

VERMILION PARKS & RECREATION BOARD

Minutes of August 21, 2018 - 7:00pm | Municipal Complex Courtroom (687 Decatur)

Roll Call: T. Parker, E. Wakefield, W. Warden, B. Scholtz, Jim Schoene
Not Present: J. Keck, D. Brudney, Chad Kuhns, REC. DIRECTOR; B. Holmes, COUNCIL REP
Also Present: D. Corogin, PARKS (Mtce. Operations) DIRECTOR; T. Valerius, SERVICE DIRECTOR

T. Parker called the meeting of August 21, 2018 to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

B. Scholtz MOVED; B. Warden seconded to approve the meeting minutes of July 17, 2018. Vote 5 YEAS.
MOTION CARRIED.

CORRESPONDENCE/AUDIENCE/COMMUNITY GROUP USE PERMIT:

Community Event Group Use Permits -

Charl Gabel, Vintage Market Place (Friends of Harbour Town) – Flag Fundraiser – Sunday, September 16, 2018 @ 12-5pm (Village Greens)

C. Gabel said the fundraiser is to purchase flags for the downtown area.

B. Scholtz MOVED; B. Warden seconded to approve the Community Event Group Use Permit as submitted. Vote 5 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

John Hill, Grace United Methodist Church – Domestic Assault Awareness Candlelight Vigil – October 20, 2018 @ 6-7:30pm at Sherod Park.

J. Hill requested on behalf of Grace United Methodist Church to use a portion of Sherod Park on October 20 from approximately 6-7:30pm. They will observe Domestic Assault Awareness week and would like to hold a candlelight vigil along the lake. E. Wakefield asked if the board needed an insurance policy for this event and T. Parker said they are already on file because of Worship by the Water.

E. Wakefield MOVED; J. Schoene seconded to approve the Community Event Group Use Permit as submitted. Vote 5 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Mark Valenti of the Highlander Games said they just finished their Highlander event last weekend at Sherod Park and they are looking to do it again next year for the fourth year on August 10 from 9am-3pm. They also had requests from people looking to get involved in this event that don't know how to do these events, so they are looking to have a clinic for about 10 people on September 29, 2018 from 9-noon at Sherod Park. T. Parker said the board will need him to submit a park use permit for both events. B. Warden asked the board if they were completely sure they wanted to go into next year without some prior discussions about perhaps fees for some of these activities. T. Parker said the board hasn't covered this issue yet. B. Warden said if they approve these activities then they would be locked into that event. G. Fisher said they should wait to discuss this until they receive the park permits and once she receives them she can put them on the agenda for September. M. Valenti said he will provide a park permit for both events tomorrow, but he needs to know quickly so they can actually do this event next year and reserve it. He asked if they would need to wait another month because he is willing to pay, but nobody has ever given him any perimeters. B. Warden said it's not so much about the event, but it's about the potential fees to use the park. M. Valenti said this was brought up last year but there was never any determination. He said he needs to know quickly if this is the case as he would need to shop different cities.

T. Parker noted the clerk said the board could approve the dates and events contingent upon the board approving a potential fee structure. M. Valenti said he would need to know what the fee structure is quickly so he can shop around. T. Parker said they will probably discuss fees next month, but they could approve the events upon submission of the required forms to reserve the park. He asked Mark Valenti to keep his event open-ended until they come to a decision on fees. G. Fisher said they will also need to check the calendar to make sure the requested dates haven't already been reserved. She asked him to confirm the dates with Anne Maiden upon submitting his applications. She said once the board approves his events and comes to a determination on potential fees, she could contact Mark Valenti next month to advise him of the outcome rather than him attending the meeting again in September.

B. Warden MOVED; E. Wakefield seconded to approve the dates as requested contingent upon the parks being available and upon the potential of implementing a fee structure. This will be referred to the September meeting agenda for further review and discussion. Vote 5 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED**.

C. Gabel said she was informed by Anne Maiden that only non-profits could use city parks and that they couldn't turn in the paperwork for next year until January. G. Fisher said this was discussed when B. Wakefield was Chairman last year and this was not true. B. Wakefield clarified that anyone can reserve the parks at any point and time during the year.

Farmer's Market:

T. Parker said this issue was dumped on the board's laps and many aspects are not necessarily parks' issues at all. However, the board is willing to listen but advised that public comments are limited to five minutes each. He said the board has read what was printed in the paper and the clerk's verbatim minutes of the City Council meeting of July 23, 2018. He said if anyone wished to add to those comments or amplify them its fine.

