

**PRESENT:** Chairman Sam Battle, John Hammond, Stacey Francis, Cieria Ramon, Mark Craig, Parks Director Reardon, and Secretary Tami Martinak.

**ABSENT:** Maggie Lieux

**GUESTS:**

- Natalie Karn
- Aric Bowens

**CALL TO ORDER:**

**SPEAKER(s):**

- Kristen (Carrie Reardon). Back to School Event at West Park in memory of her son. August 16, 2025 9am-3pm. Asking that fees be waived, 3<sup>rd</sup> year for this event. Giving out backpacks and supplies.
  - John Hammond made motion to allow the Back to School Event on August 16<sup>th</sup> from 9am – 3pm and waiving the fees. Stacey Francis 2<sup>nd</sup>. **MOTION CARRIED**
- Aric Bowens from the Elyria South Baseball Club. Applying for a grant, funds being used for some improvements to the South Ballfields. Grant is from the Guardians. Going to use the money for batting cages, pitching stations, electricity, flag pole, bigger storage shed. Grant has to go thru a baseball organization not a Government entity. Not a matching grant. Looking for support from the City of Elyria Park Board Members. Must also go thru City Council since the property belongs to the City. Sam Battle is willing to write the letter of support on behalf of the Park Board. Deadline for the grant is October 1<sup>st</sup>. The Guardians are also hosting a 2day Camp in July, limited space.
- Natalie, Health Department Supervisor. 4<sup>th</sup> Chalk the Walk Event, August 16<sup>th</sup> 10am-2pm. Giving out overdose kits, draw messages of encouragement with chalk on the sidewalk (about 200 last year). Asking to host event in Ely Square again. Will be having food trucks, face painters.
  - John Hammond made motion to allow the LCPH to host the Chalk the Walk Event on August 16<sup>th</sup> in Ely Square from 10am – 2pm. Cieria Ramon 2<sup>nd</sup>. **MOTION CARRIED**

**MAYOR/SAFETY SERVICE OFFICE UPDATE:**

- No report

**APPROVAL OF CONSENTED ITEMS:**

- Agenda
- Minutes from May 8, 2025
- May 2025 Financials
- Stacey Francis made motion to approve the Consented Items, Cieria Ramon 2<sup>nd</sup>

**MOTION CARRIED**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- None

**BUSINESS:**

- Finwood Apartment Lease. Inez James would like to continue as the tenant.
  - Stacey Francis made motion to approve the lease for the Finwood Apartment with Inez James for the following year at the same monthly fee. Cieria Ramon 2<sup>nd</sup>. **MOTION CARRIED**
- Park Rangers
  - Sam Battle is willing to speak with the Police Chief & Mayor on this matter. More info is needed and then willing to speak to Council.

- Unsafe Parks, negative publicity, how to finance – possible grant. Responsibility and authority of Rangers?
- Can we use Issue 6 monies? Safety & Security in the Parks is in the Master Plan.
- Full Time or Part Time
- Council has received complaints about safety issues at the Parks. ATV's & motor bikes at East & West Park. Keep eye out for them. EPD needs more info on where they are coming from, descriptions of drivers, license plate numbers, dates/times.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION:**

### **PARKS DIRECTOR REPORT**

- **Recreation Supervisor**  
Nicole Edwards is back as Recreation Supervisor. We are happy to have her back on the team.
- **Summer Concerts**  
We had our first Summer Concerts last week. Thursdays started on June 5<sup>th</sup> and Saturdays on June 7<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to another Concert Season in the square.
- **Staff**  
I just want to make note of how hard the staff has been working this Spring season. Both maintenance and recreation staff have been gearing up for a busy Summer. The facilities are looking great and programs are filling up. The department is great because of the work that they do!
- Downtown looks great
- Large softball tournament scheduled for all weekend
- Story Book Stroll at West Park, June 30<sup>th</sup>
- Farmer's Market, great. Had 9 vendors. Library & Arts Council very happy.
- Marketing – print and social media
- Naming needs to be referred to Council & Park Board for approvals.
- Stacey Francis made motion to accept the Parks Director's Report, John Hammond 2<sup>nd</sup>

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **SUPERVISOR'S REPORT**

- **Nicole Edwards, Recreation Supervisor**
  - Currently have 53 volunteers signed up to assist with all three sessions of Safety Town. Elyria Police Department will be supplying a couple interns to be onside as well as office Joe Figula. He has been excellent Safety Town Officer.
  - TAP Program – Attendance has been consistent. Tai Chi has added a Thursday class which is held at East Recreation Center. Line Dancing participants are looking to showcase their talents during the Elyria Community Partners Third Thursday events.
  - Thursday Summer Concerts – The first concert was able to perform in spite of a little rainfall. Hoping for sunshine very Thursday until the end of August to ensure that all performances are held. Elyria Public Library will be setting up their EWOC truck in front of City Hall. We have food trucks scheduled for all the performances.
- **Brandon Lawler, Recreation Supervisor**
  - Summer is here and we are excited to offer summer programs and leagues to our community!
  - Our youth soccer leagues, youth volleyball leagues and adult volleyball leagues are at West Park! Also, summer clinics are getting ready to start. The clinics that are being offered this year are Golf, Pickleball, E-Sports, Cheerleading, Basketball, Tennis, Soccer and Volleyball! These 1-week experiences are usually offered as a 6-week program but with this condensed format, families are able to receive 6 weeks of content/training and conclude with a finale


event. The finale event is usually a game, competition, performance or an experience (e.g., our cheer clinic works on a performance all week and present a big performance on Friday night in front of family and friends, whereas our golf clinic's final event is a family mini-putt experience.) Each clinic is special and will help families create wonderful summer memories.

- Also, our T-ball and youth baseball leagues have begun at North Park.
  - Furthermore, the Mobile Rec has arrived and is having an immediate impact on our community! As mentioned before, we are going to engage with families and parkgoers in a unique way through the Mobile Rec program. With this program we will be able to bring programs, activities and events to parks around Elyria to meet community residents at their local parks. In fact, this past Tuesday (6/3), The Mobile Rec arrived at Pioneer Plaza and had an amazing time with families!
  - In addition to the Mobile Rec, Teen Night has returned! This and every Friday, we will host 60 – 80 teenagers at East Recreation Center for a program called Everything Teen. This popular program has been successful in the past and will provide teenagers a safe space to enjoy socializing and engaging in teen specific activities.
  - Lastly, our Summer Camps are starting next week and we are prepared to offer a safe, organized, learning environment filled with fun and excitement! Each camp is full with 50 registrations. As always, this is an exciting time in Elyria Parks & Recs!
  - With a smooth launch to our spring programs, we are now getting ready for the summer!
- **Kaleigh Plato, Recreation Supervisor**
    - Summer is here and the pool is open! We are excited to be able to open both east and north pool beginning June 17<sup>th</sup>! This will also make learn to swim lessons easier to schedule and will provide more opportunities for people to swim this summer. We are planning our dive in movie nights and family pool parties as well. I also am planning a swim safe talk at safety town to just share some safe swimming pointers with our kids there!
    - We have multiple softball tournaments coming to west this summer and we couldn't do it without our maintenance staff keeping the fields in good condition and working hard during the tournaments so we are grateful for them.
    - Coed league softball is up and running and we plan to run coed and men's after this league concludes.
    - Looking forward to a great summer

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION: n/a**

Next meeting will be Thursday, August 14, 2025 at the East Recreation Center.  
(subject to change).

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

  
Parks Board Chairman

  
Parks Director

  
Secretary