

Please call Tami at 440-326-1500 or Sam Battle at 440-315-0451 if you are unable to attend.
twhite@cityofelyria.org or battle.sam7@gmail.com

ELYRIA PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD AGENDA

Thursday, August 24, 2023

East Recreation Center Meeting Room @ 4:00 P.M.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN

SPEAKING GUESTS

- ECP – requesting permission to have a bouncy house for the August 19th Farmers Market Kids Day and September 9th the last Farmers Market at the Pioneer Plaza in partnership with the Library and their Harry Potter Day.
- ECP-Monet Roberts; Historical Looking Glass Project
- Mitzi Bakos – update on flowers/milkweed & misc. at East Trail
- Aric Bowens, Elyria South Baseball – post season presentation

MAYOR/SAFETY SERVICE OFFICE UPDATE

APPROVAL OF CONSENTED ITEMS

- Agenda
- Minutes from June 8, 2023 meeting
- June 2023 Financials
- July 2023 Financials

CORRESPONDENCE

-

BUSINESS

- Parks Master Plan Update

GENERAL INFORMATION

-

PARKS & REC DIRECTOR'S REPORT

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

- Nicole Edwards
- Brandon Lawler
- Kaleigh Plato

EXECUTIVE SESSION (if needed)

ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting scheduled for September 14th will be at the West Recreation Center.

PRESENT: Chairman Sam Battle, Vice Chairman John Hammond, Stacey Francis, Gina Kilgore, Maggie Lieux, Director Reardon and Secretary Tami Martinak

ABSENT: n/a

GUESTS:

- Joshua Hargis, LeighAnn Arroyo, Eugene Arroyo Sr., Rosalyn Wade, Brad Armstrong.

CALL TO ORDER:

SPEAKER(s):

- Joshua Hargis is requesting Bounce Houses for the Family Nite at West Park, will provide their own insurance. They are hosting a Sports Camp & Family Nite at West Park. Director Reardon spoke to Law Director, if ok by Park Board then back to LD Deery to work out details. (similar to rink/ballfield agreements) Electric thru shelter at West. Church from Florida is providing the Bounce Houses. Prefer use of electric generators, could have personnel on hand. Ground fault protectors & cords. No City Electricians. Bounce House from 5-7pm on 6/21 & 6/22. Open to the community. Joshua is from the Elyria Church on Washington Ave./across from the YMCA.
 - Gina Kilgore made motion to allow Joshua Hargis in conjunction with his Sports Camp/Family Nite to have Bounce Houses on 6/21 & 6/22 from 5-7pm. And provided that they meet all the City's Law Director's criteria. Stacey Francis 2nd.

MOTION CARRIED

MAYOR/SAFETY SERVICE OFFICE UPDATE:

- No Representation from the Mayor/SSD Office.

APPROVAL OF CONSENTED ITEMS:

- Agenda
- Minutes from May 11, 2023 meeting
- May 2023 Financials
- John Hammond made motion to approve the Consented Items, Gina Kilgore 2nd

MOTION CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE:

- None.

BUSINESS:

- Parks Master Plan Update
 - No mention of Park Rangers. Need for policing evenings & weekends at the parks.
 - Treat as all inclusive
 - Pocket Park
 - Less vandalism
 - No representation from the Mayor's/Safety Service office to answer questions
 - Not adequate time to review and the changes that were made to it.
 - Metro Park uses Rangers, has been positive
 - Will not call for vote today! Need more time to go thru. Send Carrie email w/any questions, concerns, feedback. Need clarifications.
 - Possible July meeting, but only for that one item will be on the Agenda.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- Teen Junior Park Board
- Advertising – use Chronicle, Rural Urban
- LeighAnn Arroyo asked for update on walking path named after Hubert Oliver, from the April meeting.
 - Quarterback Club, need a group because there are more people that could also qualify.
 - He is #1 & Black American.
 - Need more conversation
 - Recommended doing a bench with his name on it.