Brian Crandall of 657 Main Street (Silly Goose) said on behalf of his wife and mother in law who have been in the retail business for 30 years; nine of which have been in Vermilion, he would like to address issues that are concerning to not only them, but other retailers as well. Once again, he noted they have been voted best gift shop on Cleveland's Hot List. They have been previously recognized by Lake Erie Living Magazine, and Nora Fleming an artist that has interchangeable giftware out of 1,200 stores. In 2014, they were the largest signing that this individual ever had; so for a 900 square foot store they think they are doing pretty well. He expressed concerns regarding events being held downtown that hampers their business but other downtown businesses as well. As Vermilion talks itself up as being business friendly he took snapshots from different periodicals and social media as saying, "Vermilion's quaint shops and fine restaurants; Vermilion wants your business; our City believes that small businesses are the foundation of economic vitality in our community. Whether you're spending the week or weekend day away the office or looking for a place to live, raise a family, retire, or even start a business, we plan to make your experience in Vermilion, Ohio a memorable one. The national Main Street Movement has promoted economic development, historic preservation and continues to work to create a sense of place in our downtown district to attract and retain business, entrepreneurs, visitors, and residents. We believe that our community is only as strong as our core, and the heartbeat of our success as a whole relies on the strength of our downtown". He said the Farmer's Market; definition by Marion Webster – A market by which local farmers sell their agricultural products directly to consumers.

He said several years ago, Art Shattuck of Lee's Landing circulated a petition and delivered it to Main Street only for it to be discarded because the Farmer's Market was and still is hurting year-round business for downtown retailers. What a great way to treat a business owner whose shop has been in Vermilion for about 45 years; how disgusting! Saturday's which are normally the best days are now by far the worst! His wife Jill was asked to attend a Main Street Vermilion Board meeting to discuss the Farmer's Market only to be called a Liar, stating that what she said was not true by a board member; are you kidding me! How many on that board even own a business on Main Street; let alone a retail store. The fact is, Main Street Vermilion supports these fly by night grab and go vendors, even to include a banner across Liberty Avenue. When was the last time the gazebo

has been rented on a Saturday during the so called "Farmer's Market" times? Also, is the park free for the Farmer's Market? He stated he is angry and yet those who are here year-round are shunned and but expect donations for their cause. Is it to pay for the secretary's salary? When was the last time a Farmer grew t-shirts, furniture, jewelry, soaps, lotions, crafts, artwork, and so on. Are these people paying the appropriate fees, taxes, insurance, utilities, etc. that goes along with being a small business. This is their livelihood and this organization caters to those that are here four hours a week for 12 weeks, rather than a business like Lee's Landing who has been in downtown Vermilion for over 45 years, all year. What a disgrace! I guess \$10 a week on Saturday's for 12 weeks is a great deal for a hobby, compared to retailers in the downtown who have given their heart and soul to be a small business owner, and by the way selling flowers when there is a flower shop across the street. He hopes Tiffany's Flowers and Gifts remembers this when somebody comes calling for flowers to donate. He noted that Councilman Gabriel had commented during a council meeting during the food truck debate that businesses in Vermilion have a short window to make the bulk of their money. How true! They face three events that hamper small business. The car show is next; in July of 2017 it was reported that 250 cars were there. Where are their customers to park? They depend on patrons who actually shop the stores. How can they continue to succeed when they do little business as well as other retailers; they have nine years of numbers to go by. He referred to the Chalk it up event which also blocks the road during the summer. Who makes money during this event? Who leaves the trash around? Not the retailers because their record of receipts tell the story. Retailers track everything and operating a store is a full-time job, not just the hours they are open. He came before the Parks Board because Councilman Holmes told them to come to the Parks meeting as the board issues the permits for the parks. He said success as a whole relies on the strength of their downtown and people have voiced their concerns about food trucks and a cell tower on the west side of town, so he hopes they hear their concerns as they want to continue to offer quality products at affordable prices; accompanied by exceptional customer service in downtown Vermilion. He says he has video during these events which shows how it hurts retail businesses. He said the businesses work hard and these people come in for a handful of hours for \$10 a week.

