

TIPP CITY PARKS ADVISORY BOARD
TIPP CITY, MIAMI COUNTY, OHIO November 9, 2015

Roll Call

Chairman Slagel called the meeting of the Tipp City Parks Advisory Board to order at 6:59 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. Renee Matsunami (Art Adventures), Lynn Woodworth Shirk (Art in the Park), and Chris Graham (Ohio River Road Runners) were also in attendance.

Approval of Minutes – September 14, 2015

Mr. Hodges **moved to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2015 meeting as written.** Mr. Woodruff seconded the motion. **Motion passed 5-0.**

New Business
Art in the Park

Lynn Shirk from the Arts Council was in attendance and presented the following information.

The Arts Council has been working with the Tipp Community Band to hold a collaboration of the arts event in Tipp City. The hope is to use City Park for the event. The Community Band and other local musical groups will perform. Food vendors will be on-site. Artists can set up booths – there will be a discount for members of the Arts Council, but it will be open to any artist. A reader's theater group will be performing a script that Lynn Shirk wrote when the Roundhouse was rededicated. The script is based on the history of the Roundhouse and features music that the Community Band will help out with.

The date that has been selected is Saturday, July 16th, 2016. That date was selected because it is a little bit away from the Arts and Artisans event held in June, after the St. John's Festival, and before the Art Adventures event. The goal is to spread out from some of the other events occurring in town. This event will also be after the Canal Music Fest, which is in June.

The event will be held from 3pm-9pm. City Park is a nice, local, shady place that will allow everyone to bring chairs and enjoy the day. This will be a no alcohol event.

They would also like to use the Roundhouse. The Girl Scouts would like to do some crafts with kids. That portion of the event will be called Round Up Some Arts in the Roundhouse.

Mr. Hodges asked if this is the first time this event has been held.

Ms. Shirk answered that this is a first time event. They are hoping that it goes well and that the weather is good. With it being scheduled for July, hopefully it will be dry.

Mr. Hodges questioned if this is in conjunction with the Art Adventures.

Ms. Shirk stated that the Arts Council and Community Band are working together. Some of the people on the committee are from the Arts Council and some are from the Community Band.

Mr. Asher asked if this is an event that could be potentially held every year.

Ms. Shirk responded by saying that the group hopes that it could be an annual event. It would be great to showcase local artists. The Canal Music Fest is a similar event, but the Art in the Park event hopes to concentrate and focus more on local talent.

Mr. Chitwood inquired if there is anything that the City of Tipp City should be concerned about in regards to the event.

Ms. Shirk replied that she didn't think there were any concerns. She wanted to be present tonight, so there was plenty of time to plan. The group was concerned about the availability of City Park and the Roundhouse.

They would like to block off the front gates, so people can't drive in. People will be walking around and there will be kids, so safety is a concern.

Jim Asher expressed that the only issue that he could see would be someone who holds an annual event, such as a family reunion, at the Roundhouse. There has been an increase in smaller festivals and events taking place in City Park and weekend rentals of the Roundhouse are being blocked off.

Mr. Slagel stated that he didn't see any issues with allowing the group to use City Park and the Roundhouse. Paperwork would need to be filled out with Tipp-Monroe Community Services.

Mr. Hodges agreed and went on to say that he didn't feel that a family reunion or other event would interfere with the Art in the Park group. It is a big park.

Ms. Shirk did state that the Roundhouse didn't have to be used for the event. Other accommodations could be made for the kids' crafts. The tennis courts or the parking area next to the tennis courts could be used.

Mr. Asher voiced that multiple events would not mix very well. If a family wanted to play volleyball or tennis, they couldn't due to the Art in the Park event. He advised Ms. Shirk to go ahead and reserve the Roundhouse and if a family wanted to use it, they would have to pick a different day or reserve a shelter.

Kathy Taylor reminded the Parks Advisory Board that the Arts Council is a part of Tipp-Monroe Community Services, so they would be under the insurance of TMCS.

Mr. Hodges moved to approve the use of City Park and the Roundhouse for the Art in the Park event on Saturday, July 16th, 2016. Mr. Slagel seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Art Adventures

Renee Matsunami, who is also with the Arts Council, was in attendance and provided the following information.

The Children's Art Adventures event is in its 4th year. Previously, the event was held at the intersection of Broadway and Third, where Crossroads Church is located. For this year's event, the organizers would like to use City Park. There is more shade and it is safer. Last year, Broadway was shut down during the event. Before that it was just Third. There were issues of people looking at what was occurring and not paying attention to pedestrians.

Overall, City Park would be a much nicer venue and could provide room to grow in the future.

