TIPP CITY PARKS ADVISORY BOARD TIPP CITY, MIAMI COUNTY, OHIO July 11, 2016

Roll Call

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, Kevin Cox, Patrick Hodges, and Ben Woodruff. Kathy Taylor (Tipp Monroe Community Services), Carla Frame (Tipp City Schools), Mackenzie English (Monroe Township), Jim Asher (City of Tipp City), and Board Secretary Linda Michalak were also present. Nancy Bowman (Dayton Daily News) was in attendance.

Mr. Hodges moved to excuse Mr. Slagel. Mr. Woodruff seconded the motion. **Motion passed 4-0.**

Approval of Minutes – May 9, 2016

Mr. Cox moved to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2016 meeting as written. Mr. Woodruff seconded the motion. Motion passed 2-0, with Mr. Chitwood and Mr. Hodges abstaining due to absence.

New Business
City Park and
Kyle Park 2016
Projects

Mr. Asher received the quote today for the stone fireplace for City Park. He wrote a requisition and is waiting for the purchase order. As soon as he receives that, the project will commence. The cost will be \$3,200.

The exercise equipment has been ordered for Kyle Park and should be in very soon. There will be two stations on one piece and then a second piece. They will be going in this summer. Mr. Hodges inquired as to their location. Mr. Asher suggested one option is to put them along the levee pond where the pine trees are. That section is long, and there is no exercise equipment along that section. Another possibility would be to put one in the middle of that section and one in the middle of the section along the south parking lot for the soccer fields, in between the two that are already there. There will be a total of nine stations. They will be in next month.

2016 Neighborhood Park Projects

The Canal Lock Park fence has been installed. It was completed last week. Mr. Asher has a quote for new siding on the white barn at the nature center. He is waiting for a purchase order for that.

The new bike work station with the air pump and the tools has been installed. Mr. Asher has noted interest from the public, and Mr. Hodges has heard good comments about it. Mr. Asher said there are also new informational bike trail signs in. They give information about the businesses downtown. There are two new signs on Main Street along the bike trail. There will be one right before arriving at Kyle Park going south, with information about restrooms and mileage. There will be one in City Park showing where the restrooms are in City Park. The signs are two-sided. Mr. Asher also stated that bike racks were installed downtown last week.

Mr. Asher stated that there is a gate for the Canal Lock fence at the front. It can't be seen from the road, but it will keep children from walking through there. The other fence is at the edge of the lock. Before installing the piece that comes out it was noted that it would block the view of the locks, so it was decided to wait on the installation. The City has the two pieces should we ever decide to use them. A couple of people from downtown were concerned about the visibility and drilling into the stones themselves at the lock. Mr. Asher stated that it looks very nice the way it is. The stones can be seen from the street.

Mr. Hodges was there Sunday and agrees that the fence looks great. The problem is that a person can walk around the fence without the end gates that were not installed, walk out on the bricks, and still fall down into the canal. The idea behind the fence originally was so nobody could fall into the canal. Mr. Asher said that it is almost impossible to enclose the lock so that no one would be able to get in, if they wanted to. Mr. Hodges suggested that the members of the board should visit the lock before the next meeting. He thought the idea behind the fencing was that we did not want someone potentially falling. Mr. Asher agreed, we don't want someone walking in the dark and walking over the edge. Mr. Hodges added that kids playing where they shouldn't be playing is a concern as well. Mr. Hodges declared that the fence looks great but doesn't prevent falling in entirely. Mr. Asher doesn't think that can be done. Mr. Hodges would like board members to go look at the lock before the next meeting. Mr. Asher asked the board members to consider the historical value of the piece as well. How it looks is important to a lot of people downtown, but safety is an issue also. Both should be kept in mind.

Dogs at Large Ordinance

Mr. Hodges stated that board members received a copy of City Ordinance 90.01, Dogs at Large, in their board packet. Mr. Hodges then read his email to the board members. His concern is that some Tipp City dog owners ignore this ordinance, and he would like to make dog owners more aware of their moral and legal

responsibility as it involves the removal of dog feces. Mr. Hodges believes that most Tipp City citizens are unaware that the penalty for violating this ordinance is a "minor misdemeanor" or an \$89 fine.

Mr. Hodges proposed the following:

- Post a sign at the dog park that reads, "It is the dog owner's responsibility to immediately pick up and dispose of any and all feces deposits, and failure to do so could result in being charged with a minor misdemeanor." Mr. Hodges' hope is that dog owners will become more aware of their responsibility in this regard.
- Publish an article in the Tippecanews for August with the above wording, hoping to bring further awareness to this issue.

