

TIPP CITY PARKS ADVISORY BOARD
TIPP CITY, MIAMI COUNTY, OHIO May 11, 2015

Roll Call

Vice Chairman Chitwood called the meeting of the Tipp City Parks Advisory Board to order at 7:00 p.m. Members in attendance included: Doug Chitwood, Patrick Hodges and Kevin Cox. Mackenzie English (Monroe Twp. Representative), Kathy Taylor (Tipp-Monroe Community Services), Carla Frame (Board of Education Representative), Jim Asher (City of Tipp City), John Donnelly (City of Tipp City), and Board Secretary Kelly Rowlands were also present. Dave Brown (City of Tipp City), Randy Myers (Tipp City Junior Baseball), Josh Vetter (Upper Valley Disc Golf Club), and Ryan Hale (Disc Golf) were also in attendance.

Mr. Chitwood moved to excuse Mr. Slagel and Mr. Woodruff. Mr. Hodges seconded the motion. **Motion passed 3-0.**

**Approval of
Minutes – March
9, 2015**

The March 9th, 2015 Meeting Minutes were tabled until the next Parks Advisory Meeting.

**New Business
Tippecanoe Canal
Jumpers**

Mr. Asher stated that the Canal Jumpers would like to use City Park baseball fields much like they did last year. The following dates have been requested: 6/15, 7/5, 7/12, 8/16, 8/25 and 9/27 (which is during the Mum Festival).

Mr. Hodges questioned if these dates would cause any issues for Kathy Taylor and Tipp-Monroe Community Services. Kathy responded by saying that her only concern was in relation to a conversation that she had with Ryan Hale (Disc Golf). More specifically, there are a few holes that, when the baseball field is in use, disc golfers can't play through. This is mostly a problem in the evening when kids are using the diamonds, which have been used increasingly more than in the past. Mr. Asher responded that it could cause a minor problem, but only for a few minutes. If everyone just works together it should be fine.

Mr. Cox stated that he is a part of the Canal Jumpers and the field that they use is close to the bike path, where the old Diamond 3 was located. When Frisbee golfers come by, the Canal Jumpers typically just stop the game. They wear long sleeve jerseys and they welcome the break. As of yet, it has not been an issue.

Kathy Taylor further questioned if this was something that should be looked at for the future. Mr. Asher stated that he has not had any complaints about this issue. Kathy stated that Ryan Hale informed her that quite a few golfers have contacted him directly about not being able to play the hole due to kids on the baseball diamonds. So, Ryan was asking if moving the hole should be looked at more closely.

Josh Vetter, Upper Valley Disc Golf Club, was in attendance and shared his thoughts. The group is looking at the possibility of moving Hole #4, which throws right down through the middle of the 4 baseball/softball fields. Hole #18 also poses a problem. It is located all the way at the very back, close to the river. He has been in contact with Ryan Hale regarding these issues. Also, Mr. Vetter saw that some kids had thrown the sign in the river and he went in and retrieved it.

Mr. Vetter is very active in the Disc Golf community and knows a little about course design. He is interested in working with the city as a liaison or a go between for the Disc Golf group and the City of Tipp City. His goal is to improve a few things on the course. Specifically, looking at moving Hole #4. Also, Hole #18 flooded pretty badly right where the tee pad is located. You can still walk around and play, but it could be a hazard. Mr. Asher stated that he would like to get together with Mr. Vetter after the meeting and exchange information and plan a time to get together to look at the layout of the course. Further, Mr. Asher mentioned that some changes will also need to be made in the future to Hole #13.

Mr. Hodges moved to appoint Josh Vetter as the official liaison of the City of Tipp City and the Disc Golf community. Mr. Chitwood seconded the motion. **Motion passed 3-0.**

Board Secretary Rowlands shared that none of the requested dates for the Tippecanoe Canal Jumpers interfere with soccer. This information was provided in an e-mail from Todd Niswonger with Tipp City Soccer.