In the past, 200-300 kids and their families have participated in the Art Adventures program. Typically there are 30 booths where children can do arts and crafts activities. Last year there was a STEM based theme. All projects had something to do with S(cience), T(echnology), E(ngineering), or M(ath). That same theme will be continued this year as well. Food vendors will be on-site for this year's event.

Tonight, Ms. Matsunami is seeking permission to use City Park and the Roundhouse for the Art Adventures event which will be held on August 6th, 2016 from 10am-2pm. The event has been held the first Saturday in August each year prior.

Ms. Matsunami did provide a few samples of rough layouts of the event. She is not sure if any of the layouts will work.

Kathy Taylor expressed that City Park would be a good spot for this event. There has been issues with so many kids and those kids not looking when crossing the street. It would be nice to be somewhere that has shade and bathrooms. Also, there will be less worry about kids running into the street. It is a much safer environment. The location will also bring people into the park.

Mr. Cox mentioned that he attended this event last year with his niece. It was a fun event.

Mr. Chitwood stated that the same issue could occur with this event as was discussed with the Art in the Park group. A family could also request to use City Park and the Roundhouse for an event on this particular day. Is there any way that we can look at the previous year's rental schedule to see if someone always rents the Roundhouse on this particular day?

Mr. Asher answered that he did look at the previous year's rental schedule. He did recognize a couple of names. It has probably been an issue in the past; not getting the date that was originally requested. Since the rentals all start the first Monday in March at 8am and are on a first-come, first-serve basis, dates are not always available when someone contacts the office.

Kathy Taylor mentioned that renting the Roundhouse would not be a problem. Community Services gives a list of dates that need blocked off prior to the first Monday in March when rental reservations begin for everyone else. The Roundhouse is used heavily for both community events and individual rentals. Every weekend is pretty much booked.

Mr. Slagel commented that he is good with everything as long as the paperwork is submitted.

Mr. Hodges stated that it is amazing to have 300 participants.

Ms. Matsunami noted that it is sometimes difficult to gage just how many people are in attendance. They do charge admission. The admission is \$5 per child and that allows them to do unlimited art projects.

Ohio River Road Runners

Mr. Hodges followed up by saying that this location might even increase the number of participants.

Kathy Taylor agreed. It does get hot and more shade will help.

Mr. Slagel moved to approve the use of City Park and the Roundhouse for the Art Adventures event on Saturday, August 6th, 2016. Mr. Cox seconded the motion. **Motion passed 5-0.**

Renee Matsunami wanted to thank Mr. Asher for providing trash cans for the event last year. She also wanted to apologize for the ones that were stolen.

Mr. Asher said it was no problem and to call him again this year.

Chris Graham with the Ohio River Road Runners was present and provided the following information.

Mr. Graham was in attendance seeking approval to use Kyle Park on Thursday, June 30th, 2016. The event was also held last year.

It is a one-mile dash. The group starts one-mile from the shelter house with the restrooms, on the bike path. Even with two heats, the total time for the event is maybe 15 minutes.

The organizers of the event have learned things from last year and Mr. Graham can answer questions more concretely this year.

For example, a concern last year was how this event will affect baseball, softball, etc.

Mr. Graham stated that there were no issues. No conflicts came up and he didn't remember seeing other events taking place last year during the Ohio River Road Runners dash.

Road guards are used and people were patrolling traffic. This allowed cars to enter Kyle Park and get across the bike path, but kept the runners safe.

Last year, all the emergency contact forms were completed and turned in prior to the event.

Kathy Taylor asked how many runners participated last year.

Mr. Graham answered that 225 people ran last year. The anticipation was 185 runners. The overage was due to the fact

that the Ohio River Road Runners teamed up with the Hermes Running Club. The Hermes Running Club is made up of 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders. That group is headed up by Byron Kimmel at the school. The group gets together for 4 weeks in the summer and this event is held during the 5th week. So, all the kids came and participated.

Mr. Graham doesn't anticipate that the number of runners will increase. The numbers should be pretty similar this year.

Kathy Taylor asked for clarification that the group just runs in the park.

Mr. Graham clarified that they stay on the bike path exclusively. The runners start to the south and head north. The ending point is the shelter house.

Mr. Hodges noted that one of the concerns last year was if there was any conflict with the bike path and people using it.

Mr. Graham answered that he does remember that being a concern. He then said that there were no issues with that at all last year. There might have been one lady that was trying to get south on the bike path from Main Street. The crossing guard that was stationed at that point let her know that the path was open, but some runners might be coming through. She just waited and watched the event go by and then she made her way through.

Kathy Taylor mentioned that Community Services has some signs that could be used during the event. The signs state to use caution due to runners being on the path.

Mr. Graham stated that the group used signs last year and had cones and crossing guards.

