

TIPP CITY PARKS ADVISORY BOARD
TIPP CITY, MIAMI COUNTY, OHIO September 14, 2015

Roll Call

Chairman Slagel called the meeting of the Tipp City Parks Advisory Board to order at 7:00 p.m. Members in attendance included: Patrick Hodges, Doug Slagel, Ben Woodruff, Kevin Cox, and Doug Chitwood. Mackenzie English (Monroe Twp. Representative), Kathy Taylor (Tipp-Monroe Community Services), Jim Asher (City of Tipp City), and Board Secretary Kelly Rowlands were also present. Josh Gold (Tipp City Junior Baseball) and Andrew Thornbury were also in attendance.

Approval of Minutes – March 9, 2015

Mr. Slagel **moved to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2015 meeting as written.** Mr. Woodruff seconded the motion. **Motion passed 5-0.**

Approval of Minutes – May 11, 2015

Mr. Slagel **moved to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2015 meeting as written.** Mr. Cox seconded the motion. **Motion passed 5-0.**

New Business
Kyle Park Play Feature and Exercise Equipment

Mr. Asher stated that the exercise equipment is in and it is getting used quite a bit.

Mr. Hodges questioned if this was the three new pieces.

Mr. Asher confirmed that the three pieces that were ordered this year and the three pieces that were purchased last year, but not installed, have all been installed. Six pieces in total.

Mr. Hodges followed up by asking where the equipment is located.

Mr. Asher answered that if you go to the Sports Pavilion, there is a piece located by the Play Feature and the Bike Path. Around the corner, there are a few more pieces. If you continue around past the water, as you head back to the parking lot, there are a few more pieces. So they are spread out. There is still room for 2-3 pieces of equipment next year.

The equipment is nice and very sturdy. Mr. Asher has heard from people who have used the pieces and like them.

Mr. Asher continued by discussing the Kyle Park Play Feature. A picture and quote for the piece was included in the Staff Report. There is also a quote for the safety surface. The piece will be located on the south side of Kyle Park. It replaces an old piece that was removed due to safety concerns. The location is in between the 2 pavilions.

Mr. Hodges asked for confirmation that the piece would cost \$50,000. Mr. Asher stated that he was correct.

Kathy Taylor questioned if the piece had a climbing wall. She could not tell from the picture.

Mr. Asher answered that it is not a wall. It is more of a climbing slide type piece. The City Park Play Feature has a similar part.

Mr. Chitwood commented that the Play Feature in City Park is pretty popular.

Looking back at the picture of the proposed Kyle Park Play Feature, Mr. Hodges asked about the piece of equipment that has a child hanging upside down. Is it a rope type feature? Mr. Asher confirmed that it is a rope type structure.

Mr. Cox asked if you take a right at the stop sign in Kyle Park to reach the Play Feature area. Mr. Asher stated that he was correct.

The old piece was removed in the Spring when it became unsafe. The new piece will be installed in the exact location.

Mr. Hodges inquired as to when the piece would be installed.

Mr. Asher answered that if the Parks Board approves the quote this evening, he will get started on the paperwork immediately. Since it is a big ticket item, City Council will probably need to approve it as well. The goal is to get the Play Feature installed before winter.

Mr. Woodruff questioned if approval would be for both the Play Feature and the safety surface. Mr. Asher stated that he was correct.

Mr. Slagel sought confirmation that the money for the piece would be coming out of the Capital Improvement budget. Mr. Asher confirmed that he was correct.

**Kyle Park Dog
Park Shelter**

Mr. Hodges moved to approve the Kyle Park Play Feature and Safety Surface quote. Mr. Slagel seconded the motion.
Motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Asher stated that in the Staff Report there is information regarding 2 different types of "sails." He likes the bigger one better. There is a quote for both sizes. The quotes include installation. However, Mr. Asher believes that this is something that the City of Tipp City employees can install themselves. This means that the pricing would come down. Which is a good thing, since there is not enough in the Kyle Park budget for the quoted price. The quote is for either one of the large toppers or two of the smaller toppers.

Mr. Slagel confirmed that Mr. Asher liked the larger, 18'x18', size better.

Mr. Asher stated that Mr. Slagel was correct. At this time, Mr. Asher would rather put in one really nice topper and then maybe add another one at a later date.

Mr. Chitwood asked where the topper would be placed.

Mr. Asher answered that it would be installed at the Kyle Park Dog Park. It would be located inside the fence.

As a follow-up, Mr. Chitwood questioned why a topper is needed. Is it for shade?

Mr. Asher responded that there have been several requests for a shaded area. People will stay out there for ½ hour to an hour.

Mr. Cox further questioned if the topper would be on the small dog or large dog side.

Mr. Asher answered that it would be installed on the south side, which is the large dog side. That is the area that seems to get the most use.

Mr. Slagel inquired whether or not it would be taken down in the winter.

Mr. Asher stated that the sail would be removed in the wintertime and placed in storage.

**Kyle Park Dog
Park Pavers**

Mr. Hodges commented that the large topper (with 4 posts) would be more stable during wind and storms. That is especially important in Kyle Park.

