – Church Sunday Services – Tabled as no representation. E. Wakefield heard they were exploring other options but was not certain. G. Fisher said she would try to reach out to them.

DIRECTOR’S REPORTS:

Tony Valerius, Service Director mentioned they are unfortunately not going to be able to get a truck for the Parks Department due to the possible financial constraints they may see due to COVID-19. It was determined that maybe they should hold off on buying a new truck for the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Therefore, they will keep their truck. He said Marc will use an available street department truck as needed.

Secondly, he said as part of the new meter replacement program that will start soon, all the water meters will be replaced and there is a system of collectors that had to be installed so these collectors collect all the data from the meters instead of city personnel driving around collecting the information. They are 90’ telephone poles which have to be placed on city property. In fact, two of them will be in parks; one at Sherod over by the old ball diamond, and the other at Showse Park at the ballfields. They may be able to take an existing pole and replace it with a new pole. There will also be one at the pool in the right of way. These were the best locations for the poles.

B. Scholtz shared on behalf of the Parks Board their extreme gratitude and appreciation of Marc Wiesenberger’s one-year anniversary with the Parks Department as Parks Supervisor. He said he has done a great job and it’s been a great year. Marc said everyone has been wonderful to work with and he looks forward to a few more years.

M. Weisenberger updated the board on the Victory Park gazebo and conveyed they found a painter (Atlas Painting and Decorating) and noted they received a quote for \$2790.00 which includes all the prep work, cleaning the surface, sand/scrape, prime and to add two coats of paint. The money has been budgeted.

E. Cann MOVED; D. Brudney seconded to approve the expenditure to Atlas Painting and Decorating for the Victory Park gazebo in the amount of \$2,790.00. Roll Call Vote 6 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Chad Kuhns, Recreation Director said he has been continuing with football by meeting with their league to continue with their plans to figure out the availability of their fields. They are looking at options with other communities on different start dates, etc. They are trying to work through this, and they are looking at a condensed season with starting around July 1 depending on how things go. Assuming everything goes back to normal maybe they can start practicing mid-June. There are a lot of answers he doesn't have currently, but he is watching the Governor's guidelines to assure the safety of the kids. He is looking at 8 games over four weeks. J. Keck addressed the guidelines the Governor put out regarding arrival at the fields, coaches, spectators, health department reporting, etc. It's an extensive amount of guidelines. According to the Erie and Lorain County Health Department and the school, they're probably looking at some other guidelines coming out by the end of the week and they are looking at opening the school facilities depending on what comes out this week based on these reports. He noted that he emailed these guidelines to the Parks Board. C. Kuhns said he will do the best he can to start the season in a safe way to allow something to do for the kids. J. Keck said they will have to decide on who will track all this stuff and they will have parents sign waivers. Mayor Forthofer said from the city's point of view they will wait until May 26 to see what the universal guidance is on this. He said some municipalities are closing all pools and all recreational programs. C. Kuhns said he is only aware of Amherst cancelling. J. Keck noted that Hot Stove was cancelled, but they are now going to try to have an abbreviated season. B. Scholtz said it sounds like they are in a holding pattern.

Marc Weisenberger said that Robbie Brown of the Shore Thing contacted him the other day about looking for some guidance on when and what day to open down at that beach. They seem to be on board with the COVID guidelines, and they are open not to opening right away. They may open mid-June or even July. Mayor Forthofer said from the city point of view he treats Shore Thing like any other business on the Governor's orders – no parades or no gatherings of 10 or more. If they keep the crowds down under 10 then he considers them like any other business.

Marc said they received pictures today regarding shoreline erosion at Showse Park and his thought is that they should establish a committee to get this process started. B. Warden said he sent the board the picture because he talked to the owner of the house in the picture and the damage at Showse Park is far worse than they could ever hope to repair with the \$20,000. He has already contacted Mark Haynes and the problem is that that the city's erosion is affecting his beach reinforcement, so he got several estimates and would be willing to split the cost with the City. He said M. Haynes would probably reinforce approximately 20' of park property and he thinks the bid was \$8,000, but it wouldn't be done until the end of August. There are many more pictures and the erosion is extensive and it may need state or federal grants. It's like they never did anything down there and the original erosion solution was done 10 years ago and at that particular time they had a low water mark for Lake Erie, so the high water and the extensiveness of the damage is almost an unsolvable problem at this problem. However, this one owner is directly affected, and he feels they may be liable if they don't step up and take advantage of this owner's willingness to help reinforce parks property that is causing him to be potentially damaged. All the erosion issues are all equally disturbing. He asked if they still have \$20,000 set aside for the repair at Showse that was put off several times. B. Scholtz said they do. B. Warden said this is the alternative. The funds are technically

there, and he would make a proposal to say this is how much they need. He thought the estimate was within reason as the problem remains to be unresolved and he doesn't see a solution in the future.