Richard Kime of 1367 Birchview Drive said he was a former small business owner in western New York and they were the largest statuary dealer and they put a lot of blood, sweat and tears into their mom and pop operation. They had the same problem as they had a large group called 'Crossroads' and every Saturday they had a huge show; they had three large buildings set up where vendors would come in. Rather than fight Crossroads they joined them. They decided the best way was to put their wares out and let people from other communities see what they had in Ashville, New York. It worked out well because they had a lot of people that came from Crossroads down to their store. Here in Vermilion as a small vendor he pays his taxes to the state and they are responsible for their vendor's license, and he provides a service through a lot of sweat, tears and a little recreation with his birdhouses. They are very fortunate that some businesses in Vermilion have joined them. The Olive Scene came in for a demonstration that showed their products, and the Popcorn Shop is almost there every weekend selling their products with the idea that maybe people will come to their store that are from the outside area. The other thing he has noticed in the three years he has been in Vermilion is the Farmer's Market is going down too. There are not nearly as many people as what there was when they first came to Vermilion. It's harder to get people to come downtown or to do any shopping whatsoever. It is a real concern, but maybe by working together they can join forces to do things together; whether it's buying flags or furnishing other things the city might need. He thinks there should be cooperation between groups rather than the fighting between the downtown area and the small Farmer's group. He said he was also a pool supervisor for Elyria City Pools for 20 years, and asked the Parks Board to consider getting umbrellas for the guards and the table because skin cancer is one of the leading causes and being in the sun all day without shade for the lifeguards is not safe. They need to protect them from the future 30 years down the road.

Charl Gabel of the Encore Shoppe said most of them as small businesses cannot take their product to a park. She is not able to take her product to the park because not only is she consignment but she would have to hire someone to maintain her store and they are struggling as it is. Secondly, as far as joining and getting along with Main Street, she tries to be very nice and share what she can. The Friends of Harbour Town does have one event most months and two months they have two weekends. They do bring in outside vendors and the majority

of people stops and see it. She has had several other owners stop and thank her because it brings business in. She said Main Street members have continually to the point of harassing her vendors; why don't you come to the park, why don't you join Main Street? The first one started before Diane Chesnut even had a service and she thought it was disgusting and so did the vendor and it hasn't stopped yet! This is the first she has mentioned this but now she is drawing the line!

Shawn Jeffrey owner of the Ancient Celtic Shop, 658 Main Street, said they may or may not have been in her store and visited her, but she has been in Vermilion for one year May 1, but she has been in business for 20 years. She brought her business from Cuyahoga County to Vermilion and has been internationally recognized in two different publications; The Renaissance Magazine and the Ferry Magazine which are internationally published. As a business owner and also as an event planner it is very hard for many organizations to please everyone which is understandable and sometimes there will be give and take. Being an event planner she has put on city events that have brought in thousands of people. She was the coordinator for the Huron Irish Festival and for the Olmsted Falls Heritage Days Program and she created the largest parade in the State of Ohio, so she understands the differences and how hard it is, but what she would appreciate is that an event coordinator would be diligent in regards to pulling other people and small businesses into the area; not to step on the toes of those small businesses that are here 12 months out of the year. The other aspect is trying to accommodate everybody; she isn't trying to bash anybody or saying somebody is doing a bad job, but it is difficult and she would respectfully ask that they think about what they do and think about the people they bring in. She lovingly calls some of these people hobby owners. They come into a situation and they think they know something, and they try to sell it and if they don't sell it then they go and tell their friends not to come to Vermilion because nobody shops them, so there is a black eye that's out there from these small town vendors stating that there isn't enough business in Vermilion. "Don't go to Vermilion because nobody buys anything, or it's not good". It's always more advantageous for these people to say something negative and to blame other people than it is themselves. This is a real detriment to the downtown people that have been here for all these years. She respectfully asked that they reconsider some things and look at some things differently. She knows the Parks and Recreation Board is looking for extra money and when they are booking this park out for 12 weeks then they are losing money not being able to rent the venue. She said she could put two weddings in the park every Saturday at \$250-\$500 a pop! They are losing out on \$1,000 every weekend; just a thought.