PARKS DIRECTOR REPORT

- Issue 6 Projects
 - West Park Project – Paving and putting pickleball court in, hoping to be almost completed by next week. Restroom walk thru. Park lot off Lowell St. done w/lines.
- Summer Season
 - Pools – need more Lifeguards. 13 guards, only one pool open at a time per day. Alternate pools. Swim Instructors we are in good shape. Waivers available for Learn to Swim, must go thru Carrie. Camps start on Monday along with Safety Town.
- Juneteenth Event Flyers available
- Fireworks – June 30th at West Park
- Summer Concerts & Food Trucks on Thursdays
 - Posted on Social Media, people say they did not know about them.
- Need more signage and banners on Broad St. & Middle Ave.
- Need meeting with Lorain County Metro Parks.
 - Walking bridge has been closed, very bad shape.
 - Falls in bad shape, trees need attention
- Teen Program had 52 teens the first Friday nite.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

- Nicole Edwards, Recreation Supervisor
 - **Open Rec Program:** The program concluded on May 18th. We served approximately 108 students for the school year. It was definitely a good year with no major issues.
 - **Safety Town:** We have 84 volunteers who have committed to working Safety Town this year. Parashaye Horton and Kennedy Shawver have been long time volunteers will be Onsite Coordinators this year. Excited to see them continue to support Safety Town as adults who began as volunteers.
 - **Summer Camp:** The Mayor and Administrative Team have hired this year's Summer Camp Staff. They will be going through a Fellowship Program prior to the start of Parks & Recreation's five weeks of Summer Camp. The camps are completely filled. Doug Taylor will be our Camp Director and he has worked tirelessly to create a fun filled list of activities and games to keep the participants engaged. Aramark will be providing the breakfast and lunch through their Summer Feeding Program.
 - **Summer Concerts:** June 1st started our first Summer Concert in the Square. We had a great turnout and the food trucks have been a great addition. Looking forward to blue skies every Thursday until the end of August.
 - **TAP-The Active People Program:** We are actively collecting enrollment packets to document the number of individuals utilizing the program. Our attendance has been consistent.

- Brandon Lawler, Recreation Supervisor
 - After an exciting start to our summer programs and leagues, excitement and momentum are gaining traction for camps and clinics, also. In addition to the usual offerings of sports camps/clinics, we have added an E-Sports Clinic as well.
 - We are always looking for creative ways to interact with the community through programming, specifically with teens and families. Teen Night also known as *Evrything Teen* has begun and will take place every Friday evening at East Rec throughout the summer with the exception of a few evenings.
 - We also have a new program called the *Family Rec Experience* which will give families opportunities to interact with other families while participating in various activities.
 - Youth Flag Football has been a great addition to our spring/summer programs with over 40 players participating. Also, the Summer Youth Baseball & T-Ball Leagues begin this week and we are excited to give an excellent presentation to those who are registered.
 - Lastly, facility reservations are remaining consistent as we transition to summer. As always, this is an exciting time in Parks & Recs!

- Kaleigh Plato, Recreation Supervisor
 - Tomorrow is opening day for East Pool! Staffing has been very difficult, so we are going to have to run on a rotating schedule between the two pools. We are excited about the new classes being offered such as Intro to Swim Team and Beginner 3 and our Learn to Swim Program is full for session 1. A lot of new changes have been made with our learn to swim program and also with our private lesson options so we are hopeful for good feedback from the public.
 - Spring softball is going well and we are planning for summer softball to begin in June. Hearing great things from all who rent the fields on how well they are maintained. Also hearing great feedback about the trails going in at West Park as well. We are also busy planning and fine tuning the dive in movie and movie in the park events.
 - Hoping for a safe and happy summer at the pools!

EXECUTIVE SESSION: n/a

Next meeting will be Thursday, June 8, 2023 at 4pm at the South Recreation Center Meeting Room. (subject to change).

ADJOURNMENT:

Parks Board Chairman

Parks Director

Secretary

PARK BOARD REPORT August 2023 Carrie Reardon – Director

Grand Opening

West Park – Saturday September 9th – 11a – 2pm. Join us for the ribbon cutting.

Summer

We made it! A big huge shout out to the amazing staff that provided (and continue to provide) safe and enjoyable programming for the residents. The staff went above and beyond this year and they deserve all of the credit. Full time and part time – office staff and maintenance staff has been very busy this summer and the programs/services were top notch as usual.

