

**PRESENT:** Chairman Sam Battle, Vice Chairman John Hammond, Stacey Francis, Director Reardon and Secretary Tami Martinak

**ABSENT:** Gina Kilgore and Maggie Lieux

**GUESTS:**

- Tim Williams Asst. Safety-Service, Aric Bowens, Michel Gromet, Mitzi Bakos, Bobby Taylor, Jennifer Starkey, Christa Battle, Monet Roberts.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

**SPEAKER(s):**

- Mitzi Bakos
  - Any plans for more drainage for the East Park Trail? Director Reardon said more work to be done, paving & raise a few spots. Would like recycle bins placed on the trail next to the regular cans. Will try a test run, but in the past has not worked out. The plants that she planted are doing well except the Milkweed was cut down, however it was not marked off. Looking to have Butterfly Sanctuary in 3-4 years. Need to plant more.
- Jennifer Starkey, Elyria Public Library
  - Joint Event with ECP for “Wizard Wonder Day” on September 9<sup>th</sup>. Would like to use the Pioneer Plaza for the event. Farmer’s Market will be moved to Pioneer Plaza on the day also. Moved to Business for motion/vote.
- Aric Bowens, Elyria South Baseball
  - This is his 3<sup>rd</sup> Post Season presentation. Priority on FUN, Lake Erie Crushers “Stomper”, coach pitch, 3 teams into Hot Stove, 12U, 9U girls, Community Rec League. Used West Fields (questions on use of lights). Use of lights need to be pre-scheduled with Parks. CDBG money to be used for another baseball field. Out to bid next month. Big thanks from all to the City of Elyria on the collaboration! Everyone said South Elyria Baseball has done a GREAT job!
- Monet Roberts, ECP
  - Looking Glass project not ready for further action at this time. Updated site plan to be submitted to Design Review when approved, and will then bring to Park Board. Possible site is Chemical Bank flower bed, Option 1, outside flower bed, Option 2. Should have ready for September Agenda
  - Farmer’s Market 9am-1pm, has 3 more dates remaining. Learning process, more collaboration with other organizations. Looking at Yoga, Corn Hole for next year.
  - September 23<sup>rd</sup>, Movie in the Park at Pioneer Plaza. Will have Imaginer’s trailer, Dinosaur costume very heavy. Will follow-up with Carrie.

**MAYOR/SAFETY SERVICE OFFICE UPDATE:**

- Will speak on Updated Parks Master Plan

**APPROVAL OF CONSENTED ITEMS:**

- Agenda
- Minutes from June 8, 2023 meeting
- June & July 2023 Financials
- John Hammond made motion to approve the Consented Items, Stacey Francis 2<sup>nd</sup>

**MOTION CARRIED**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- None.

## **BUSINESS:**

- Parks Master Plan Update (need vote)
  - Tim Williams, Assistant Safety-Service Director, need Park Board approval before it's presented to Council.
  - Pools are on life support, can't keep band-aiding, \$40,000 for pool filter. Need decision on whether 2 pools or 1 aquatic center. Director Reardon said either way we would need the pools open for at least one more season even if new aquatic center or 2 pools are built. North Baby pool has been closed for 2 seasons due to major leak underneath.
  - Chairman Battle said we need to think outside the box on financing.
  - Need Park Rangers! Effective tool. Captain Grooms agreed. Need a greater law enforcement "Friendly Presence". Rangers are respected.
    - John Hammond made motion to accept and proceed with the 2023 Update Parks Master Plan. Stacey Francis 2<sup>nd</sup>, **MOTION CARRIED**
  - Next step will go to Utilities Committee for approval then to Full Council for approval.
- Library/ECP – Joint venture. Library Wizard Wonder Day and ECP Farmer's Market would like permission to be held at the Pioneer Plaza on Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup>.
  - John Hammond made motion to support the partnership of the Elyria Library and ECP and the use of the Pioneer Plaza on September 9 from 9am – 5pm. Stacey Francis 2<sup>nd</sup>. **MOTION CARRIED**

## **GENERAL INFORMATION:**

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## **PARKS DIRECTOR REPORT**

- **Grand Opening**
  - West Park – Saturday September 9<sup>th</sup> – 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.
  - John Hammond asked if we needed or can take more hole sponsors. We can always use/take more.
- ❖ John Hammond made motion to accept and approve the Director's report. Stacey Francis 2<sup>nd</sup>. **MOTION CARRIED**

## **SUPERVISOR'S REPORT**

- **Safety Town**
  - **Session I-June 12<sup>th</sup>- 16<sup>th</sup>**
    - 68 Registered/2 Didn't show up for program
    - 73 Volunteers Registered/5 Didn't show up
  - **Session II June 19<sup>th</sup>-June 23<sup>rd</sup>**
    - 40 Registered/2 Didn't show up for program

- 70 Volunteers Registered/7 Didn't show up
- **Session III June 26<sup>th</sup>-June 30<sup>th</sup>**
  - 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.
  
- Brandon Lawler, Recreation Supervisor
  - 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 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> 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!

- 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!

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: n/a**

Next meeting will be Thursday, September 13, 2023 at 4pm at the West Recreation Center.  
(subject to change).

**ADJOURNMENT:**

  
Parks Board Chairman

  
Parks Director

  
Secretary