

VERMILION PARKS & RECREATION BOARD
Minutes of March 16, 2021 - 6:00pm | Zoom Meeting

Roll Call: Terry Parker (Chairman), Dennis Brudney (Vice Chairman), William Warden, Brad Scholtz, Liz Elden, Kate Repola, Jeff Keck

Also, Present: Chad Kuhns, RECREATION DIRECTOR; Marc Weisenberger, PARKS SUPERVISOR; Tony Valerius, SERVICE DIRECTOR; Brian Holmes, COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

Guests: Mayor Forthofer

Terry Parker called the meeting of March 16, 2021 to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

B. Scholtz MOVED, B. Warden seconded to approve the meeting minutes of February 16, 2021. Vote 7 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

COMMUNITY EVENT GROUP USE PERMITS:

-Tranquil Lake Yoga & Wellness – May – August 2021 – Showse Evenings/Victory Park Mornings

Megan Lake-Smith of Tranquil Lake Yoga & Wellness said she would prefer using Showse Park for sunset yoga and Victory Park for morning yoga sessions. She said she can walk to Victory Park from her studio and felt the grassy area at Showse park is beautiful. T. Parker asked if she was interested in West Breeze. M. Lake-Smith said she listed West Breeze on her application but thought Victory would be a nicer spot that is more open to the community. She was planning on doing yoga four times a week, possibly two mornings and two evenings. T. Parker said the board has been working with Maria Santoferraro over the years with reserving the parks for yoga as well and understands M. Lake-Smith is doing this as a business and Maria does it as an outreach of her business, but they both need to be treated the same as far as fees. He said Maria makes a generous donation at the end of the season and they have not chosen to assess a park user fee. B. Scholtz said as far as making this consistent, he wanted to point out that Maria has never charged for yoga – it is donation based, so he asked Megan if she planned on charging or accepting donations. He said if she was making money then the fee to use the park should apply. M. Lake-Smith agreed and said she along with five other teachers teach yoga and if she was the only one doing it, then she could do donations along with fundraising events. However, this is a job for her teachers, so she would want people to

register through the website just like they do in studio and pay for the classes. She said she would be comfortable with donations, but for her first year she does not want her business to go under, so she would prefer to charge like she does in studio. Maria Santoferraro said she was comfortable doing yoga at Main Street Beach because everybody was happy with yoga last year, but they really missed having their feet in the sand, so she would love to go back to Main Street Beach for Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings at 8:30 a.m. T. Parker proposed that Maria continues the basis she has been on and for M. Lake-Smith for at least her first year to pay the one-time maximum fee, which can be figured out through Anne Maiden. He suggested to both Maria and Megan to work on not stepping on each other's schedule. B. Warden said it is unique that the beach festival at Sherod lasts the whole day long, so if you are talking about hours of use it is a different ballgame, so it would be similar. He asked how many persons they expect during their yoga sessions. M. Lake-Smith said she was limited to nine in her in-person studio class because they are indoors, but it depends on the space they have, but she thought they could easily have 20 people or more. M. Santoferraro thought the only issue that would be confusing to people is the fact they come to her class for free or donation, so they will need to have separate locations. M. Lake-Smith said she was hoping for Showse Park and was not going near Main Street Beach or Sherod Park. She prefers Victory and Showse Park. M. Santoferraro thought people showing up to Megan's class may think it is free in confusion of them thinking they are attending her yoga class. T. Parker said this can be addressed in their advertising and signage. He said Victory Park gets busy during the festivals and Farmer's Market. T. Valerius checked with Marc Weisenberger to make sure the 8:30 a.m. start time for Maria's yoga will not interfere with beach grooming since they have new machinery which they will use more often. M. Weisenberger said they will work around this by possibly doing Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, or getting there early enough prior to classes beginning. M. Santoferraro thought it would be good if they could come on Tuesday and Thursday.