Mr. Asher stated that there are three signs at the dog park asking owners to pick up after their pets. However, there is nothing about the ordinance on the signs. There are also two stations with bags for dog owners to use. Mr. Hodges states that dog owners feel there is increasingly a problem at the dog park. Mr. Asher agreed that putting an article in the Tippecanews would be a good idea. Mrs. Taylor agreed that the dog owner knowing there could be a fine is a good idea. Mr. Asher said that someone has been cited in the past, and it did cost that person \$89.

Mr. Cox asked if there is a sign at the dog park that could be updated to include the ordinance. Mr. Asher said that putting up a sign would not be very expensive, probably about \$40.

Mr. Hodges made a motion to create a new sign for the dog park displaying the City's dog ordinance. Mr. Cox seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Hodges made a motion to put the dog ordinance in the Tippecanews. Mr. Cox seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Old Business Dog Park Pavers

As of July 11, 2016, 23 pavers have been sold at a cost of \$20 each. Mr. Asher will place an order for these pavers on Monday, July 18. He plans to place an order annually. He indicated that the area will need to be sprayed for weeds before installation. He believes the pavers will be installed in approximately a month.

Other Business Eagle Scout Project

Eagle Scout Hunter Parrish has completed his Eagle Scout project in City Park. He installed 16 tree identification labels at 16 different trees. The labels are on 4x4's with a label on top. Mr. Asher said that the labels look great. He indicated that it will be educational for the children to go out and look at the different trees, look at the leaves, and identify what type of tree it is. Mr. Cox asked what the markers were made from. Mr. Asher indicated that they are 4x4's placed in the ground 30 inches deep; they stick up about 1-1/2 feet and are cut at an angle. There is a wooden piece with a plastic label fastened to that piece. Mr. Asher said they should hold up well in the weather and should last for several years.

Discussion of Possible Smoking Ban in Public Parks

Mr. Hodges said that he sent the board an email on July 8. He proceeded to read the email to the group. Mr. Hodges had seen an article in the Dayton Daily News about New Carlisle limiting smoking in city parks and facilities. He would like to propose that the Tipp City Parks Advisory Board approve a non-smoking policy which would require smokers to be 20 feet from park boundaries, including but not limited to playground equipment, athletic fields, restrooms, courts, swimming pools, special event venues, and spectator and concession areas. Rental facilities, such as the Roundhouse and shelters, could be exempt from the policy as long as the smoking is in or immediately around the rental.

Mr. Hodges believes that this proposal would create a healthier environment for all, especially for children using the parks, and eliminate environmentally-destroying cigarette butts.

Mr. Hodges indicated that violators would be asked to leave the area. No fines or penalties would be involved.

The only cost to the city would be the creation of signs for all parks indicating that "parks are smoke-free areas."

If approved by the Parks Board, the next step would be forwarding the matter to City Council for discussion and possible approval.

Mr. Hodges then brought up the letter from the City attorney, Kevin Lantz. Mr. Asher had requested a legal opinion on whether Tipp City could prohibit smoking in the City's public parks. Mr. Lantz replied that this could be done.

Mr. Hodges would like to propose a motion that the Parks Board forward the proposal regarding a non-smoking policy, along with the letter from Mr. Lantz and the article on New Carlisle from the Dayton Daily News, to City Council for review.

Mr. Cox asked if it would be okay to smoke inside the rental buildings. Mr. Hodges believes that since the rentals are paid for, this could be an exception to the non-smoking rule. Or, the City Council could decide that parks would be completely non-smoking, including shelter rentals. Mr. Hodges stated that this was not addressed in the Dayton Daily News article regarding New Carlisle.

Mrs. Taylor asked if people are allowed to smoke in the Roundhouse. Mr. Asher said yes. Mr. Cox wondered if that could be considered a fire hazard. Mrs. Taylor was concerned about cigarette smell for other people renting the space as well. Mr. Asher said that cigarette butts are seen in the fireplace. Mr. Hodges said that City Council could decide to eliminate smoking in the parks totally. He would like City Council to address the issue, if the board agrees.

Mr. Cox asked if this would limit any special events in the parks, such as festivals. Mr. Hodges said that it would eliminate smoking at the events. Mrs. Taylor does not recall many people smoking in the park. Mr. Asher indicated that the Fourth of July and the Mum Festival are the two events where there are a lot of smokers.

Discussion ensued regarding Ohio State prohibiting smoking in the stadium and smoking not being allowed at high school football games. Mrs. Taylor wondered about parents smoking at soccer games. Mr. Cox mentioned that more and more college campuses are becoming smoke free.

