

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

**ABSENT:** Stacey Francis

**GUESTS:**

- Vaughn Sprinkle, Christa Battle & Brad Armstrong

**CALL TO ORDER:**

**SPEAKER(s):**

- Vaughn Sprinkle: Asking to use South or East Rec for off season conditioning. 40-60 kids attend every Monday, rolls into the regular season. Copy of insurance already sent to Director Reardon. Would like fees to be waived.
  - Maggie Lieux made motion to allow the Mini Pioneers to use either South or East Rec and to waive the fees for their season conditioning. Gina Kilgore 2<sup>nd</sup>. **MOTION CARRIED**
- Brad Armstrong: Asking for 6 hours at South Rec from 10am-4pm on March 30<sup>th</sup> for his annual Easter Event. Served 227 children on year 11 of this event. Advertise, fliers, word of mouth, must sign a waiver at the event. Would like fees waived again.
  - John Hammond made motion to open South on March 30<sup>th</sup> from 10am – 4pm for this Easter Event and to waive the fees. Maggie Lieux 2<sup>nd</sup>. **MOTION CARRIED**
- Carrie Reardon for Tina Kowalski: Midview East Student Council would like 2 hours of Ice Time to be donated again for the 5-6 fundraiser as in the past. Everyone enjoyed the event. All went well. Concessions & skate rental fees are kept by the Parks & Recreation. The event is scheduled for March 6<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:30pm.
  - Maggie Lieux made motion to allow the Midview East Student Council to have 2 hours of free ice for their annual fundraiser. Gina Kilgore 2<sup>nd</sup>. **MOTION CARRIED**

**MAYOR/SAFETY SERVICE OFFICE UPDATE:**

- None

**APPROVAL OF CONSENTED ITEMS:**

- Agenda
- Minutes from December 14, 2023 meeting
- December 2023 Financials
- John Hammond made motion to approve the Consented Items, Gina Kilgore 2<sup>nd</sup>

**MOTION CARRIED**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Confirmation letter reappointing Mr. Sam Battle to the Park Board for another term from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2028.

**BUSINESS:**

- Chairman Sam Battle turned the meeting over to Parks Director Reardon in order for the Election of Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary for the 2024 year.
  - Chairman – Sam Battle nominated by John Hammond, accepted and duly elected.
  - Vice Chairman – John Hammond nominated by Gina Kilgore, accepted and duly elected.
  - Secretary – Tami Martinak nominated by John Hammond, accepted and duly elected.
- Parks Director Reardon turned the meeting back over to Park Board Chairman Sam Battle.

**GENERAL INFORMATION:**

- Sponsorships. Achieve Credit Union approached Parks Director Reardon regarding a sponsorship opportunity. Signage in the gym. Pushing Ice Rink, but leaning more towards the gyms. How

commercialize do we want to get? John Hammond said decisions need to be discussed, policy. Public building, not private, must be good for the whole. Possible logo on our youth shirts. Check with legal and Council would have the final say. Banner in gyms? Number per site? Size? Time frame? Check into other municipalities. Possible 2 years max.

## **PARKS DIRECTOR REPORT**

- Reached out to Safety Service Director regarding the Park Board meeting. Cannot come to this one, but will try to come in February.
- **Finwood** – Another successful year. We had 13,890 people go through the house or visit Santa and over 18,000 cars drive through. 16 bins of food donated to the Hospitality House. Many thanks to Nicole and Jay for all of their hard work in getting Finwood ready for the busy holiday season.
- **2024** - Looking forward to another safe and fun year for the residents. Staff is already working on programming for the Summer! One draft away from the Spring/Summer Brochure.
- Kaleigh Plato is taking classed to certify as an LGI (Lifeguard instructor), so she can instruct & recertify. Plan on opening both pools, East & North, this summer.
- **Pools** – The condition of the pools? Decision needs to be made to either fix both pools properly, which could last 10-15 years. Get rid of the baby pools & replace with splash pads. Possible do one each year. Timing would have to be worked out. A new outdoor pool would cost approximately \$6 million. Doing nothing is not an option.
- **Misc.** – Pickleball League & drop in programs are in the works.
- John Hammond asked about the Ice Rink Grant. Grant was for an outdoor recreation facility, which the Ice Rink is not completely. Year around Ice Rink? The compressor is not made for the warmer temperatures we get in the off season.
- Gina Kilgore made motion to accept the Parks Director's Report. Maggie Lieux 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **SUPERVISOR'S REPORT**