Mr. Chitwood asked if EMT's were on-site or on-call.

Mr. Graham answered that the EMT's are notified and told that an event will take place. All events sponsored by the Ohio River Road Runners do that. It is up to the EMT's whether or not they want to actually be on-site.

Mr. Hodges questioned what time the event will begin.

Mr. Graham replied that the event will start at 7pm.

Mr. Hodges followed up by asking how long the event lasts in total.

Mr. Graham responded that he is there a few hours before the event to set up. Actual running time is only about 15 minutes.

Assuming that this is approved and that the group continues to hold this event annually, Mr. Graham wanted to know if there is a different process for recurring events to get approval from the Parks Advisory Board. Is it necessary to attend a meeting each year?

Mr. Hodges stated that based on other events and other years, it is typical that someone appears at a meeting each year. The Parks Advisory Board likes to hear a presentation of some kind. That way questions can be answered and any conflicts can be resolved.

Mr. Slagel moved to approve the use of Kyle Park for the Ohio River Road Runners event on Thursday, June 30th, 2016. Mr. Woodruff seconded the motion. **Motion passed 5-0.**

Kathy Taylor mentioned that Mr. Graham just needs to stop by the office and get the necessary forms.

**Old Business
Kyle Park Play
Feature**

Mr. Asher stated that the new Play Feature has been delivered. Double Jay Construction is supposed to start installing the piece this week (weather permitting).

**Kyle Park Dog
Park Shelter**

The Kyle Park Dog Park Shelter has also been delivered. Parks Department staff is going to install the shelter sometime this Fall. Hopefully in the next few weeks. The top part will be taken off and placed in storage during the Winter. Mr. Asher wants to fully install the piece to ensure that it is correct and then store the top since it is a canvas material.

**Kyle Park Dog
Park Pavers**

Board Secretary Rowlands has been working on the Kyle Park Dog Park Pavers. A sample ad for the Tippecanews and an application was included in the Staff Report. The ad can run in the next edition of the Tippecanews. It can run as many times as necessary.

Mr. Hodges suggested adding the number of lines and characters per line to the advertisement article.

Kathy Taylor stated that applications could also be made available at Community Services.

Mr. Asher noted that we would need a deadline, much like the Veterans Memorial Bricks. For those, bricks must be ordered by August 1st and then they are installed prior to Veterans' Day. That way we can add all new bricks at one time.

Mr. Hodges asked if the local person was still going to engrave the bricks.

Mr. Asher yes. Now that everything is together, Jim is going to contact him and move forward.

Mr. Hodges questioned if we really needed a deadline. Since the engraver is local, can't we just wait until we get 5 and then send him the order. Mr. Hodges hates to get tied down to a deadline.

Kathy Taylor commented that people want Jim to install them as soon as they are ordered and delivered. What was learned with the Veterans Memorial Bricks, is to set a deadline. That way Jim is not having to go out in the middle of Winter to install a brick. Also, people won't complain that it has been months and their brick has yet to be installed.

Mr. Asher stated that it is nice when only one order has to be placed.

Mr. Slagel suggested aiming for Spring, maybe Memorial Day weekend. We will need to check with the engraver to find out what order deadline would work for that date.

Mr. Asher proposed August 1st as a deadline. It is usually a slower time period for the Parks Department. Mowing has decreased and it is easier to get out and do other projects.

Mr. Woodruff asked if it was possible to include the application in with the Tippecanews.

Board Secretary Rowlands stated that she would check. Potential issues to doing this would be cost increases and if there were other inserts.

Mr. Slagel questioned whether a deadline needed to be selected tonight.

Mr. Asher answered that it was not necessary.

Mr. Slagel recommended that Mr. Asher select a date that works for the Parks Department staff and go with it.

Mr. Asher stated that he would check with the engraver and find out exactly how long it takes to receive the bricks once they have been ordered. That would help determine deadline dates.

Kathy Taylor asked about the possibility of raising the price per brick to \$20.00. The overage of \$3.00 per brick could go into the Park Fund to help maintain the Dog Park.

Mr. Asher replied that that was discussed previously.

The Parks Advisory Board members all agreed that \$20.00 is a good price.

Kathy Taylor went on to ask if this was something that would be allowed.

Mr. Asher mentioned that there is no cost for labor or for the brick. The bricks were previously purchased and were pretty cheap.

Mr. Asher stated that he would check with the City Manager.

Mr. Cox asked how many bricks were purchased.

Mr. Asher answered that there were around 2,000 bricks purchased and available.

Kyle Park Handicap Walk Path

The Walk Path has been installed and the handicap signs that needed to be moved have been moved. Grass seed was planted and grass is already starting to come up. It looks pretty good. The Walk Path will be very good for the Junior Baseball people.

