

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

ABSENT: Gina Kilgore & Maggie Lieux

GUESTS:

- Christa Battle & Marsalais Hammons

CALL TO ORDER:

SPEAKER(s):

- Christa Battle spoke about the College Now of greater Cleveland. Scholarships have been released. ACT boot camps (mini and full camps). The mini is for 8 hours (2 days) and the full is for 16hours. Possibility of having at the Rec Centers. These programs also service the adults. Could possibly set up to have speaker from College Now to come to our TEEN night and speak about the scholarships and financial programs that are available. Can always go to their website.
- Marsalais Hammons from Leaders of Today. Would like to know where the City is at with the Pocket Park at 1504 West Ave. Doesn't want lost in the shuffle with the change of administration. Already a Park Property. CDBG monies is being allocated. Capital Budget items not approved yet. Possible total of \$250,000 (CDBG money & Issue 6 money being used). Not official until approved by Council.

MAYOR/SAFETY SERVICE OFFICE UPDATE:

- None

APPROVAL OF CONSENTED ITEMS:

- Agenda
- Minutes from November 9, 2023 meeting
- November 2023 Financials
- John Hammond made motion to approve the Consented Items, Stacey Francis 2nd

MOTION CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE:

- none

BUSINESS:

- none

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- None

PARKS DIRECTOR REPORT

- **2024 Budget** -Budgets are completed. Hopefully will be able to have a budget meeting once the new administration starts. Temp budget approved, 30%. Perm budget must to approved by March.
- **Fees** - Looking for your feedback about raising fees. Would like to do this in Fall of 2024. We do discount on a case by case basis. Possibly start a scholarship fund. Discuss for at next meeting. Pull copy of Fee Ordinance.
- **Pools** - Need to continue the conversations with the new administration about the condition of our pools. Would like to either do new or use 2025 Issue 6 funds to overhaul the current pools. Do we continue with two pools or go down to one pool?
- **North** – ODNR said no to North Ice Rink being an outside facility therefore would not qualify for the grant they were offering.
- **2024** - Looking forward to a busy and exciting 2024 – program guide is being worked on for Spring/Summer and should be ready by beginning of February.

- Stacey Francis made motion to accept the Parks Director's Report. John Hammond 2nd.

MOTION CARRIED

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

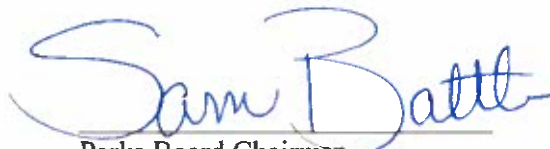
- **Nicole Edwards**, Recreation Supervisor
 - Finwood – The house opened on December 1st and we have had a steady stream of visitors daily. Great staff who are truly excited for the holidays. Santa Rob and Santa Dave returned for another year of good times.
 - Open Rec – our Rec Assistants Doug & Sybil are working together on Mondays and Wednesdays with the Middle School participants. We have 45 kids registered total; 39 Middle School and 6 Elementary.
 - TAP/The Active People – They will be having a Tennis Shores Soiree for their holiday gathering on December 14th. Everyone is encouraged to wear their unique or decorated tennis shoes. It will be a potluck event.
 - **HAVE A WONDERFULL HOLIDAY SEASON!**
- **Brandon Lawler**, Recreation Supervisor
 - Elyria Parks and Recreation department is excited about the programs we are preparing to present! While some events share in the joy of the holidays with our community (e.g., Holiday at Finwood and Festival of Lights!), other areas of our production, such as leagues, clinics, etc., are being enjoyed, also.
 - This is the time of the year where a mid-season transition happens, some programs are ending around the same time other programs are beginning. For example, the adult volleyball league is entering the last week of the season. This final week involves a tournament that will crown a champion for each league. The community residents who enjoy participating in volleyball are thankful to continue the activity through "Open Volleyball" to remain active until our next league starts in January.
 - We are also continuing Open Pickleball at East Recreation Center which is gaining a lot of interest from the community. My goal is to offer a pickleball tournament soon!
 - Furthermore, we have expanded our Youth Basketball League age groups, tripling our registration numbers from Fall of 2022.
 - In addition to the Youth and Adult Leagues, we have had successful conclusions of our Running program, E-Sports program, basketball and soccer skills clinics. This week we are hosting a Family Feud Night (see picture of the set up below) Families are very excited about this opportunity to participate in the beloved game and interact with other community families.
 - Lastly, we are experiencing a busy time in facility usage! Community residents and organizations are renting the facilities more often around this time of year and we are glad to host them. As always, this is an exciting in Parks and Recreations!
- **Kaleigh Plato**, Recreation Supervisor
 - The ice rink is open and we just had a DJ night that was very well attended. Coming up we will be wrapping up session 1 of learn to skate and we also have events like Skate with Santa and Skate with Sully. Our open skates have been very busy and our staff is doing very well! We are currently doing a donation drive for the Blessing House and have plans to do another one for the APL this season as well.
 - Homeschool open gym has begun and attendance is slow right now, but we are working with our social media team to hopefully get things to pick up!

- We concluded our youth dodgeball clinic and we hope to bring an adult dodgeball option in the near future.
- I recently have passed my certification to teach CPR and first aid so I will be setting up a class in the new year and I am currently working on finding classes to take for my lifeguard certification and my LGI which will allow me to certify other lifeguards this summer. We are looking forward to the near year and all that has to offer!

EXECUTIVE SESSION: n/a

Next meeting will be Thursday, January 11, 2024 at 4pm at the South Recreation Center (subject to change).

ADJOURNMENT:


Parks Board Chairman


Parks Director


Secretary