Mr. Hodges believes more parks are going to do this. New Carlisle is the first in our area. Some parks in the southern Dayton area have restricted smoking already. He would like us to be ahead of the game.

Mr. Hodges said that his proposal would carry no penalty, but the sign would make people aware of the rule that smoking would be prohibited. Mr. Hodges declared, "We have parks for kids, smoking shouldn't be a part of it."

Mr. Chitwood thought the idea made sense. He questioned the idea of having a localized smoking area versus a total non-smoking policy. A discussion regarding the rental facilities took place, and the board agreed that City Council would have final say.

Mr. Chitwood made a motion to investigate a non-smoking proposal in Tipp City parks by City Council. The Parks Board would forward the email from Mr. Hodges, the legal document from Mr. Lantz, and the article regarding New Carlisle to City Council. Mr. Cox seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Citizen Comments | There were none. on Items Not on the Agenda

Comments of Park Advisory Members

Mrs. Taylor asked Mr. Asher about the deposit that is required for rental of the Roundhouse. She asked if he had ever thought about doing something similar for baseball and soccer. If someone would use the fields and not clean them up, they would forfeit their deposit. She indicated that when tournaments come in, they are left dirty and trashy, and there is generally quite a mess.

Mr. Asher said that the City takes a trailer out there with trash cans and extra bags. Once filled, the trash cans are emptied and new bags installed. Usually when the tournament is over, the bags are put in the trailer, the cans are put in the trailer, and the groups clean up after themselves. However, last weekend this was not done. Cans were full and overflowing, and it took four crew members until 1:30 to pick up trash. Mrs. Taylor said that shouldn't have to be, that if a group is to sponsor an event, they should be responsible for cleaning the park after. Mr. Asher said that we ask groups to leave the park as they found it.

Mrs. Taylor inquired if something could be added to the field use policy about keeping the parks clean, but she wondered how it could be enforced. Mr. Asher suggested that we could ask for a \$500 deposit for each tournament and keep the deposit if the parks are not left in good condition.

Mr. Hodges asked who sponsors the tournaments, and Mrs. Taylor replied that it is Junior Baseball. Mr. Hodges then asked, "shouldn't we hold Junior Baseball somewhat accountable for that?" Mrs. Taylor said that they would have to pay the deposit. Whoever put on a tournament would have to pay the deposit. She also proposed that the organization could pay an up-front fee for trash removal. Mr. Asher said that some years are better than others. In a normal year, it gets worse as the season goes on.

Mr. Cox thought that an up-front deposit would be a good idea. He said that if they didn't get it back, it would set a precedent. A partial refund could be another possibility.

The board asked Mrs. Michalak about the deposit required for the Roundhouse. She indicated that the deposit was created because kevs weren't being returned after events. However, if Mr. Asher informs the office that the Roundhouse was left in a bad state, the deposit won't be returned.

Mr. Asher added that the Roundhouse deposit used to be \$25, and people didn't bother to clean up or return the keys. When the deposit was increased to a more substantial amount, people complied. Mr. Asher felt that if the deposit for tournaments was substantial enough, the park would be cleaned.

Mr. Hodges felt that an outline of why a deposit would or would not be returned would be needed. Mrs. Taylor volunteered to write something up for the next meeting. Perhaps a deposit policy could be implemented for the 2017 season.

Mr. Chitwood had a question for Mr. Asher regarding mulching trees in Tipp City. He lives near the Sycamore Woods park, and he has noticed that there is nothing at the base of the trees. He asked if the City does anything periodically to put mulch on the trees. Mr. Asher stated that some places, such as the pool and the Government Center, are done. The department started in mid-May and is just now getting finished, having two people landscape almost every day. Mr. Asher said that this has been looked into in the past, and it probably could not be completed in a summer and the cost would be very high. There are over 500 trees in Kyle Park and 110 in City Park.

Mr. Chitwood asked if there is a schedule that Mr. Asher follows. Mr. Asher stated that every spring the landscaping is done at Veterans Memorial Park, the Aquatic Center, Hyattsville Park, and the Government Center. Others are done as there is time, such as the signs at the subdivision parks. Mr. Asher states that it is usually mid-July before that is finished, and by then it's time to redo some of the landscaping! Mr. Asher loses his part-time help in mid to late August, and in September the landscaper goes back to the Streets Department. At that point Mr. Asher has no landscaper.

Adjournment

The next meeting will be Monday, September 12, 2016. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Hodges, seconded by Mr. Cox, and unanimously approved.

APPROVED:

Douglas Chitwood, Board Chairman

ATTEST:

Linda Michalak, Recording Secretary