Pops Concert

Saturday September 2nd at 7pm at Ely Square

Golf Outing

We had another sell out with 32 golf teams. This is a great event and we will be using the funds from this year and last year to update/repair our Safety Town houses. Thank you to all of our sponsors and helpers.

Park Board Report

Nicole Edwards

Safety Town

Session I-June 12th- 16th

68 Registered/2 Didn't show up for program

73 Volunteers Registered/5 Didn't show up

Session II June 19th-June 23rd

40 Registered/2 Didn't show up for program

70 Volunteers Registered/7 Didn't show up

Session III June 26th-June 30th

66 Registered/6 Didn't show up for program

50 Volunteers Registered

Summer Camp

Doug Taylor did an Amazing job with Summer Camp! He kept the campers safe and engaged without any significant issues. The Camp Staff was recruited by the Mayor's office and only lost two before the completion of the five weeks.

Doug will be onsite for this upcoming year of Open Rec at East Recreation Center.

Summer Concerts

We didn't have to cancel any concerts!! The square saw a good turnout for concerts and we had consistent food trucks to provide good food. It was a successful Summer of Music in the Square.

TAP-The Active People

They will be on break beginning 8/21/23 and will resume 9/5/23.

Park Board Report

Now that we are transitioning from summer programs to fall, we are excited to continue preparation for Fall/Winter programs! The Parks and Recreations Department has been working diligently on the Fall/Winter programs and we are eager to offer excellent experiences to our community! In addition to the programs expected to return this fall and winter (e.g., Adult Volleyball, Youth Soccer, Clinics, etc.), our goal is to reasonably expand programming to serve more within our community.

Beginning 8/17/2023, we are offering an Adult Basketball League! With eight teams registered to participate, we believe our program details will be dynamic and unique and should encourage peaceful and meaningful play. Therefore, training staff and Referees to be confident in handling conflicts and understanding how to prevent situations from escalating will be essential! Another project we have in Parks and Recreations are our E-Sports experiences. In October, we will be offering the *Super Mario Experience* which will include exploring various Mario games across multiple gaming systems. In November we will have *E-Sport: Experience the Sports*. This program will have participants explore different sports on various gaming systems and will have them participate in physical activities involving the corresponding sport. We will conclude our E-Sports offerings with Family Feud Night in December! Mirroring the popular game show, our goal is to give families an immersive experience of the show. For our Youth Flag Football and Youth Basketball Leagues, we have added younger age groups (3 & 4 years old) and older age groups (7-9 years old for Flag Football) (13 – 16-year-old for Youth Basketball). In addition to the expansion of age groups for our current programs, we have added in new programs as well. For example, Teen Night is held every Friday night at East Recreation Center and explore various activities which teach the teens life lessons as well as provide them with a safe space for creativity and social interactions. Lastly, we have added a Youth Running Program which focuses on the health and wellness of 3rd – 8th graders as they prepare for a 1-mile run on East's outside trail. As families prepare to return to school, they are looking for programs, activities and fun experiences that complement their schedules. As mentioned above, we are offering plenty of experiences for families to choose from! I am very excited to see the development of returning and new programs! As always, this is an exciting time in Elyria Parks and Recreations!

Brandon Lawler

Parks and Recreations Supervisor

**Elyria Parks & Recreation Department
Board Report
August 2023**

**To: Parks & Recreation Board
From: Kaleigh Plato, Recreation Supervisor**

The pools are officially closed! We had a very successful swim lesson and private lesson summer with our participation numbers increasing since last year. We also have seen improvement in our swim team program and were able to hold our first annual "Battle of Elyria" Swim meet against Elyria Country Club. It was a lot of fun for all the participants and it was good to bring some healthy and friendly competition to our pool. Going into the off season I have been preparing what changes to make for next summer, working on inventory of all of our supplies, and I have begun seeing what I would like to order for next year.

Summer adult softball is wrapping up and fall is about to begin. Overall, we had good numbers for softball this season and I am hopeful the growth continues.

Coming up will be a new dodgeball clinic, home school open gyms, the return of yoga, hopefully a self-defense workshop, and my favorite the ice rink! I am currently working on the ice rink schedule including what special events will take place there this year. Although I'm sad to see summer go, I am welcoming fall!

Thank you,
Kaleigh Plato
Recreation Supervisor