Homer Taft of 3972 Edgewater Drive said he cares a lot about erosion and beaches and he completed a project within his home reasonably and he would welcome the opportunity to consult with B. Warden and the committee to try to help with any solutions on this. He said significant solutions over a period of years may be needed.

M. Weisenberger asked if he should make some contacts with ODNR and Coastal Management to get some permits or ideas along these lines. B. Warden said this probably wouldn't hurt. He asked the board if they are aware of and understand the significance of this property owner's request to repair part of the parks property that is adjoining his. B. Scholtz said they are aware. B. Warden said at this point he doesn't think they are ready to proceed with any solution, but he has a solution to his problem, and our problem is his problem and he is willing to share the costs of the repairs, which is certainly the best they could hope for. If they do not do anything, this won't help anything. They will have to deal with more specific details within the next month or so, but they cannot do anything until the end of August. B. Wakefield asked if a group should get together to do more investigation and meet with the property owner. B. Warden said there is nothing really to investigate because it's obvious that the park property is undermined and eroded, and it must be addressed. They don't need a committee to see the damage. He said if the property owner wants to get more estimates then this would be viable as part of the repair is on his property. He thinks it something the property owner needs to deal with in conjunction with the board. He said it's in limbo until the board decides what to do. B. Warden asked if they could get rid of some of the logs at the base of the Showse Park hill. They make it harder than usual to have access to what's left of the pier. Can those get cut up and removed or is this something that is an ongoing problem. M. Weisenberger said last year they talked with Coastal Management and they recommended leaving any logs along the shorelines for protection at Showse and Sherod, but at Main Street where they have more usable beach they would try and clean up. B. Warden asked if it was possible to restore the walking path at Showse Park. M. Weisenberger said it's definitely on the radar and they will get to it.

M. Weisenberger said they talked about trying to do a community wide survey to prioritize the projects based on the feedback from the community. He asked the board if this was something they still wanted to do. He has a proposal from Bowling Green that specializes in surveys. The first step is to setup a phone conversation or meeting with a couple board members to discuss what they would want to cover in the survey and what they want the process to look like outlining the goals and scope of the project. B. Warden asked if this involves questioning the public for their opinions on park use. M. Weisenberger said yes. B. Warden thought it could be skewed in a different way pursuant to the COVID-19 problem as it's unusual times. He didn't know what type of valid answer they would get, but the timing might not be right. B. Scholtz said he would like to do this as this was one of their goals from a strategic standpoint in trying to incorporate more public involvement. Even if it was more heavily skewed, he stills thinks it's involvement from the public on their opinions. M. Weisenberger said this could be part of the conversation with Dr. Orr on whether he thought

it would be swayed that much. B. Wakefield thought it was a good idea and they should move forward with it as it will build up more trust in the park system, and they need to know what people are thinking right now because it is an unusual time. M. Weisenberger asked if they should get a couple park board members involved with T. Valerius and the Mayor in their first meeting. B. Scholtz asked the mayor if they feel the need to be involved or should they handle this as a small subcommittee. Mayor Forthofer said this is a board issue and he really doesn't need to be involved. B. Scholtz said that he along with T. Parker and Marc can get a small team together.

M. Weisenberger said the other planning piece he wants to address is the conceptual plan for Sherod Park and they are looking at \$2,000 for preliminary designs and then Larry would do a final drawing and a site visit. It will give the board a definite plan moving forward as they begin putting in trails, parking improvements and playgrounds.

B. Wakefield MOVED; J. Keck seconded to approve a not to exceed for \$2,000 for a full conceptual drawing at Sherod Park. Vote 6 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Budget/Finance Subcommittee Report:

B. Scholtz said there is no new updates to report on at this time.

Community Relations:

E. Cann said she has nothing to report at this time.

Erosion:

B. Warden said this is something that will need to take place in August, and he is open to taking care of the damage and partial restoration of their property, but he will get some firm figures. B. Scholtz said once he gets these numbers to forward to him so he can put input them into their capital budget.