Kathy Taylor stated that, once approved by the Tipp City Parks Advisory Board, the Tippecanoe Canal Jumpers would need to fill out paper with Tipp-Monroe Community Services.

Mr. Hodges moved to approve the Tippecanoe Canal Jumpers for June 15th, July 5th & 12th, August 16th & 25th, and September 27th, 2015. Mr. Chitwood seconded the motion. **Motion passed 3-0.**

**Kyle Park Play
Feature &
Exercise
Equipment**

Mr. Asher reported that he is awaiting a quote for the new Kyle Park Play Feature. The new equipment will replace the play feature that is on the south side of Kyle Park. Also, Mr. Asher received a quote for 3 additional pieces of exercise equipment for Kyle Park. The 3 pieces total \$8,627.00 and the colors match the 3 pieces that have already been purchased and received, but not installed as of yet. Mr. Asher is hoping to get all 6 pieces of equipment installed this summer.

Mr. Hodges mentioned that in the past it has been discussed installing an entire 18 piece exercise course. Mr. Asher stated that this is a part of that plan. The order should be placed soon, so the pieces can be installed after the 4th of July, which is when the city begins their summer projects. Right now the focus is on mowing. Plus, all the part-time help is in by the second week of June.

Mr. Asher will have the drawing of the Kyle Park Play Feature soon. Currently, it is being designed and colors are being selected. It will be a little different and feature 3 different slides. This new play feature will replace the old one that had to be removed due to wear.

Mr. Chitwood questioned the funding for this project. Specifically, if money was available for this and the Rosewood Creek Neighborhood Play Feature. Mr. Asher explained that Rosewood Creek is a separate fund and that money is available for both features. The Rosewood Creek Play Feature is part of the \$25,000 that is available for neighborhood parks. Kyle Park has a little bit more money budgeted. Currently, Mr. Asher has spent \$1,500 on the safety surface for Rosewood Creek and the play feature will cost about \$22,000.

**Old Business
Rosewood Creek
Neighborhood
Requests**

Mr. Asher included the quote for the new play feature in the Staff Report. Rosewood Creek residents wanted neutral colors, such as browns and greens. Service Supply did change the colors from what they originally proposed. Also, the original play feature had to be changed because it was too expensive. So, the new quote and picture is what is included. The price includes the piece of equipment and installation. The rubber safety surface has already been purchased.

Mr. Hodges asked if this play feature will be purchased using the neighborhood parks budget. The play feature and safety surface will pretty much exhaust money allotted for neighborhood parks. Mr. Asher confirmed that the purchase will, in fact, be made with neighborhood park funds. He also stated that enough money will be left over to purchase the swing mats that are needed. The hope is that a bench can also be purchased.

Park Ranger

Mr. Slagel was not in attendance, so Mr. Chitwood gave an update. Per discussions with Mr. Slagel, there has been some rumors or talk that a new police officer would be hired to help with parks. With that being said, the question is raised of whether or not the Parks Advisory Board needs to pursue the installation of a Park Ranger/Park Supervisor. The preference would be for a police officer to be hired, especially if there is no funding available at this time.

City Engineer Donnelly stated that after recent discussions with the City Manager, it has been suggested to form a sub-committee consisting of a member of the Parks Advisory Board, a City Council Member, City of Tipp City Staff, and perhaps another individual. This sub-committee would look at the position in more detail and answer questions, such as how the position would be paid for, who the individual would report to, how would transportation be provided, and what the overall purpose would be for the position. Mr. Donnelly cannot speak about the police officer being hired, but did say he didn't think that the idea was a possibility.

Mr. Hodges made note that the position is definitely going to be called Park Supervisor and not Park Ranger. He also pointed out that the position will not be "after hours." Instead the individual will be on duty during "real-time" events on evenings and weekends.

Further, Mr. Donnelly explained that the Finance Director broke down the cost. First, you take the hourly rate, such as \$15.00 and then add 15% of how many hours they work per week on top of that amount. If it is full-time the percentage would be 30%. That covers insurance and other benefits.