Other Business

Mr. Hodges wanted to note that the Parks Advisory Board members did hold a special meeting. During the meeting, members discussed ideas regarding maintenance of athletic fields. These ideas can then be presented to City Council. The meeting took place on Monday, September 22nd, 2015.

Mr. Slagel asked if City Council was aware that the Parks Advisory Board members did meet.

Mr. Asher answered that they were aware and that they were kicking around some ideas regarding irrigation systems. A final decision has not been made.

Mr. Hodges brought an article from the October 28th, 2015 edition of the Tipp Gazette. The article explained that City Council was

looking at 3 different options regarding irrigation. One is to tap in to the city water main, which would cost roughly \$37,000. Another option would be to use mobile irrigation units, which would cost \$65,000. The final option would be to use an underground irrigation system for both the soccer fields and the baseball fields that would cost \$280,000.

One City Council member indicated that all the fields need to be involved with whatever decision is made.

It is Mr. Hodges belief that this news is encouraging. The issue is being discussed.

Mr. Slagel shared that he had a conversation with the City Manager. Right now the most likely option is a permanent well since hooking into the City water system is not feasible. It has to be elevated since the area is in the flood plain. Also, if something is done for soccer, something has to be done for everyone else.

Mr. Asher thinks there are different options. Also, discussions need to be had with Tipp City Junior Baseball. There are times in the Spring up until the early part of June when the baseball people are praying for the rain to stop in order to get games in. So, it is not nearly as important for the baseball fields to have the irrigation. They do not experience nearly as long of a dry spell as the soccer fields do. We still need to get Junior Baseball's opinion.

Continuing, Mr. Asher stated that the project will cost a lot of money, but there are ways to do it in phases. Maybe the bigger soccer fields first and then another section later. It sounds like the water is an issue. New industries are coming into town and using a lot of water. It is that reason that the well came into play.

Mr. Hodges mentioned that there was an encouraging statement from Mayor Pat Hale. It says, "If we are going to do it right, maybe we do it for the community as a whole and not necessarily make soccer/baseball do it."

**Citizen Comments
on Items Not on
the Agenda**

Lynn Shirk posed the following question. Her boyfriend was cleaning out a closet and discovered a bag full of tennis balls. The balls are dead and can no longer be used for tennis, but would be great for dogs at the dog park. Is there some place she can take these or can she just tie the bag to the fence at the dog park with a sign stating they are free to whomever?

Mr. Asher told her that it would be fine to take the dog park, but it would be better to wait until the Spring.

**Comments of Park
Advisory Members**

Mr. Cox asked Mr. Asher if all the outlying parks are in good shape. Is there anything that needs to be addressed?

Mr. Asher answered that everything is in good condition. The only thing he is looking at are swings for Rosewood Creek. After the first of the year there will be more discussion and pictures of different options. Also, fourteen trees were planted in different parks today.

Mr. Slagel inquired about weed spraying. Did it get done?

Mr. Asher remarked that he asked for more money in the budget for a program for both soccer and baseball. This year is the first time in five years that two treatments of broadleaf weed control were done – one in the Spring and one in the Fall. All of the parks were done this Fall.

Next year, the hope is to get the outfields of the baseball fields and the soccer fields on a regular program. This program would consist of broadleaf weed control, fertilizer, crab grass control, and slice seeding. The fields will be aerated and seeded. In the past, soccer has purchased seed and the City of Tipp City has put it down.

Mr. Asher has yet to see his Operational Budget for next year, but thinks there is a small increase to help the turf of the sports fields look a little better. This increase will also help the parks in general look better.

Mr. Chitwood asked about signage before a spray occurs. How are people warned? Especially those with small children.

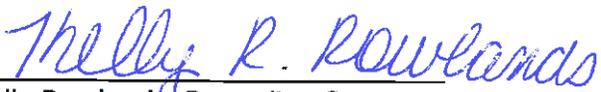
Mr. Asher said that he contacts the soccer people in the Fall before a spray will occur. Flags are also put out for 24 hours. The chemicals that are used have a reentry time of about an hour, so staff tries to do the treatment early in the morning. The smell can last days.

Mr. Hodges shared an article with the Parks Advisory Board members. It is in regards to a new activity that is becoming popular. Foot golf, which uses a soccer ball, uses a course similar to the Frisbee golf course in town. Maybe we can add a foot golf course. Only a few changes would have to be made.

Adjournment

The next meeting will be Monday, January 11, 2016. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:37 pm on a motion by Mr. Slagel, seconded by Mr. Chitwood and unanimously approved.

APPROVED: 
Board Chairman

ATTEST: 
Kelly Rowlands, Recording Secretary