- **Nicole Edwards, Recreation Supervisor**
  - Finwood – The 2023 Holiday Season has concluded and the home has 5,241 visitors and 8,709 people who interacted with Santa. We collected roughly fifteen 32-gallon containers of food that has been donated to the Elyria Hospitality Center. Experiences some staff challenges but made it through.
  - Open Rec – We have 42 registered Middle School and 16 K-4 participants registered. Doug Taylor and Sybil Roseboro, our Rec Assistants are supervising on Mondays and Wednesdays. Basketball season has begun and we anticipate that the numbers will fluctuate during this time as many of the participants are 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys who have made the teams.
  - Summer Camp – Planning has begun to determine field trips and activities that will be available.
  - Summer Concert Series – Currently looking to get performers scheduled and food trucks committed for 2024 season.
  - TAP – This program is definitely a valued asset to our Senior residents. They have truly embraced what is offered and continue to attend and fellowship with each other. Michelle Curtis has been progressively offering them spirit days in which they get to showcase their talents.
- **Brandon Lawler, Recreation Supervisor**
  - Happy New Year! We are elated about the new opportunities for our community residents through our programming! Beginning this week are few community favorites.
  - First, our 10 – 12-year-old youth basketball leagues that began back in December will begin their games at East Recreation Center this coming Saturday. Other programs beginning this week are the youth volleyball and basketball camps. The volleyball camp will be held at West

Recreation Center, while the basketball camp will be held at East Recreation Center. These camps are popular because of the individual attention from our instructors and the opportunity to develop basic and advanced fundamentals.

- Next, adult volleyball is back and will begin this Tuesday (1/9/2024). Our adult volleyball league has more teams registered for this winter session than the most recent fall session as well as last year's winter session!
  - My goal is to further our premier programs and develop new programs that will positively impact our community. With this in mind, we are offering a Spring Pickleball League beginning in March. We are also offering a Summer Pickleball League on our new outside courts at West Recreation Center.
  - Furthermore, we are finalizing details for our Teen and E-Sports programs! E-Sports will begin in February and the Teen program will begin in March. Our department is working hard to present excellent experiences to all families and it is a privilege to serve the community. As always, it is a privilege to serve the community.
  - 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.
- **Kaleigh Plato, Recreation Supervisor**
    - The ice rink is busy and going well. We are starting session 2 of learn to skate this week with classes filling up quickly. We had our skate with sully event and another DJ night at the rink both were very popular. Coming up at the rink we have another DJ night and we are setting up an APL drive to collect supplies for our local APL during open skates. Also, we have a 3-day tournament coming to the ice rink over MLK weekend which we are excited about because this is the first tournament at the rink in many years.
    - Homeschool open gyms are still taking place Tuesday and Thursday both at our east rec location and at the ice rink. Fair attendance for both and overall good feedback has been given.
    - I am setting up a CPR/First Aid class for February to offer to our staff to have them certified while they are at rentals and programming.
    - Looking into the future I am setting dates for the pools and swim lessons. Trying to get a head start on pool programming.
    - Hope everyone had a good holiday season.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: n/a**

Next meeting will be Thursday, February 8, 2024 at 4pm at the West Recreation Center (subject to change).

**ADJOURNMENT:**

  
Parks Board Chairman

  
Parks Director

  
Secretary