Main Street Beach Revitalization Project:

B. Scholtz said they did have a zoom meeting on April 24 and basically fundraising is on hold due to the COVID-19. All capital budgets are in limbo, so there is not a lot going on.

Sherod Playground:

E. Wakefield had no report but does know that Erica is in contact and working on creative fundraising ideas. If there are some conceptual plans for Sherod Park she would probably want to be drawn into this.

Vermilion Community Pool:

D. Brudney conveyed that the pool subcommittee was formed at the beginning of the year to take a look at the future of the pool at the Valleyview area and to decide on whether they would want to repair or replace, or add to. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 came along, and the pools and recreation areas were closed by the state for a while. Last week the Governor came on the air and said that pools could be reopened on May 26. Prior to that time, they were meeting to try to come up with a decision on whether the pool should be opened or closed this summer. Should it stay closed and they work on it in the future or should they try to open it and follow the state guidelines. The latest guidelines were forwarded to all of the pool subcommittee members and to the Parks board members, and after reviewing all the information they gathered, along with talking with health departments and other pool operators/directors, they came to a decision based on a vote. They sent the vote through Gwen Fisher and the Pool Subcommittee voted 5/2 to not open the Vermilion Community Pool for the 2020 summer season. Three main concerns for not opening the pool for 2020 includes protocols pursuant to COVID-19 as recently addressed by the State and Department of Health; liabilities associated with the COVID-19 virus as it relates to pool staff and patrons, and finances – because of the predicted loss in city revenues and loss of income due to potential lower pool revenue it will make covering pool expenses very difficult. They don't believe they will serve the community well if they're not prudent. No solution will please everyone and they prefer to err on the side of caution, safety, and fiscal responsibility. The pool subcommittee will continue to assess the current conditions and long-term sustainability of the pool, and they will continue to plan. The Parks Board will be encouraging community input through a variety of options to the pool and will prioritize the parks projects. While during uncertain and unusual circumstances, they believe this to be the best service they can render at the present time. He mentioned that M. Weisenberger has recently contacted a lot of people involved with parks and the mayor met with other mayors in Lorain County to get information on what they are doing.

M. Weisenberger conveyed that through group emails from various park directors, the majority have decided to close for the various reasons mentioned by Dennis. He said one comment from the Director from the Ohio Recreation Association said how much fun can this really be for the kids with all the restrictions and precautions that are being put in place. The benefits get so diluted by these guidelines that they may actually be doing a disservice by trying to open. Another comment had concerns about treated water on whether it would kill the virus, and this is a big assumption. He said another point that was mentioned is they are looking for things to do for the kids and maybe they could look at trying to get the Skate Spot back open and manage the crowds with social distancing with a lot less effort and cost. D. Brudney said they looked at the statistics on the usage of the pool and the memberships, and obviously a lot of people will be nervous about coming to the pool due to COVID-19. They didn't have that great of a membership last year when things were normal. He said they must be prudent at this point and look at the safety of the community and look to the future of the

pool and how they're going to handle it. He said if it wasn't for the fact that all these other communities are doing the same thing, they may have looked differently at it, but the recommendation to the Parks Board is to not open the pool this summer.

B. Scholtz asked if they entertained just postponing the opening or was this an all or none. D. Brudney said it was a difficult decision as delaying isn't going to make much of a difference. B. Scholtz asked the mayor if the Parks Board makes the recommendation to him or would it need to go before City Council. Mayor Forthofer said he would like the Parks Board to vote on the recommendation of the subcommittee and then based on the vote, he will take that to the public.

Mike Rini said he's on the pool subcommittee and he was one of the yes votes to open the pool, but sitting at the meeting they were voting to say open the pool, so if they don't open the pool then they need to be prepared for the kids to be at these other venues and keep their social distancing. Now they will come to the skate parks, regular parks, and to Main Street Beach. Colleen Rini said they are now sending these children and families to a very unsecure and unsafe swimming environment. M. Rini said they are not a member of the pool, but they joined the subcommittee as a public view. C. Rini said families are very eager to get their kids involved. She said families are itching and kids are anxious, and she understands the safety for everybody, but it's getting to the point of what can they do. M. Rini said from a public perspective they just need to be prepared as a Parks Board and he will continue to be involved on how they will keep it safe in all the environments.