Mr. Hodges stated that the Parks Advisory Board originally planned to make the position part-time. The thinking was that this would help with budget concerns.

In conclusion, Mr. Donnelly stated that the City Manager would like to see the committee formed prior to the City Council work session. The Parks Advisory Board needs to decide which member would like to be a part of that committee and then get the name to Mr. Donnelly.

Canal Lock Park

Mr. Asher stated one of the picnic tables has been assembled and installed at Canal Lock Park. The bike rack and grill still need to be installed. The plan is for that to be done this summer.

Mr. Cox asked where the closest public restrooms were to Canal Lock Park. He has been approached about the issue and it seems like restrooms are about 1/2 mile either direction from the park. He

knows that it is not ideal to have a port-a-john sitting in the middle of the area, but is there some solution to get facilities closer?

Mr. Asher stated that a port-a-john is brought into City Park in mid-April and placed in the north end of the park. There are also restrooms in the park that are opened in the mid-April time frame. There is then a gap until you reach Kyle Park. Heading south there are no restrooms. We do have more facilities than most other areas of the bike trail.

Mr. Hodges stated that the reason for the addition of the bike racks was to encourage people to visit the shops and restaurants downtown. If there are no restrooms, will that discourage people from enjoying the city? Mr. Asher stated that there are restrooms downtown in the restaurants and that Tipp-Monroe Community Services does have public restrooms that are open through the week.

On a related note, Mr. Hodges also inquired about adding a sign "advertising" what is available, as far as shops and restaurants, within walking distance to Canal Lock Park. He wanted to know if that was something that was in still in the works. Mr. Asher responded by saying that he has not been contacted recently by anyone downtown regarding signage. It has been at least 4-6 months since anyone has made contact with him. The last contact was to say that they were getting together price information, but funds were available through a grant program. Kathy Taylor mentioned that she would remind Heather Dorsten with the Downtown Tipp Partnership. She has not been in the position that long, so she might not be aware or remember the project.

Kyle Park Soccer Field Repair

FINALLY!!!! It has taken a year to get the fields repaired, but they are finally done. After damage from the construction, a lot of settling had occurred where they tore up the soccer fields, as well as freezing/thawing happening. The Parks Department went out last fall and filled some holes, but it still wasn't right. So, Mr. Asher met with the company and explained how the fields needed to look. From the beginning it was understood that the fields were going to be torn up, but when the project was complete, the fields needed to be back to the shape they were in the beginning. This did not occur. Lengthy discussions took place about how much time and money it would take to repair the fields, but the bottom line was that the fields needed to be repaired so kids could play on the fields this year and for many years to come.

Further, Mr. Asher explained that they did a really good job. The fields have been seeded, strawed, and were even watered. After some grass grows the fields will really look good.

Other Business

Mr. Hodges asked Mr. Asher about engraved pavers for the dog park. It was discussed in January and Mr. Asher was going to check on costs for the items.

Mr. Asher stated that, at this point, no one has come in and inquired about a brick. Once we compile a list of interested persons, we can get a price per brick. Mr. Asher questioned whether we should form a subcommittee, much like what was done for the dog park.

Mr. Hodges suggested possibly advertising in the Tippecanews. This way people would know that it is available and who to call. Board Secretary Rowlands stated that she would get with Janice Bates, the City Manager's Secretary, to place this information in the Tippecanews.

Originally, the cost was going to be the same as the Veterans' Memorial Bricks, but there had also been discussions about using a local engraving company. The local company has not been contacted as of yet, but Mr. Asher would like to speak to them. Previous discussions also mentioned a portion of the proceeds going to the Police Dog Program.

Citizen Comments on Items Not on the Agenda

Randy Myers, Tipp City Junior Baseball, approached the podium to speak. First, Mr. Myers is gathering quotes for a PA system for the park. This is something that Kelly Gillis had always tried to get at Kyle Park. Dee Gillis also took the issue to City Council, but it was never approved. Mr. Myers was approached by the Odd Fellows to do a popcorn fundraiser to raise funds for the system. The first quote has come in around \$6,000, but other quotes are being sought out.

