

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

ABSENT: Chairman Sam Battle

GUESTS:

- Brad Armstrong

CALL TO ORDER:

SPEAKER(s):

- None

MAYOR/SAFETY SERVICE OFFICE UPDATE:

- None

APPROVAL OF CONSENTED ITEMS:

- Agenda
- Minutes from October 12, 2023 meeting
- October Financials
- Gina Kilgore made motion to approve the Consented Items, Stacey Francis 2nd

MOTION CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Council Clerk's office requesting 2024 Calendar of Meeting dates.

BUSINESS:

- Maggie Lieux made motion to approve the 2024 Calendar of meeting dates, Gina Kilgore 2nd,
MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION CARRIED

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- None

PARKS DIRECTOR REPORT

- **LWCF Grant – North Park:** Unfortunately, we were unable to apply for this grant due to the project being ineligible based on conversations with ODNR. Ice Rink is not outdoor.
- **Festival of Lights:** The event will be held on Saturday, December 2nd this. This will be a free event for the community and included "lighting" up the square at 6pm.
- **2024 Budget:** Started work on our 2024 budget. I will be requesting more operating and maintenance dollars as prices continue to go up. With all of the extra amenities we are adding – I will be requesting additional repair and maintenance dollars so we can ensure that these investments are kept in top form. No CDBG money, but will have ARPA dollars, Council verbally backed this. Issue 6 money is about \$1 million, will be used for paving, playground, North Women's Locker Room
- **Federal Grant:** Around \$750 million has just included "Pools". No dates available yet. Must have a ready to go project, which we are not yet. Need Council approval, about \$3 million for matching money. Possible Parks Tax Levy could help.
- Supervisors are doing great. Recreation Assistant Manny Stewart resigned. Waiting to fill that position at this time, still have two, which are very busy. Possible Project Manager to help with projects from Issue 6. McCauly Group helps with grants.
- Water bottle refilling station is completed.
- East and South Parks have a Bike fixit station.
- Lorain County Metro Parks has about 60 acres of land, back of Amware (next to West Park). Possible new trails, maybe connect to West Park Trail.

- Zemanick met with Mayor Whitfield, Mitchel, Tim, Sam and Carrie. Still need clarity on Falls. City wants Lorain County Metro to handle. Fundraising for Cascade Park never happened with old Administration. Parking Lot at Falls in bad shape.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

- Nicole Edwards, Recreation Supervisor
 - **Finwood** – Excited that we will be fully staffed this year! The Kiwanis will be hosting a private showing for Lorain County Children's Services families on November 30th. Santa has agreed to be present for this magical moment.
 - **Open Rec.** – We currently have 35 Grades 6-8 registered and 6 Grades K-4. The Middle School group have been consistently showing up to play basketball.
 - **The Active People** – They have been living their best life ...strong support for Tai Chi and continued participation in Chair Exercise, Chair Yoga, Line Dancing and Pickleball. They have celebrated Halloween with pumpkin decorating and a costume party. They have discussed the possibility of a Holiday Party with a DJ and light meal. Working to see if we can make this happen...loving when they have a vision and it works out!
- Brandon Lawler, Recreation Supervisor
 - Youth basketball is back and we are now serving families with children ages 3 & 4 as well as teenagers ages 13 through 16. These two brand new leagues provide us the opportunity to serve a wider age range of youth thereby having a greater impact on our community. In the previous years, our age range for the basketball leagues were for ages 6 – 12, so the addition of the age groups are significant because the offerings will not stop at basketball. We plan to offer more programming involving Teenagers as well as Tots! The goal is for all programs to be safe, fun learning environments for everyone. The community residents are recognizing this and are verbally expressing their gratitude and thankfulness.
 - We are currently in a busy season for youth and adult volleyball. While both leagues are concluding in December, we are hosting open volleyball for children on Friday nights, and adults on Saturday nights continuing through the spring. These weekly open volleyball nights will allow us to stay connected to participants as we transition from session to session.
 - Other programs that are developing well are the Running program, E-Sports and Teen Night. In our E-Sports area, we are hosting a Family Fued Night which will give families an opportunity to participate in a realistic experience similar to the popular game show. In our Teen programming area, we are hosting a weekly Teen Night and have been meeting with a Teen Council of 7 Teenagers at Elyria High School. They provide us with ideas and interests so we know how to serve them.
 - Lastly, as the weather continues to cool down, our recreation centers are being used much more with reservation and programs. As always, this is an exciting time in Parks and Recs and I thankful to be able to serve our community!

- Kaleigh Plato, Recreation Supervisor
 - The ice rink is open and things are running smoothly. Open skate begins this weekend and learn to skate begins the following week. We are almost fully booked in our learn to skate program and are excited for things to really start up here. We have a good group of kids on staff this season. We have many exciting events planned at the ice rink this season including, Skate with Sully, Dj Nights, Skate with Santa, and trivia at the rink.
 - Our dodgeball youth clinic is wrapping up and our homeschool open gym program is starting this week. Dodgeball was a hit and next time we roll it out in December we are hoping to include parents a bit more in the activity with their kids. Home school open gym will take place three times a week at different rec centers throughout the week with different activities planned each day.
 - We wrapped up fall softball and I think for the first time in history did not have any rain outs or delays!
 - I took a CPR/First Aid/AED instructor course and hopefully I will be offering classes to employees soon so they can gain this imperative knowledge.
 - Its no surprise ice rink season is my favorite season so we are definitely excited and ready to go!

EXECUTIVE SESSION: n/a

Next meeting will be Thursday, December 14, 2023 at 4pm at the Finwood Estate (subject to change).

ADJOURNMENT:



Parks Board Chairman



Parks Director



Secretary