Mr. Asher remarked that he would get a quote for an 18'x18' topper with no installation. Hopefully, he can get the price knocked down a bit and get this installed sometime this Fall as well.

Mr. Hodges moved to approve the Kyle Park Dog Park Shelter (18'x18' with no installation). Mr. Slagel seconded the motion. **Motion passed 5-0.**

Mr. Asher stated that he did find Alex Industries. He is a young man from Tipp City. Information is included in the Staff Report. The quote is for \$17 per paver, which is excellent. It is nice to be able to stay local. Do we want to move forward? A plan for advertisement and deadline dates for ordering would need to be established.

Board Secretary Rowlands included a very rough proposal for an advertisement that can be included in the Tippecanews, which is included in the monthly utility bill.

Kathy Taylor asked if a photo is included in the price quote of \$17 per paver.

Mr. Asher answered that he is not 100% sure about that. Probably not. It is probably just lettering. The discussion that Mr. Asher had with Alex's father was for a paver with 3 lines. The pavers would be similar to the pavers in the Veteran's Memorial Park.

Mr. Hodges noted that the Veteran's Pavers are \$53.25 and these are \$17.00. That is amazing. The Veterans may want to switch.

Mr. Hodges stated that advertisement needs to include the number of lines.

Board Secretary Rowlands indicated that the application would look very similar to the one for the Veteran's Pavers.

Mr. Hodges also suggested that the advertisement should clarify that the pavers are not just for dogs. But rather, any pet. Just because they are located at Kyle Park Dog Park, doesn't mean that the bricks are only for dogs. Someone has already asked him if the pavers are only available for dogs.

Mr. Hodges motioned to move forward with the Kyle Park Dog Park Pavers – using Alex Industries to engrave the pavers and to begin advertising with the installation to begin in the Spring of 2016. Mr. Slagel seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Old Business

**Rosewood Creek
Neighborhood
Play Feature**

The new Play Feature went in pretty nicely. A few residents called us and thanked us. We even received a plate of cupcakes from one resident. One resident was a bit upset that we were not able to put the swing set in. Her children are older. Mr. Asher is working on receiving quotes for a swing set and that is a project for next Spring or Summer.

Park Ranger

Mr. Slagel had a meeting with City Council in late July. Some members were taking the idea into consideration, others thought it was going to be too expensive.

A more detailed schedule from Kathy Taylor of Community Services has been requested. This would be for all the Parks.

Kathy stated that this is something that she is working on. The City Manager has already received the information from the soccer organization.

Further, Mr. Slagel stated that City Council is going to look at the item in terms of the budget. They will debate about it and discuss it further. Mr. Slagel is not holding his breath.

Mr. Hodges mentioned the article that was published in the Tipp Gazette. Council members were divided. Budget concerns were cited. Starting out with a part-time Park Ranger as Mr. Slagel suggested originally would address some of the budget issues. Mr. Hodges then stated that he hasn't read in the City Council minutes where this subject has been discussed recently.

Mr. Asher remarked that one of the first steps would be starting an information board for the baseball diamonds and soccer fields. The board would list who should be on the field or diamond on certain days and at specific times. The idea would be to keep people in the correct locations.

Mr. Hodges suggested that between March and November, a specific schedule with the date, time, field, and the group using the field or diamond, is needed. City Council needs to know how heavily the fields and diamonds are used. It is the opinion of Mr. Hodges that City Council doesn't know how busy things are between March and November.

Mr. Woodruff stated that he was at the soccer fields on Saturday and he noticed that people are starting to park in the grass area. He knew that this was an issue for Tipp City Junior Baseball, but it now appears to be an occurrence for soccer as well.

Mr. Slagel pointed out that 2 City Council members did note that parents take care of all discipline issues at the soccer fields. Parents can handle it there.

Further, Mr. Slagel noted that Vandalia and Troy both have Parks & Rec Departments. Tipp City is getting to be just as busy as both of those communities. Someone is going to have to go out and keep an eye on what is happening.

Mr. Hodges commented that we have Kathy Taylor, but she needs help.

Mr. Slagel agreed with Mr. Hodges' comments that City Council doesn't realize how much the fields are being used and misused.

Other Business
Kyle Park
Handicap Walk
Path

Mr. Asher noted that construction began today, which is great. It is the perfect time of year. No one is using the fields. It is bone dry out there right now. By next Friday, which is the beginning of Mum Festival weekend, the path should be complete.

Mr. Hodges stated that Tipp City Junior Baseball should be happy.

Josh Gold, Tipp City Junior Baseball, was in attendance. Randy Myers is moving on, so Josh has volunteered to take over for him. Mr. Gold thanked everyone for the much needed Kyle Park Handicap Walk Path.

Citizen Comments
on Items Not on
the Agenda

There were no citizen comments.

Comments of Park
Advisory Members

Mr. Hodges shared a copy of an e-mail from Joe Gibson, President of City Council, regarding the condition Kyle Park fields. Mr. Gibson has received a few complaints regarding the fields and how the City of Tipp City needs to do a better job maintaining the fields. More specifically spraying, weeding, and leveling.