B. Scholtz MOVED. B. Warden seconded to approve the Yoga in the Park events for Tranquil Lake Yoga - Wellness at Showse Park during the weekday evenings, but not on Wednesday, and Victory Park for weekday mornings on Tuesday and Thursday, and to pay a one-time fee as coordinated through Anne Maiden. Roll Call Vote 7 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

L. Elden MOVED. K. Repola seconded to approve the Yoga in the Park events for Daily Downward Dog Beach Yoga at Main Street Beach on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday's at Main Street Beach from May – September 2021 at 8:30 a.m. Vote 7 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

*-Grace United Methodist Church – May 30 – September 5, 2021 (Sunday Morning Worship)
–9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. (Former Baseball area a Sherod Park)*

Reverend Allison LeBrun said they would be willing to work around any COVID restrictions that are necessary and if the city is more comfortable with them using the former baseball area for spacing out, they would be okay with that rather than the front parking lot. M. Weisenberger had no preference and said whatever works with them is fine with him. Rev. LeBrun said she would clarify the area once the decision is made.

L. Elden MOVED; B. Scholtz seconded to approve the Sunday Morning Worship event at Sherod Park from May 30 to September 5, 2021 as requested by Grace United Methodist Church. Vote 7 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED**.

-Main Street Vermilion – Farmers Market (Victory Park) – Sat. 7/3 – Sat. 8/28 from 8a.m. – 3p.m.

Judy Kernell representing Main Street said they would like to start using Victory Park again starting Saturday, July 3 and going through Saturday, August 28. T. Parker did not believe there would be any conflicts with the Vermilion Corvette group and J. Kernell said they have been working with them for 11 years, so it should not be a problem. She said they will abide by any restrictions the Erie County Health Department requires. She said there will be no entertainment/special events or cooking classes this year.

B. Warden MOVED, D. Brudney seconded to approve the Farmers Market event as requested by Main Street Vermilion. Vote 7 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED**.

CORRESPONDENCE:

T. Parker said that he and Marc put their heads together in preparing a letter of support for Main Street and the Chamber of Commerce so they could proceed with meeting with the School Board and to advise that the board supports having the Dog Park on the school campus along the edge of Route 60 next to Sailorway. They would commit to trash pickup a couple times a week and they would be open to conversation with the schools regarding mowing going forward. He thought the board would be confident with this. B. Warden asked whatever came of the proposed skatepark for this area. T. Parker said the proposal fizzled and D. Brudney said the people supporting this concept did not follow through. K. Repola said the letter mentioned the Parks Board would be happy with trash pickup and mowing, which she is fully onboard, but what if she does not agree with the area chosen for the Dog Park since they are not the school board. T. Parker said if she does not like the choice of location then she would need to communicate this with the school board. K. Repola asked if the letter that is being sent states the board supports this location. T. Parker said the letter states on behalf of himself and the Parks Operations Director, Marc Weisenberger.

COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:

B. Holmes said City Council supports the process proceeding on with the museum property and they were updated on the demolition process.

RECREATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

C. Kuhns reported that football practice began yesterday, and games will start the Sunday after Easter and will run through the middle of May. Registration forms are available for baseball and the deadline is April 23. They are expecting to start practices around the first of May. Additionally, they are looking to start cheerleading for the spring football season, so they are working on the process.

SERVICE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

T. Valerius reported they received two submittals for the request for qualifications for architects for the Main Street Beach project and after scoring each firm it was determined that Poulos & Schmid Design Group of Sandusky will be the designer for the project. Last Wednesday they met with the contractor for a pre-demolition meeting for the Wakefield House and Museum and the city was offered a proposed schedule as follows: Asbestos abatement beginning April 1 – April 23; main demolition will begin approximately around April 26 – May 21, and the last week of May they will be hauling in topsoil and will be seeding and strawing. He mentioned they had to run a new electric line to the lighthouse as it was getting its power from the museum. They hired a contractor to run a new line from the pumphouse to the lighthouse, which was switched over today.

T. Parker asked if the area would be fenced off during demolition and T. Valerius said the contractor will install some fencing around the area.

