

July 13, 2020

Due to the Covid-19 outbreak and Ohio's stay-at-home order, Parks Board held its July 13, 2020 regular Parks Advisory Board Meeting using Zoom, a remote meeting platform. Director of Municipal Services Eric Mack and Board Secretary Laura Tobias were physically present at the Tipp City Government Center. Chairman Pat Hodges, Vice Chairman Doug Slagel, Ben Graham, Kirsten Hutton and Jim Heatherly all dialed in using the Zoom meeting system.

Reporter Nancy Bowman dialed in for this meeting.

Other participants who dialed into this meeting include: Abby Bowling.

Chairman Pat Hodges called the meeting of the Tipp City Parks Advisory Board to order on Monday, July 13, 2020, at 7:01 pm.

Minutes

Chairman Hodges asked if there were any suggested changes for the proposed minutes. He stated on page 2, paragraph 8, line 4, the foundation has money set aside "for parks projects in Tipp City", not specifically for resurfacing tennis courts, or any other specific project. Mr. Slagel **moved to approve the May 11, 2020, meeting minutes with the change**, Seconded by Mr. Graham. **Motion carried 5-0.**

New Business

Parks Budget Discussion

Mr. Hodges mentioned that Mr. Mack was going to contact the Tipp Foundation to see if they would be willing to use the money that had been set aside to help with parks projects toward resurfacing the tennis courts and basketball court.

Mr. Mack stated he talked to the Tipp Foundation and they said anything inside the park would be considered for funding. He stated the City is currently looking at next year's budget, and they have included money in the City's Parks budget as a Capitol Item to resurface the tennis and basketball courts, with hopes the City can apply for grant funding through the Tipp Foundation. Mr. Mack added that the City applied for funding for a shelter near the Nature Center, by the bike path, and received \$5000 from the Tipp Foundation.

Mr. Hodges recalled there were two quotes for the resurfacing: one for approximately \$18,000 and one for approximately \$20,000. He asked if a company was chosen. Mr. Mack stated a decision has not been made, and the City is continuing to look for vendors and plans to get at least three quotes. Mr. Hodges stated the Board had hoped this would be completed in Spring or Summer 2020. Mr. Mack stated it would not be done this year unless the Parks Board would like to use their funds to pay for it. The City budgeted for the resurfacing in 2021, not this year.

Mr. Hodges continued the Board was looking at four possible projects to spend their funding on: repairing and resurfacing tennis and basketball courts, a dog park shelter and picnic table, toddler playground equipment, and/or the Thor Lightning System for City Park. The entire \$25,000 Parks Board Budget is still available. He asked for discussion.

Ms. Hutton inquired if the money can be divided amongst several projects. Mr. Slagel said yes.

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Ms. Hutton stated she liked the idea of adding some sensory equipment, specifically musical instruments, to City Park instead of adding a large playground structure. There is already plenty to climb and play on, which exercises a child's gross motor skills, but the musical instruments help develop fine motor skills, are ADA compliant, and are great for kids with sensory issues. She suggested purchasing a few of those items as well as funding the dog park shade shelter and picnic table.

Mr. Hodges confirmed Ms. Hutton would prefer to buy several small playground items versus large playground equipment. Ms. Hutton said yes.

Mr. Slagel liked the idea and referred the Board to page 10 of 13 in their packets, which contained pictures and prices for the "Penchura" landscape structures for toddlers.

Ms. Hutton continued that the Board could purchase an eclectic mix of musical instruments such as the Kettle Drum, the Jingle (which is a type of xylophone), or the Ditty (another form of xylophone). They range in price from about \$1000 to \$4000. If the Board purchases the dog shelter and picnic table for \$14,000, they would have some money to purchase several instruments.

Mr. Slagel stated there were two Thor Lightning Systems put in at Kyle Park. He added that, because the pool isn't even open for the 2020 season, the Parks Board could revisit funding the Thor system in City Park next year. He suggested funding the dog park shade shelter and picnic table as well as some small playground items. Mr. Hodges agreed.

Mr. Graham agreed and asked Ms. Hutton if there were any specific playground items she had in mind. Ms. Hutton and Mr. Graham suggested the Warble Chimes, the Ditty, and one of the drums. Mr. Hodges suggested the Warble Chimes, the Kettle Drum, and the Ditty. Mr. Slagel agreed. The total is approximately \$8000, which leaves \$3000 to fund a different project at the next meeting.

Mr. Slagel asked Mr. Mack if the City has an idea of where they would place the new playground items. Mr. Mack confirmed that some old play equipment would be removed from City Park, and he envisions these items replacing that.

Mr. Slagel moved to spend approximately \$14,000 on a dog park shade shelter and picnic table, and approximately \$8000 toward three play structures which are: the Ditty, the Warble Chimes, and the Kettle Drum, Seconded by Mr. Graham. Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Hodges reminded the Board there is \$3000 remaining in the Parks Board budget, and they can discuss what to spend it on at the next meeting.

Old Business or Miscellaneous Business

Mr. Hodges asked if there was any old business or miscellaneous business to discuss.

