

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

ABSENT:

GUESTS:

- Mayor Kevin Brubaker, Legal Counsel Mark Craig, Darian Thomas, Monet Roberts, and Heather Campbell

CALL TO ORDER:

SPEAKER(s):

- Darian Thomas spoke about synthetic ice. 20x40 size, no compressor is needed. Place under an existing pavilion at North, low maintenance, can walk on ice in regular shoes or with ice skates. Would be the only one in Northeast Ohio. Another outlet for kids & adults. He would donate the rink to the City, unknown additional costs are needed for supplies and leveling. Staff to manage & schedule. Open to the public, possible programming, life expectancy unknown at this time. Safety & liability to City? Vandalism? Timetable March – October. Park Board took no action at this time, need more information.
- Monet Roberts & Heather Campbell (Events Coordinator) from ECP (Elyria Community Partnership). Presented their Calendar of Events. Using Pioneer Plaza for Movies, need port-a-pots & projector. 3rd Thursdays will be at Ely Square on 6/20, 7/18, 8/15 from 4:30-8:30, set up after lunchtime concert is done. ECP & Elyria Hospital having a health fair. Advertising on social media, word of mouth. Dining Under the Stars Fundraiser in Ely Square.
 - Sam Battle made motion to accept the ECP Calendar of Events, Gina Kilgore 2nd
MOTION CARRIED
 - Maggie Lieux made motion to allow ECP to utilize the Parks for their Fundraiser, Gina Kilgore 2nd.
MOTION CARRIED

MAYOR/SAFETY SERVICE OFFICE UPDATE:

- Introduced Mayor Brubaker. Looking forward to working with the Parks.

APPROVAL OF CONSENTED ITEMS:

- Agenda
- Minutes from January 11, 2024 meeting
- January 2024 Financials
- Stacey Francis made motion to approve the Consented Items, Maggie Lieux 2nd

MOTION CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE:

- None

BUSINESS:

- Director Carrie Reardon presented the Lorain County Swim Safe Program. Collaboration with the YMCA, Metro Parks, Red Cross, Parks. Helps to train more life guards, more LGI, offer more classes. Offer low/no cost Learn to Swim classes to Lorain County youths. John Carney has fundraiser background to help. Not committing anything to be a part of the collaboration. Fiscal Agent is the YMCA. Each agency to offer programs at pools, hopefully next summer. French Creek (YMCA), Avon (YMCA), Avon (UH), Splash Zone. Transportation? Lifeguards get trained & then leave, how to stop. Look at pay. Get service hours to take the Lifeguard Class?
 - Sam Battle made motion to allow Elyria Parks & Recreation to partner with the Swim Safe program and to adopt the MOU once approved by the Law Department, Stacey Francis 2nd.

MOTION CARRIED

GENERAL INFORMATION:

PARKS DIRECTOR REPORT

- **Staffing**
We will be filing a Service Worker position - left vacant by a retirement. We are also hopeful to be adding an additional Skilled Maintenance position in April.
- **State Capital Funds**
Applying for capital funds for the locker room project at North Park. This is a reimbursement grant but not matching, due in April. Estimated \$650 to \$700,000. \$400,000 from grant and \$300,000 rolled-over from last year
- **Seasonal Staff**
We will be starting to advertise for season staff soon. Pools, camps, maintenance, youth sports. If you know anyone who is interested in seasonal work - please have them reach out to the office and fill out an application.
- Art Council will be involved in the Summer Camps.
- Gina Kilgore made motion to accept the Parks Director's Report. Maggie Lieux 2nd.

MOTION CARRIED

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

- **Nicole Edwards, Recreation Supervisor**
 - Open Rec – Doug Taylor has been actively involved with the participants and they have good interactions during the program. Sam Benejan has joined Doug on Mondays and Wednesdays to ensure everyone is engaged and having fun.
 - TAP – This program continues to attract new people who are looking to be active and learn new activities (pickleball). The Line Dancing Crew always brings the crowd and they love to move!!
 - Safety Town – The dates have been set and all visitors have been scheduled
 - Summer Camps – Looking forward to making this an exciting adventure!
 - Summer Concerts – All performers have been scheduled. Food Truck vendors have confirmed for another season of yummy goodness to be served while people listen to music.
- **Brandon Lawler, Recreation Supervisor**
 - Elyria These are exciting times in Elyria Parks and Recreations! The recreation centers on Saturday mornings are packed with youth sports. Our youth basketball leagues and clinics are bringing excitement to our city at East and South Recreation Centers.
 - In addition to the aforementioned programs, the Youth Volleyball Clinic at West Recreation Center is generating excitement for the upcoming Youth Volleyball League which will begin in two weeks. Continuing with volleyball, our Adult Volleyball League is operating very well and is always appreciated by the participants. We offer open volleyball on Friday evenings for our communities' youth and open volleyball for the adults on Saturday evenings.
 - As we prepare for upcoming Spring and Summer programs by finalizing the program brochure, we are executing well with current programs and implementing new programs, also. In addition to our usual program offerings, we are offering new programs such as Open Pickleball and a Pickleball League beginning in March! As for our current programs, we continue to add an activity/event to each league and clinic to promote sportsmanship and solidarity (e.g., All-Star Night).
 - Lastly, each Recreation Center is experiencing a surge in usage with various programs by the community (e.g., CYO, Open Door Christian Schools basketball practices, Mini Pioneers Football Trainings, South T-Ball practices, Champion Force Athletics Cheer Program, etc.) As we transition into spring and summer programs, we are excited to continue to offer excellent experiences to our community residents. As always, this is an exciting time in Parks and Recs!

- **Kaleigh Plato, Recreation Supervisor**
 - January was a busy month at the ice rink. We hosted a high school hockey tournament and we got great feedback. Thankful for the maintenance and staff that were there to help with that. We are steadily booking out birthday parties each weekend at the rink and we are remaining busy during open skates. We are currently in session 2 of learn to skate and we have one more to go this season. We are holding an APL drive at the rink and we are getting good participation for that.
 - Looking into the future I am starting my planning for spring adult softball and of course the opening of both pools. We are planning a day to go to LCCC for a hiring event to see who we can bring in.
 - I am holding a CPR/First Aid/AED course in February for parks and recreation staff. This will be useful for camp staff, rental staff, and to assist with keeping everyone up to date on new information.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: n/a

Next meeting will be Thursday, March 14, 2024 at 4pm at the Finwood Estate
(subject to change).


ADJOURNMENT:



Parks Board Chairman



Parks Director



Secretary