B. Warden asked Tony if he had any further contact with Justin Miller regarding putting in the 45-degree cement supplements to the ramps that were originally discussed before they started. T. Valerius said he has not. B. Warden said if it goes too far beyond the original job, they will be charged more than what should have been charged during the original solution. T. Valerius said he would have a conversation about this with J. Miller and was not sure if this was the time to do it depending on the height of the lake. He did not believe this was part of the quote of the work he did last fall. B. Scholtz said the original concrete work was done by Haynes. B. Warden clarified it is the 45-degree angles between the pier and the ramps. He asked what will happen to the blocks. T. Valerius believed they would utilize them in the street department. B. Scholtz did not believe J. Miller had invoiced them yet for this project.

PARK'S SUPERVISOR REPORT:

M. Weisenberger reported at Exchange Park there are 14 receptacles that are in the ground throughout the park that are used for Christmas decorations and vendors during events. They have been having issues with a lot of them and they tend to blow fuses. He received quotes to change out the receptacles in those 14 areas and replace them with a new one. Currently they have plastic covers, and they want to propose switching to heavier duty metal covers so they last longer. He received a quote from Satellite Electric for \$1,822.66 to do all 14 receptacles. Also, he received a quote from Firelands, but explained there are two parts to this project potentially, as the Veterans Memorial Clock has not been working and the power source to the clock is not consistently working, so the thought is to run its own dedicated line with its own circuit from the Comfort Station to the clock, so it will be self-sufficient. The quote to do the trenching and install the wire came in at \$1,887.00. Combining the two projects it would cost \$3,710.36. He said the Firelands quote was \$4,900, a difference of about \$1,200. He was looking to encumber the money from Fund 218 "Maintenance of Grounds" so they can get these projects started prior to the summer events.

He said equipment wise they have been working on their large trailer that is around 15 years old. The suspension has been repaired and the tires were replaced, and they will paint it. The maintenance mechanic will be fabricating a toolbox on the front of the trailer that will secure all their power equipment.

He said they are working with the city schools to set up playground equipment at Sailorway so the kids can try it and give feedback as to whether they would utilize it before the city spends money on this equipment. They are shooting to set this equipment up on April 14.

B. Warden said two weeks ago there was a letter submitted to the Photojournal on the negative feelings of the people in the neighborhood on converting the firehouse into a parks department as they felt it would be an eyesore of having a city garage across the street from them. Therefore, should they respond to this or proceed on and hope they will be satisfied. He questioned if a letter of explanation should be printed in the Photojournal. Mayor Forthofer said the only person he knows having an opinion has a family member part of city employment and the best thing to do is to demonstrate that it will be a responsible facility. There is no intention of leaving equipment parked out as suggested. This does not happen at the existing facility. B. Holmes said Marc Weisenberger does a wonderful job and takes a lot of pride in what he does, so he is sure they would not allow this to turn into a junk yard. He is sure Marc will keep it a fine place and will make sure it is very clean, and people will be proud to see it in the neighborhood. B. Warden has every confidence it will be great. T. Valerius reiterated there will be no piles of stone, mulch or dirt stored at the new location. It will remain at the Service Center and all the parks equipment will be stored inside the facility. B. Holmes asked the administration if they had a move in date for the parks department. Mayor Forthofer said the Fire Department must totally signoff on being out of there as there is a little bit of equipment still there. He wants to make sure the sign on the front of the building says Parks Department and not the Fire Department, and he wants to put stickers on the door

telling people where they can get help because he believes fire departments are a point of refuge for people who need help, so they need to say this building is no longer a fire facility.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Forthofer said he appreciates the Parks Board not asking for a portion of the \$2,040,000 that Marcy Kaptur is giving the city. He will make sure all city departments are benefited within the rules on behalf of the residents.

Budget/Finance Subcommittee Report: No report.

Community Relations/Publicity: No report.

Erosion: No report.

Main Street Beach Revitalization Project:

B. Scholtz explained they went through an investigation of the Pilot House to see if they could incorporate it either into Main Street Beach or Sherod Park and at one point Marc had an interesting point to put it out at Sherod, but it didn't make sense from an economic standpoint because it was way too much money they could recommend on spending the city's money, so they have decided to proceed with the auction of the Pilot House, which was approved by City Council two weeks ago. He said hopefully this will generate additional revenue for the project. T. Valerius said they need to put the bid process together as it will be a sealed bid and they will have it out for bid for a couple weeks. They will set a time and date to open bids and the highest bid gets it. They will iron everything out and will publish it soon.