The PA system will be installed on the light pole that is in right field of Field #8, close to the Kyle Park Garage. The system will alert the crowds on Fields #1-#12 when lightning is spotted. It will also broadcast the National Anthem before games. The National Anthem will only be audible for Fields #5-#12. Fields #1-#4 will not be able to hear the music.

Mr. Myers' question for the Parks Advisory Board has to do with Phase 1 of the project. He understands that some paving will take place at Kyle Park soon. Mr. Myers needs permission to run some conduit for a chase. The PA system is not wireless. He needs to run the conduit now under the paving. Hard wire will need to run from right field at Field #8 to the center of Quad #1. Essentially it would run along the outfield of Field #8 and then cross over the pavement. There is a culvert there and he doesn't know if that would be the easiest place to put a chase. In conclusion, Mr. Myers is just looking for some guidance and approval. The

ultimate goal is to someday have hard wire all the way to Field #1 and have speakers in that location.

City Engineer Donnelly responded by stating that this is something that definitely needs to be discussed further. Mr. Myers went on to state that he was a bit surprised that the PA System was not wireless. In today's technological world, he assumed that it would be wireless. He also mentioned that when the round-about was completed he ran some conduit for a future light, which is another fundraising project. When that project was done, Mr. Myers did have design plans and came to the Parks Advisory Board for approval.

Mr. Donnelly asked Mr. Asher what would be needed for the current request. Mr. Asher responded by stating that a rough drawing would be needed. Included in that drawing would be where it would be laid. OUPS would need to be called.

Mr. Myers asked when the paving would be done in Kyle Park. Mr. Asher stated that the paving is scheduled for the next week. Since that is quick, Mr. Asher mentioned that there are other options rather than cutting fresh pavement. Mr. Myers mentioned that directional boring after the fact would also be an option. He just didn't know the scope of work for the paving project, whether it would be removal or going over top. Mr. Asher stated that it was an overlay.

Mr. Asher also mentioned that the walk path project would be done after baseball. The design is complete, but the bidding has not begun yet. It will only be 10'-12', so going under that will not be an issue. The bigger issue will be the parking lot. Mr. Myers asked if the final design of the walk path will go towards both quads from the restrooms. Mr. Asher answered that the path will go east to west connecting all handicapped parking to the restrooms and there will be two arms to south from the quads.

Mr. Myers went on to state that there is a plan to install bat racks in the dugouts. Currently, there is no good place to store bats. Later, this week Mr. Myers will be taking the proposal to the Tipp City Junior Baseball Board to vote, but he wanted to mention it tonight to the Parks Advisory Board so that the City of Tipp City would be aware.

The bat racks connect to the wire fencing, so they will be permanent. They will be out 365 days a year in all types of weather and should last about 5 years. There have been some injuries this year due to the fact that there is no place to store the bats. Players are rolling their ankles and a child was hit in the head just outside of the dugout. Parents and commissioners are becoming concerned.

The total number of racks installed will be 24 – 12 diamonds and 2 dugouts per diamond. Each rack will hold 10 bats, so 20 bats per field. According the rules, bat racks must be installed inside the dugout. No loose equipment can be outside the dugout.

All the equipment boxes have been welded and repaired. However, they are older and there is some moisture getting inside, so boxes have been purchased to store the chalk that must stay dry.

Also, Tipp City Junior Baseball is getting ready to spend about \$5,000 to repair the back stops. The back stops tend to curl up, especially at the bottom. From the ground up about two sections will be replaced. The same gage wire as the old will be used for the new. All the cage around the batting cage will be replaced as well. It has been a scheduling nightmare due to repairs not being able to get done during games, but it will eventually get done.

Signs have been put up to help with field location. They are simple directional signs pointing people to the left or right. Mr. Myers sprayed Round Up underneath the signs to help with mowing.

Barrier fencing has also been installed around the round-about to prevent people from parking in the grassy areas. Mass e-mails are sent explaining to use the paved parking first, but the barrier fencing is doing a much better job than asking people via e-mail.

