

PRESENT: Chairman Sam Battle, Vice Chairman John Hammond, Gina Kilgore, Parks Director Reardon.

ABSENT: Stacey Francis, Maggie Lieux, Tami Martinak

GUESTS:

- SSD Chris Pyanowski, Legal Counsel Mark Craig, Natalie Karn, MacKenzie Foster, Daisie Reish and Jessi Paul.

CALL TO ORDER:

SPEAKER(s):

- Natalie Karn & MacKenzie Foster for the Lorain County Health “Chalk the Walk”. Drug overdose prevention programming. Saturday in August for Overdose Awareness month. August 17th is the date they would like. Event time 9am-2pm. Provide chalk and encourage families to chalk on the sidewalks, share messages of recovery at the event.
 - Gina Kilgore made motion to allow the event on August 17th 9am-2pm, 2nd by John Hammond. **MOTION CARRIED**
- Daisie Reish from the League of Women’s Voters. Would like to do a drive thru event for people to sign petitions in May.
 - John Hammond made motion for the League of Women Voters to be allowed to use a park in May to acquire signatures from registered voters on a petition for gerrymandering. 2nd by Gina Kilgore **MOTION CARRIED**
- Jessi Paul would like to have a Vendor Event at a facility. Small business owner. Dream to have her own vendor show. Has never done a show before. Will charge vendors but not attendees. Handmade vendors and possibly a food truck if allowed. Flexible with date/location.
 - Gina Kilgore made motion to allow Jessi Paul to hold a vendor fair at a rec center, must work out details, 2nd by John Hammond. **MOTION CARRIED**

MAYOR/SAFETY SERVICE OFFICE UPDATE:

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APPROVAL OF CONSENTED ITEMS:

- Agenda
- Minutes from February 8, 2024 meeting
- February 2024 Financials
- Gina Kilgore made motion to approve the Consented Items, John Hammond 2nd

MOTION CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE:

- None

BUSINESS:

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GENERAL INFORMATION:

- Mr. Battle mentioned there is a school levy and there are some signs @ our Parks. Mr. Hammond would like the schools to reciprocate thoughts when we have a levy.
- Mr. Battle would like to see more softball tournaments at West.

PARKS DIRECTOR REPORT

- **Ohio EPA Grant:**

We were awarded a grant to replace the drinking fountain at South Park with a water bottle filler drinking fountain. We should be able to purchase that any time after April 1st.

- **Budget – Issue 6 Projects:**
 Paving-West; Garage Area/Clemons – Abbe Rd Park
 Locker Room @ North with Additional Storage
 Finwood Paving/Widening Road
 Pocket Park
 South Park Rec – North side RTU
 West Rec Community Room Repairs
 Finwood – Interior Work, painting & repair of walls
 Communications/Promotions
 South Park T-ball Field
 North park Beam Repair/Painting
- **Meeting with Lorain County Metro Parks:**
 We will maintain the Falls area.
 Mr. Hammond: Asked about the Metro Parks and can we meet with them to go over the masterplan and what future plans may be.
 SSD Pyanowski: We did talk about a future meeting (no date set). The unstable bridge was talked about, making it into an observation deck.
 Mr. Battle: update on Kerstetter info. Concrete circle near path. Mill-old red mill. First mill built in 1824. 1817 – old white mill (Mr. Battle will email info to Parks Director Reardon).
- Mr. Hammond asked about Ice Rink at North – Fake Ice.
- Directors Report was accepted.

SUPERVISOR’S REPORT

- **Nicole Edwards, Recreation Supervisor**
 - Easter Egg Hunt – The eggs have been dropped at Murray Ridge for them to put together. Easter baskets are prepared and candy bags are filled.
 - Open Rec – Attendance has been consistent and we have had no behavior challengers.
 - Safety Town – Confirmation with most of our Visitors has been completed. Applications are available for volunteers online and with the school district.
 - Summer Camps – Actively looking for Summer Camp Counselors!
 - Summer Concerts – All performers have been booked. Waiting on food vendors to submit their registrations to confirm.
 - TAP (The Active People) – Amazing group of participants who regularly attend! Looking forward to planning some excursions once the weather consistently nice.
- **Brandon Lawler, Recreation Supervisor**
 - As we prepare to conclude our winter programs, excitement for spring is apparent! The Parks and Recreations Department has been working diligently on the spring/summer program guide and we are eager to offer excellent experiences to our community! In addition to the programs expected to return this spring and summer (e.g., Adult Volleyball, Youth Soccer, Youth Baseball, etc.), we will be offering a wider selection of programs filled with fun and excitement. Slated to begin this spring, we are offering a Pickleball League and Pickleball Open Gyms. The team registrations for the league are completely full.
 - There are other offerings that we are excited about such as a 3 on 3 men’s basketball league, Teen nights, and a sand adult volleyball league! In addition to our popular cheer clinic, we are also offering brand new summer clinics such as golf, e-sports and pickleball!
 - We are also very excited about the Mobil Rec Program which will provide us opportunities to travel to parks, courts, green space and trails to meet community residents for an experience like no other. Coupled with this exciting news of additional programming, our Youth Volleyball League has had a smooth start and families are appreciative of the hard work being put into our department overall. As always, this is an exciting time in EPRD!

- **Kaleigh Plato, Recreation Supervisor**
 - The ice rink is on its final week of being open this season. Open skate will end this weekend and learn to skate ends this week as well. We will have one more DJ night at the rink to wrap it all up. I have already begun planning for next season and speaking with hockey teams regarding their schedules and future plans. Sad to see the ice rink close, but excited for the warmer weather.
 - Plans are being finalized for spring adult softball and that is set to begin April/May. I will be transitioning soon to begin summer pool planning and getting everything ready and prepared for the summer at the pools.
 - We are going to LCCC for a hiring expo for summer employees and we will also be attending the job fair at city hall this month. We are trying to engage with new employees through these events and through our social media to assist us in being able to fully and safely staff two pools.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: n/a

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

ADJOURNMENT:


Parks Board Chairman


Parks Director


Secretary