Recreation and School Relations: No report.

Sherod Playground: No report.

Vermilion Community Pool:

D. Brudney reported they held a Pool Subcommittee meeting on 3/2/2021 to discuss issues with trying to reopen the Vermilion Community Pool this summer. Many issues were discussed but this meeting did not discuss future disposition of a community pool. Over the past two weeks the following items were finalized or put into action.

1. Pool cover taken off last week, water condition decent because of last year's treatments.
2. Garth Grobe did temporary repair to pool equipment building using a rubber roof material. Also put in a drain which prevent water from pooling on roof. No cost to city.

3. Suspect skimmer box was inspected and found to have cracks, would account for loss of some water. Also inspected metal sides of pool, was rusty but appears well enough to last a year or so. New skimmer box priced by Sam at OP Aquatics and depending on model will be \$105 or \$157. He will bring it next Monday.
4. OP Aquatics also will bring info on new chlorine system for pool. Recommend Hayward 2000 Pro model, better than Chemtrol system we have now that is 10-15 years old and in questionable working order. Cost would include system, installation, and training of our personnel to use it. It can also be removed if the current pool is replaced and installed at new location. (2019 chlorine costs over \$13,000 versus other larger pools which run between \$3,000 and 5,000).
5. Tomorrow, Wednesday, American Leak Detection coming in at 08:30 am to do a pressure test on pool. Will determine any other possible leaks in pool plumbing. Cost \$595/1st 2 hrs., then \$195/ hr. after. Using this company instead of Pool Tech because owners in Florida and unable to perform test until mid-April.
6. Two companies in town whose owners live in Vermilion will be donating time, labor, and concrete to repair pool deck. They are Jim Pajk of Americut Concrete who will cut out old bad concrete and work with Andrew Russell of ADT Construction to install 18 to 20 yards (about 2 truckloads) of concrete. Best recommended rather than patching. No cost to city. Will of course try to detect other leaks before pouring concrete.
7. If all goes well and concrete poured, will do a pool startup. 2019 new pump and sand replaced in three filters. Cost from Pool Tec is \$985 dollars, but maybe lower since some work already done.
8. Marc's workers repairing pool seating currently.
9. Highly recommend we put in newer pool heater at this time since we have volunteers available to do work. Wall needs removed and old water heater removed. Everything hooked up with replacement heater at no cost except hookup to gas lines an expense. Water heater proposed to be replaced with gas tankless water heater. Cost savings over current tank and can be moved to new location if this pool replaced. Looking at possible savings at a Lowe's grant program, otherwise up to \$1500. Some plumbing repairs needed to restrooms but have help installing it.
10. Also need to replace plastic drain covers on pool bottom. According to regulations every 5 years and these due. Cost quoted by Pool Tec at \$675.00.
11. If all goes well and we are going to be up and running need to look at following: 1. New pool management and staffing (lifeguard, etc.) 2. Fees for admission and operating hours. Bob Cunicella advised us he does not want to manage pool full time because of personal issues. Will help to get open and offer part time services at maybe an hourly rate. Colleen Rini waiting for word from Metroparks about lifeguard training and certification. Marc says we may be able to use Amherst or Willard/Bellevue when they provide training, etc. Colleen also wants to be involved with swimmer training program we will provide.
12. New pool committee member is Molly Anders. A RN and teaches nursing in college. Many ties to Vermilion Schools as coach and a great recruiter. Has many ideas to

improve memberships and pool usage through inspiring kids at school. Have already met with Molly and Kate Repola so they will work together to advertise and inform public about our pool. Will see if they can create a volunteer day to get final things done with pool like some ground's cleanup, painting, etc. K. Repola said a volunteer day is a great idea because kids need volunteer hours to graduate.