Mr. Myers did ask about installing signage that could put information such as batting cage times and teams that have it scheduled. This could prevent arguments between teams. The sign would be mounted on the north face of Kyle Park Garage on the wall of the women's restroom. The wall of the men's restroom has an access door, so that would not work. Before the signage is purchased or constructed Mr. Myers wanted to know if the City of Tipp City had something already available. The hope is to have something made with plexi-glass and that is lockable.

Mr. Asher stated that he thought it was a good idea. However, the City of Tipp City currently doesn't have anything available to use. Mr. Asher does have some catalogs that Mr. Myers may look at to see what is available.

Mr. Myers had nothing further, but Mr. Asher did comment that the City of Tipp City had placed some yellow signs in different locations that state no vehicles beyond a specific point. Hopefully this will keep people from driving in areas that they should not. There are areas in the grass that can be used for overflow parking, but other areas are not. The signs should help direct people. It appears to be working at this point.

Mr. Chitwood asked if people parking in the grassy areas is a continuous problem. Further, he stated when he lived in Englewood, Centennial Park did not allow people to park in the grass and would ticket cars that did. He is not sure how strict we want to be.

Mr. Asher provided some history. When the fields were first built, the City of Tipp City thought that there was enough parking, but there was not. Lots were added and there still wasn't enough parking. So, when big events are held and there is not enough parking, people have to park somewhere. It is really not fair to punish people if there is not enough parking available. Certain grassy areas were selected as overflow parking.

Mr. Hodges stated that there will never be enough paved parking unless we budget in the future for additional parking. Mr. Asher stated that he has gotten price quotes in the past and it is extremely expensive to increase parking. It would be as much as \$70,000 for the addition. So, it was decided to just let people park in the grassy areas. Especially since it is only a few months out of the year.

Mr. Chitwood asked Mr. Myers about coordination with the City of Tipp City for planting and fertilizing. Mr. Myers answered that he is in communication with Mr. Asher often. Tipp City Junior Baseball buys grass seed and lets Mr. Asher if someone is willing to donate time to fertilize or mow the grass.

**Comments of Park
Advisory Members**

Mr. Hodges asked if Kathy Taylor with Tipp-Monroe Community Services could provide a list of events that the Park Supervisor Committee could use to recommend hours, dates, times that someone would be needed. Kathy answered that she could get a list together. City Engineer Donnelly stated that the more information, the better.

The Parks Advisory Board also thanked Randy Myers for updating them regarding Tipp City Junior Baseball.

Mr. Myers did add that their group is utilizing City Park more and more and he believes that it will be an ongoing issue. It would be beneficial to get those fields back into shape. Teams are increasing and in order to have practice teams are increasingly using City Park. Scheduling all the practices at Kyle Park is a nightmare.

With that being said, Disc Golf will definitely want to look at making some adjustments to the course and moving a few of the holes.

Also, Mr. Asher stated that this is the 5th season of budget cuts that the Parks Department has not sprayed Broad Leaf in the parks system, except in the athletic areas. He knew that after a few years it would be noticeable, but now it is really starting to show. There is an increase in the budget this year for Broad Leaf. Mr. Asher decided that the fall would be the best time to spray. So, the next few months everything could look a little rough. It will take about 3 or 4 years to have the parks system look like it has in the past. Before the budget cuts, spraying was done in the spring and fall. Mr. Asher will be applying for more money next year.

Kathy Taylor asked if there are any plans to fog for mosquitoes. Mr. Asher stated that there are no plans and it hasn't been done for a few years. Kathy went on to ask if there are any plans to bring that back, especially down by the river. Mr. Asher stated that the trend now is to not fog and just make everyone responsible for their own mosquito protection.

Adjournment

The next meeting will be Monday, July 13, 2015. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:57 pm on a motion by Mr. Chitwood, seconded by Mr. Cox and unanimously approved.

APPROVED: _____


Board Chairman

ATTEST: _____


Kelly Rowlands, Recording Secretary