ELYRIA PARKS & RECREATION BOARD **REGULAR MEETING**
Thursday, August 13, 2026 @ 4:30 PM **East Recreation Center**

PRESENT: Chairman Sam Battle, Cieria Ramon, Stacey Francis, Mark Craig, Parks Director Carrie Reardon, Secretary Tami Martinak

ABSENT: John Hammond

GUESTS:

- Councilman Chad Schneider & Richard Stoffer

CALL TO ORDER:

SPEAKER(s):

- Councilman Chad Schneider speaking on relocating Safety Town to East Recreation area. Current location is at the RAPHA Academy which is privately owned property. Due to the possibility of liability issues would like to check into moving to City owned property. Spoke with the Elyria School District and they are willing to enter into a long-term agreement with the City to utilize classrooms at the Eastern Heights School for Safety Town programming. The Kiwanis is also on board with relocating. Would need to look into the moving of the buildings and preparing the area for Safety Town. The costs could possibly be expensive. Need to prepare cost/budget. Look into possible fundraising, grants and/or getting CDBG monies. Look into safety issues like a taller fence & cameras to avoid vandalism. Possibly open to the public to use during certain hours. Sponsorship of new buildings. Educated guess costs could be $75-$100,000. Would not be ready until at least 2028.
- Richard Stoffer spoke about the upcoming concert downtown with LaFlavour on 8/22/2026 from 5:30pm – 7:30pm. Promoting first class entertainment in the Elyria Parks. They were to be the last concert of the season, except the July concert with TARP had to be rescheduled due to the weather. TARP will perform October 3rd.

MAYOR/SAFETY SERVICE OFFICE UPDATE:

- none

APPROVAL OF CONSENTED ITEMS:

- Agenda
- Minutes from June 11, 2026
- June & July Financials
- Stacey Francis motion to approve the Consented Items, Maggie Lieux 2nd

MOTION CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE:

- None

BUSINESS:

- None

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- None

PARKS DIRECTOR REPORT

- **Saturday Concerts**
  Our July concert was re-scheduled due to weather. TARP will perform on October 3rd and LaFlavour will perform on August 22nd. All concerts are held at Ely Square from 5:30-7:30pm.

- **Pocket Park**
  Construction is moving along at 1504 West Ave. We anticipate the Pocket Park to be completed by October.
- **Apple Festival**
  We are continuing our planning for the Apple Festival Kids Zone along with new Teen Programming this year. We are working with Lorain County Public Health and other organizations to offer some exciting things for teens on Friday and Saturday. More information to come as we finalize details. Looking into using Pioneer Plaza for Teens Friday from 6 -8pm & Saturday 4-8pm. Possible giving out food vouchers to be used at the Apple Festival Vendors.
- Maggie Lieux made motion to accept the Parks Directors Report, Cieria Ramon 2nd.

MOTION CARRIED

- **Nicole Edwards**, Recreation Supervisor
  - TAP – The Active People
    - The Elyria Fire Department has agreed to stop in monthly and conduct Blood Pressure checks on participants who are interested in tracking their Blood Pressure.
    - Ann Jesse from the Elyria Arts Council is looking to do a craft with participants in the Fall.
    - A representative from Beltone Hearing will be onsite in September to discuss their services.
  - Thursday Summer Concerts
    - The weather has cooperated this season! Only one concert had to be canceled due to air quality. We had great turnouts! Smashby's Food Truck joined in this year to provide attendees with another delicious food option to enjoy while listening to music in the square.

- **Brandon Lawler**, Recreation Supervisor
  - Summer Camps were a success! In the past, we offered five weeks for summer camps; however, this year we've added two additional weeks. Our goal was to expand the program while maintaining a good quality.
  - Also, our Youth Soccer and T-Ball Leagues provided families an opportunity to participate in organized outdoor sports. Additionally, our summer sport clinics returned and were enjoyed by many! The Pickleball, Golf, E-Sports, Cheer, Basketball and Volleyball Clinics provided many families with weeklong experiences that finished with grand finale Fridays that gave everyone memorable moments. In addition to the success of the specialty clinics, leagues and camps; Teen Nights, 4th of July Basketball Activities and the Mobile Rec were enjoyed, also.
  - Now that we are transitioning from summer programs to fall programs, we are excited to continue preparation for the Fall and Winter! The Parks and Recreation Department has been working diligently on the Fall/Winter program brochure and we are eager to present excellent experiences to our community! We will offer Fall Youth Volleyball, Soccer, Flag Football and Basketball Leagues! We are also offering new programs such as Girls Flag Football as well as Tot-Sports Mash-up for 2 – 4-year-old children!
  - Furthermore, we are finalizing details for the Open Rec Program at East Rec, as well as the Apple Festival 5k Race and Pickleball Tournament. I am very excited to see the development of programs and as always, this is an exciting time in Elyria Parks and Recreation!

- **Kaleigh Hernandez**, Recreation Supervisor
  - We are in the process of finishing up the pool season as we enter our final weeks being open. We just had our staff Olympics to celebrate and thank all of our hard-working employees and it went really well. Overall, we got great feedback with learn to swim lessons and private lessons. We had great feedback and turnouts during swim meets, dive in movies, and pool parties this season.
  - Opening up private rentals to three slots on Sundays helped us to serve more people and it was effective and will be continued. Overall, the pool season was a success.
  - Looking forward I will be busy working on Homeschool open gym, Finwood, and Ice Rink planning. It's another busy time of year for me, but I am excited to roll into the next season.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- none

Next meeting will be Thursday, September 10, 2026 at West Recreation Center @ 4:30pm. (subject to change).

ADJOURNMENT:

Parks Board Chairman | Parks Director | Secretary