D. Brudney said that Marc has been doing a great job of getting this process going as he has a lot of good contacts. B. Scholtz said a fee structure was previously mentioned and asked if the fees had been determined. M. Weisenberger said they are looking to come up with a fee structure that would be more in line with the fees in the area. He said Vermilion is a little bit high, especially on annual memberships. The daily memberships were not too far out of the average. They will put numbers together to look at. He asked if they could work with the finance director on a way to purchase a membership electronically. K. Repola said they had discussed either using Venmo or a PayPal option for fees. They could do it for annual or daily fees. They also discussed reduction or changing the hours of the pool and combining that with a fee structure. There are ways they could possibly make more money having it a lesser cost. If they want to promote the pool this year and get people excited this year with promotion and lesser fees and having some teen nights to get more people there, then there is an opportunity to make more money with lesser costs. D. Brudney said Colleen Rini is hoping the city offers swim classes at the community pool and they would like to be involved in helping to teach the kids to swim as she knows some good people who could help do this. He said there is a lot of people interested in making this pool work and having more people using the pool through different activities and events. K. Repola said they will spend more time in finalizing fees and hours once they know steps 1-9 are feasible. Mayor Forthofer said the city just introduced PayPal through the utility's payments, but this is a larger software program, so he would need to ask the finance director if this could work with the pool. K. Repola understands Venmo and PayPal is widely used but did not know how it would work with a municipality.

L. Elden said she observed conversation on social media about accessibility of getting into the pool and wondered if there was an alternative between a ladder and a wheelchair ramp or fixed steps. D. Brudney said they discussed this today and the shallowest part of the pool is two feet and they discussed working with Open Door as they hold Silver Sneaker classes, and possibly they could get a Silver Sneaker class at the pool, but to do this they should have better access into the pool. They will look at different places to possibly put in pre-cast concrete steps with a railing, so there is better access.

T. Parker said at some point they will need to do some fundraising and they will need some lead time to do this. The next meeting is April 20, so it seems they should know what they are doing by this time, and how much they are going to budget and how much they need to raise. He asked the Mayor if the Parks Board sets the fee or does City Council set them. Mayor Forthofer said within the Parks Board they could set the fees and notify Council. Brian Holmes

said the parks board generates the revenue, so he would think the Parks Board would set the fees. G. Fisher said from her memory she believed in the past the fees were set by the Mayor from a recommendation made by the Parks Board. T. Parker said his concern with going to City Council is the number of weeks it would take to go through the process of approval. Mayor Forthofer asked the board if they know the fee structure they want to set. M. Weisenberger said most of the fees they are looking at are decreases as opposed to increases to become more competitive and draw more people to the pool. Mayor Forthofer asked the board to give him their recommendation on the fees along with the projection of attendance they are hoping to have, and they will see how that fits in with revenue generation the city has had in the past.

K. Repola said the pool committee discussed the fact that Cedar Point is opening this year and they have the \$99 Gold Pass for two years. They discussed how many times you would have to go to the pool at a daily rate to make it worth it to become a member. She thinks they are focusing on growing the pool as a membership and community and Vermilion is \$100 more than surrounding pools for a family membership of four. Mayor Forthofer asked if the board thought they would lose people to Cedar Point if they raised the pool fees. K. Repola said she thinks they will be more competitive if they lowered the fees.

OPEN TO THE AUDIENCE: No participation.

OLD & NEW BUSINESS:

M. Weisenberger reported that Robbie Brown of the Shore Thing would like the boards permission to operate again at Main Street Beach in the same format they have done in the past.

L. Elden MOVED, B. Scholtz seconded to authorize Shore Thing to operate again this season at Main Street Beach. Vote 7 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

T. Parker said if everything is gone from the museum lot where will the porta john be placed this summer. T. Valerius said he and Marc will walk the area to determine a spot. T. Parker suggested not placing it by the lighthouse as it is used for picture taking or by the two houses to the east. L. Elden suggested renting a porta john that is ADA accessible and placing it in a flatter more accessible area.

L. Elden MOVED, B. Warden seconded to approve a not to exceed of \$3,711 from Fund 218 for the replacement of 14 receptacles at Exchange Park and to run a power source from the Comfort Station to the Veterans Memorial Clock. Vote 7 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

ADJOURNMENT:

K. Repola MOVED, B. Warden seconded to adjourn the meeting. Vote 7 YEAS. MOTION CARRIED.

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday – April 20, 2021 @ 6:00 pm
at the Vermilion Municipal Complex, 687 Decatur Street, Vermilion, Ohio

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