ELYRIA PARKS & RECREATION BOARD **REGULAR MEETING**
Thursday, October 8, 2026 @ 4:30 PM **North Park Sports Complex**

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

ABSENT: Cieria Ramon & Maggie Lieux

GUESTS:

- LaTaunya Conley & Brad Armstrong

CALL TO ORDER:

SPEAKER(s):

- Dr. LaTaunya Conley would like to hold the NCNW Business Expo again at whatever center is available on February 20, 2027 from Noon-3pm, with fees waived. Would prefer South, if not East. South is not available, using East Recreation Center. Last year's event hosted 10 vendors. Also a part of the Lori-El Unit of Parliamentarians 2026 Virtual Community Room on November 5, 2026 7-8:30pm (registration required) & Breast Cancer Awareness Event on October 20, 2026 from 9:30am-3:30pm. at the Mt. Zion Baptist Church, pre-registration required. Free breast cancer screening.
    - John Hammond made motion to allow Dr. Conley & her club NCNW to host the 2027 Business Expo at one of our Parks Facilities from 12-3pm on February 20, 2027 and for the fees to be waived. Stacey Francis 2nd. (East Recreation Center is available).

MOTION CARRIED

- Director Reardon spoke on behalf of Justina Miller for the Infinite Helping Hands. Would like to the fees waived for this event. Turkey give-away on November 17, 2026 from 10:30-2:30. Giving away 100 Turkeys. Need to update their insurance certificate. Ok to use Parks logo on their flyers.
    - John Hammond made motion to allow Infinite Helping Hands to have their event on November 17, 2026 from 10:30-2:30 at the West Recreation Center to give away 100 turkeys to the community. Stacey Francis 2nd.

MOTION CARRIED

- Desmond Kellom – no show. Wanted to speak regarding his hot dog cart at Ely Square. The City Ordinance does not allow this.

MAYOR/SAFETY SERVICE OFFICE UPDATE:

- None

APPROVAL OF CONSENTED ITEMS:

- Agenda
- Minutes from August 13, 2026
- No Quorum for September 10, 2026
- August & September Financials
- Stacey Francis motion to approve the Consented Items, John Hammond 2nd

MOTION CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE:

- None

BUSINESS:

- None

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- None

PARKS DIRECTOR REPORT

- **Pocket Park**
  Construction should wrap up at the end of the month. Will keep the surrounding fence up as long as possible, until completed. We will be doing a ribbon cutting – keep your eyes open for the date/time of that event.
- **Finwood Lease**
  Our current leasee would like to stay another year. It will be going to council next month for renewal.
- **Holiday Decorating**
  Maintenance has started work on holiday lighting and decorations. We will be adding some more outdoor items to Finwood and additional lighting downtown. The Mayor has once again, allowed us to use NOPEC money to purchase lights for the holiday season.
- **Apple Festival**
  Everything went well.
- John Hammond made motion to accept the Parks Directors Report, Stacey Francis 2nd.

MOTION CARRIED

- **Nicole Edwards**, Recreation Supervisor
  - TAP – The Active People.
    - Elyria Arts Council will be coming out to the group on October 20th and will be engaging participants with an art project.

- **Brandon Lawler**, Recreation Supervisor
  - Fall is here and we are excited to offer fall programs to the families in our community! Adult Volleyball Leagues are underway with four league options. The divisions for the leagues are Women's Middle, Women's Lower, Coed Middle and Coed Lower. In addition to the leagues, Adult Volleyball Open Gyms are held every Saturday evening at West Recreation Center.
  - With over 180 children registered to participate in our Fall Youth Soccer Leagues, the experiences are enjoyable and they are operating smoothly.
  - I am especially excited about this year's Fall Youth Flag Football League! With major updates to the program (e.g., field size, league rules, aesthetics, location, etc.) the kids are experiencing many more opportunities to catch, throw, pull flags and score touchdowns!
  - Speaking of excitement and success, Tot-Sport Mashup knocked it out of the park! With each session registration list filled to capacity and after receiving great reviews, I can see continued success for that program.
  - On another note, Youth Basketball Leagues will begin later this month bringing most recreation back indoors. As always, its an exciting time in the Parks and Rec.

- **Kaleigh Hernandez**, Recreation Supervisor
  - The ice rink opens October 2nd! Ready for another season of hockey and programming. We are excited to be able to have fun events like dj nights, Skate with Santa, Skate with Sully, and other things like canned food drives and APL drives throughout this season. We are already getting phone calls to book birthday parties at the rink as well.

- I am busy planning for Finwood 2026. We have a new Santa joining us this season. We also will have the Elyria High School Madrigals and The Apple Fest Queen out to Finwood to volunteer with us. Excited for this year's theme and all the organizations that are back working with us!

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- none

Next meeting will be Thursday, November 12, 2026 at Parks Conference Room, City Hall @ 4:30pm. (subject to change).

ADJOURNMENT:

Parks Board Chairman | Parks Director | Secretary