E. Cann asked if it was discussed about an anticipated loss in memberships and revenues. Did they consider they could have the opposite affect with recreation being up in the air and other activities being cancelled and that maybe more families would take advantage of the pool and maybe they would have more revenue. What has the public interest been? Has there been a lot of people asking if it's going to be opened and when? D. Brudney said that Brian talked to a lot of community members and the general comments were that they understood if the pool wasn't going to be opened because of the COVID-19 and people were worried about sending families into an environment that they were not exactly sure what would happen. They were more concerned that this would put the nail in the coffin for the future of the pool. He noted that Brian assured community members that the subcommittee has been formed to look at the future of the pool and to make sure they put their time and effort into making sure they come up with a good solution for the community to have a safe environment. However, this summer is very difficult with all the state guidelines as it would be difficult for everybody to maintain the guidelines. They could not hire more people to help Bob as they don't have the money to do this, so for one person to do all that is required is too much. He said how do they keep kids in a swimming pool away from others when they're trying to have fun. It's difficult to maintain this and according to the guidelines, if the kids aren't in the pool, they should be wearing a mask. How will this happen; it won't.

M. Weisenberger said another concern they had is that if a staff member or patron would become infected how would this work with the quarantined period and this could eliminate a good number of the staff. With additional people coming to the pool from other communities it could potentially increase the opportunity to contract the virus. The main thought is that if they can get through this year, they can use the time, effort, and money toward the planning of the future. B. Warden asked Bob Cunicella if he had anything new to add to this discussion. B. Cunicella said yes, the Skate Spot is viable option, but technically the people who go to the pool do not go to the Skate Spot and vice versa. He understands why they are doing this, and he planned on how they could do this successfully. He said it wouldn't only be just him sanitizing the place. He had two young ladies who offered their help daily, but again he understands the financial ramifications, which is the biggest drawback. He told the mayor to be prepared for some phone calls.

C. Rini said if the pool doesn't open this year and the city had money set aside for it this year, is this money still going to be there for next year for whatever opportunity there is for a community pool facility, or if they don't use it this year it just goes elsewhere. Mike Rini said there are still roof repairs and leak repairs that need to be done. D. Brudney said basically as the dollars and cents are concerned, they had decided that there should be a certain amount of money coming in from memberships and that sort of thing. A certain amount from income from revenue from the pool and the remaining amount would be split between the general fund and the parks board. Now, revenues will be down for both the Parks Board and the City and they didn't know what usage they would have, so the bottom line is that it would be difficult if the costs would go up due to sanitizing and things necessary to keep the pool safe, which were expenses they didn't plan on. As a Parks Board he doesn't think they have the extra revenue to do this and is sure the city is looking at it this way too. Mayor Forthofer said they don't have the funds for additional costs either as they went with the minimal investment. Next year they have no idea what it will look like.

B. Scholtz said it's something the board takes very seriously and they had the money budgeted to make sure they could pull the pool off for this year, but he said there are too many unknowns for this year, but the pool subcommittee is looking at the planning for next year and what they should be doing with this downtime when they should be looking at all the repairs and not making this go by the wayside. M. Rini said if they don't open then they need to be ready to open the pool next year or maybe there is different locations. He said they will remain advocates as they are giving the board their public view. D. Brudney said the subcommittee will continue the future disposition and recommendations of a pool or water place for the community to enjoy.

J. Keck MOVED; B. Warden seconded to accept the subcommittee's recommendation in closing the pool for the summer of 2020. Roll Call Vote 6 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED**.

Mayor Forthofer said there was excellent work done by this committee regardless of how it came out. It was based on some fact. B. Scholtz thanked Dennis for his leadership on the subcommittee. D. Brudney said he wishes it could have been different.

Financial Report:

B. Scholtz said the Parks capital account currently is sitting on \$152,400 and recreation is at \$1,294, including the \$5,000 that was transferred in from the general fund. It could be up to the Parks Board to fund any shortfalls in the recreation fund from the operating levy. The Parks Operating fund is at \$236,307.13 and the finance director wanted them to know there could be some question marks as far as timing in incomes for both levies with more delinquencies.

ADJOURNMENT:

J.Keck MOVED; B. Wakefield seconded to adjourn the meeting. Vote 6 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday – June 16, 2020 @ 6:00 pm via zoom video meeting

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