Mr. Mack had some miscellaneous business to discuss. He stated that Mr. Eggleston, City Manager, had suggested a winter concept for City Park. Different organizations could sponsor trees or areas of City Park. The sponsors would pay to light or decorate a specific tree or area of the park with holiday lighting to create a winter pathway during the holidays. Mr. Eggleston wanted the Board's opinion.

Ms. Hutton liked the idea, especially considering the downtown area has an annual tree lighting.

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Mr. Slagel asked who is responsible for cleaning up after the holiday season. Mr. Mack said all of the logistics have not been worked out yet. Mr. Slagel said he liked the idea, as long as it was cleaned up!

Mr. Hodges asked where the budget would come from. Mr. Mack clarified that different organizations would sponsor and pay for the lighting of their display and they would have a sign associated with their display. Mr. Hodges agreed he liked the idea.

Mr. Graham liked the idea and felt it would bring more foot traffic to our parks.

Mr. Hodges asked for any more comments. He stated that Mr. Eggleston has their unanimous approval.

Mr. Mack said he would pass the approval along and would update the Board as things progress.

Citizen Comments not on the Agenda

Mr. Hodges asked if there were any citizen comments on items not on the agenda.

Ms. Bowling stated she had sent an email earlier that afternoon with some questions and ideas.

Mr. Hodges stated the Board members had her email in front of them, and he had numbered the items to address. The progress of tennis and basketball resurfacing had already been addressed.

Ms. Bowling inquired about putting up a chain to block the service road access at City Park next to the Roundhouse. She is concerned that new visitors to the park do not see the no access sign. Mr. Mack stated he would take a look at adding additional signage. He stated a chain would be considered a trip hazard. Ms. Bowling stated the City had done it before.

Ms. Bowling continued by stating that on the bike path, there are no signs stating there are restrooms. Mr. Hodges agreed that adding signs would be a good idea. Mr. Mack stated that the City is working with the Great Miami Riverway to have two kiosks put up both in Kyle Park and City Park, which will include maps of the area and will show where restroom locations are. This is being done through the Economic Development Department, not the Parks Department, so he was not able to offer Ms. Bowling a timeline, but stated the kiosks were being created. Ms. Bowling stated the City should just put up a sign that states "bathroom" with an arrow.

Ms. Bowling questioned the possibility of creating a program to donate picnic tables or benches. Mr. Hodges stated that anyone who wanted to donate benches or trees is welcome to contact the City to make their donation, as it does not apply to the Parks Board. Ms. Bowling asked if there is a specific application. Mr. Slagel responded that if someone wants to make a donation, they contact the City and they work with the contributor to determine a place the City has a need. Mr. Graham asked if there is a need for more benches. Ms. Bowling believes there is a need for tables. Mr. Slagel stated he is pretty certain the City would appreciate any donation, but we could look into creating a general parks donation form.

Ms. Bowling inquired if the Parks Board members had reviewed the AARP park recommendations she gave to Mr. Hodges last year. Mr. Hodges stated he has a Master's Degree in Recreation, he reviewed the paperwork, and the recommendations provided in the packet were very general in nature and he didn't find anything in the packet that the Board needed to be involved with immediately, or that they are not doing or trying to do already. He stated it was a great document, but very general in nature.

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Ms. Slagel added that while the AARP recommendations are great, there are a lot of rules regarding the flood plain in the parks (especially Kyle Park) and ODNR (Ohio Department of Natural Resources) rules have to be followed.

Mr. Hodges stated the remainder of the email, containing ideas for the 2020 Parks Budget funds, which included ideas for a bocce ball court, a spike ball net, a bike rack at the public restrooms in City Park, a table with a built in checker/chess board at City Park, and a bench swing at City Park, didn't need to be discussed because the Parks Board had already voted on how to spend their budget. Ms. Bowling stated there was \$3000 remaining.

Mr. Hodges stated he thought a bocce ball court was a great idea and very popular for older people. Mr. Hodges suggested he get more information on the bocce ball court prior to the next meeting so they can discuss then.

Mr. Slagel suggested they look into a bike rack in front of the restrooms in City Park as well.

Mr. Graham thanked Ms. Bowling for sharing her ideas.

Comments of Park Advisory Members

Mr. Hodges asked for comments from Parks Advisory Board Members.

Mr. Slagel complimented the Independence Day Fireworks.

Mr. Heatherly apologized for not attending the previous meeting. He stated he called in on the wrong night. The Board accepted his apology.

Mr. Hodges reminded everyone the next meeting is scheduled for September 14, 2020.

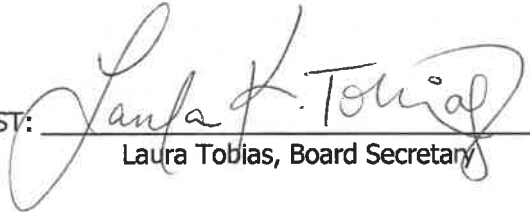
Adjournment

Chairman Hodges asked for further discussion or comments. There being none, Mr. Heatherly **moved to adjourn the meeting** at 7:38 pm. Seconded by Mr. Slagel and unanimously approved. **Motion carried.**

APPROVED: _____


Pat Hodges, Board Chairman

ATTEST: _____


Laura Tobias, Board Secretary