Mr. Hodges stated that he shared the information because it concludes by saying that the Parks Board & Parks Department may already have this information.

Continuing on, Mr. Hodges commented that for many years it has been apparent that Mr. Asher does not have a budget that allows the fields to be maintained like they were in the past. City Council has not met to determine budget amounts for next year. It is Mr. Hodges' wish to have the Parks Advisory Board let City Council know that they would fully support increasing Mr. Asher's budget to maintain the fields. Improvements cannot be done without money.

Kathy Taylor noted that she has a monthly meeting with the City Manager. This is an issue that has been discussed during those meetings. She mentioned to the City Manager that it will take a while to get the fields back into shape. After 4 or 5 years of not spraying, the dandelions and weeds are very noticeable.

The City Manager told Kathy Taylor that groups have money to put back into the fields, but they need to know what they need to do. For instance, Tipp City Soccer would like to put an irrigation system in the soccer fields.

It was suggested by the City Manager, to get a committee together to look at what all these different groups want to do and what each group is willing to contribute to the projects.

Kathy Taylor went on to state that the City of Tipp City does a lot more than just mow the grass. People often say that is all that the City does, but people need to realize that City staff does much more than that. For instance, they haul away trash, maintain the restrooms, and take care of weeding. Groups don't realize how much the City of Tipp City handles, but they are willing to help. They just need to know the proper steps in starting the process.

Mr. Asher recommended holding a special meeting to kick around some ideas and then present those thoughts to City Council.

Mr. Hodges felt that a special meeting was a great idea.

Mr. Hodges **motioned to hold a special Parks Advisory Board meeting to address issues with the athletic fields.** Mr. Slagel seconded the motion. **Motion passed 5-0.**

While on the subject of athletic fields, Mr. Slagel asked Mr. Asher about the condition of the soccer fields that were torn up due to sewer work.

Mr. Asher said that back in the Spring the fields were redone. The fields did not come in as well as he would have hoped. The plan is to seed in the late Fall, plus use some fertilizer. A broadleaf treatment will be done as well, although it will be done later than it really should be. The fields do have some weeds.

Mr. Slagel asked if the broadleaf treatment will be done prior to October 15th. If not, it might be a waste. It could be better to just wait and save some of that money.

Mr. Asher stated that the target date for the broadleaf treatment would be October 15th. City staff like to wait until the younger children are done using the fields for the season. Soccer people are also alerted as to when the treatment will occur.

Further, Mr. Asher explained that there is a crab grass problem. That situation will also need to be brought under control when more money is available.

Mr. Chitwood provided information on the monarch butterfly to the Parks Advisory Board members.

Monarch butterflies are beginning to fade away and are not seen nearly as much as they were in the past. There is an initiative to help preserve the species. Mr. Chitwood thought that this might be something that the members might be interested in doing here in our parks.

Mr. Chitwood provided a little background on the monarch. Each year the butterfly journeys 2,000 miles from the north to central Mexico. It takes about 3 generations of the butterflies to get from point A to point B. Along the way, monarchs stop at "weigh stations" and eat milkweed. This allows the butterflies to fill up and continue on their journey. Due to deforestation and development, the supply of milkweed is dwindling.

The question is what Tipp City can do. Mr. Chitwood asked if there is any milkweed in the Tipp City parks.

Mr. Asher answered that the City has the perfect area to do something like this. At Kyle Park there is the prairie area and monarch butterflies have been spotted there lately. He hasn't paid much attention to the milkweed, but he will now.

Going further, Mr. Asher commented that the Kyle Park prairie area is the perfect spot to start promoting certain types of wildlife and birds.

Mr. Slagel mentioned that the wellfield areas might be another good spot to do something.

Mr. Asher agreed and stated that wildflowers have been planted that attract certain types of birds. It has also been discussed to try to bring back quail, pheasant, and wild turkeys back to the area. There is a huge area now that could support these animals. We do have coyotes and foxes have been spotted.

Mr. Chitwood concluded by stating that he just wanted to see if people were interested in doing something like this. It is not the right time of the year. Spring would be better, but planning can take place now. He mentioned something to his daughter, who is a senior at Tipp City High School. She is a member of many clubs. It could be that a club might want to pick something like this up as a project.

The website Live Monarch can provide a little bit more information regarding planting milkweed.

Mr. Hodges suggested finding a boy scout that might be interested in doing a project like this.

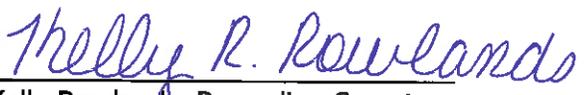
Mr. Slagel agreed and mentioned that other scouts working on their Eagle Scout, have done similar projects in the parks.

Mr. Chitwood mentioned that cost appears to be minimal. He is going to do some more research and bring it back to the Parks Advisory Board.

Adjournment

The next meeting will be Monday, November 9, 2015. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:34 pm on a motion by Mr. Slagel, seconded by Mr. Cox and unanimously approved.

APPROVED: 
Board Chairman

ATTEST: 
Kelly Rowlands, Recording Secretary