Terry Parker said as a point of information, they don't rent out the gazebo. Anybody is free to use it at any time they want; even if there are other things going on. They have said that they have to take their chances that there might be another event going on. They can't reserve it exclusively just for a wedding. People are welcome to do it and they have never turned anybody away. This applies to all of their venues and for Vermilion residents in particular there is no charge because they already support them. S. Jeffrey said they are trying to market this area as a wedding destination and the Chamber and Main Street is trying to bring a wedding venue into Vermilion, and maybe it's new for the Parks Board, but other areas do charge people for the use of their parks. They are able to create coffers for this and that way when they ask the residents to pass a levy, it's a little bit easier. She said the City of Huron, Grafton, Cuyahoga Falls, and Lorain rents out their places and all make money, so at least it would give them some coffers. She said the Parks Board may want to consider this for the future. T. Parker said when they have the fee discussion this is something they may want to consider, but he wasn't sure what they were going to do at this time.

Brian Crandall said Art Shattuck would have been in attendance at these meetings but he has been caring for his mom. However, he wanted to let everyone know that his mom passed away today and she has put almost 50 years into a business.

Marilou Suszko addressed three things that were addressed at the last meeting as some of these things she didn't feel had to do with the Parks Board, but closing of the streets is something that has been brought up quite a few times. Any organization in Vermilion that closes the streets for an event never does so intentionally to the detriment of a business. The goal is to always bring people to town for experience, to create a lively atmosphere, to introduce them to Vermilion, to encourage them to find ways to spend their money, or to discover that this is

a place they might want to live. Creating a critical mass in a restricted area; like when they close the streets, helps to develop this atmosphere and it puts people in front of businesses. Does this always directly benefit the business during the event hours; no, not always and they know that. Does it create exposure for that business; absolutely. If people enjoy their experience in Vermilion and they meet friendly and positive people, and discover a retailer or restaurant, then it gives them a reason to return to Vermilion and their store, and then they have done their job. At every turn Main Street promotes Vermilion, not Main Street Vermilion; it wouldn't make any sense. They work to get people to come to Vermilion for a lot of different reasons through their marketing program, which includes social media; collectively followed by 5,000 people, their website has been visited to date by more than 16,000 viewers. They print close to 15,000 printed materials to tell people what's going on and where to eat, shop, what to do; boat, wine. They advertise in the Ohio Travel Guide, Lake Erie Living, Lake Erie Shores and Islands, Lorain County Visitors Bureau, Vermilion Photojournal, Lakefront Publications, and they do radio advertising with WOBL. They are very clear in their efforts to invite people to come to Vermilion which benefits everybody whether you're a member of Main Street or not.

There was a question about trash brought up after their Chalk it up event and Main Street and any other organization creating waste is responsible and diligent about cleaning up the areas they occupy. Trash at the Farmer's Market has never been an issue as far as they know and they have never been notified about being negligent at any other event that invites people in. Regarding the concern about trash after 'Chalk it up', this year the event was held on a Sunday and they collaborated with the Ritter Public Library as they celebrated their 100th year Anniversary, and their organizers removed six bags of trash from the site; trash they generated to conduct the event. If the trash cans were filled to the brim or overflowing that evening it reflected the amount of people that were on the streets on Sunday, which is a good sign; although she admits it's an inconvenience; nobody wants to see trash as it's unsightly. The city did assure her that Sunday's trash was collected during the regular schedule on Monday, so it was really an overnight thing as they are very careful about leaving the spaces they occupy in good shape. The Farmer's Market has entered its 11th year in downtown Vermilion and they have had some hard discussions about the direction of the market and ways to improve it. When market season is over their market managers, volunteers, vendors, and Board of Director's will explore new options that will continue to benefit the downtown community and will draw visitors; yet address some of the concerns of the merchants. They don't know if abandoning the market is the best solution. Farmer's Markets create community atmosphere and they attract visitors and it brings people into town. They do recognize the need for dramatically increasing the ratio of food producers to crafted items and those items that compete with local retailers. They also need to review how many people the market serves and improve on those numbers. They will be discussing modifying the current model of the market and they will work to expand the market in reaching the community, as well as outside. In short, they are committed to compromising and they will invite any business owner who would like to engage in a conversation on how to make the market and the opposing merchants co-exist productively and peacefully to contact Main Street. They are willing to sit down. She knows they talk about shared use of the parks and as far as she knows, if somebody reserves a park for an event, they can't use it to the exclusion of somebody coming in, so they have experienced a couple times where the market is being conducted and there is a wedding going on in the gazebo, and it hasn't been a problem. They have co-existed peacefully and it has been fun for both. It does happen and they are aware they can't use it exclusively and not share it with someone else.

T. Parker said he isn't sure the Parks Board can do anything with this issue at this time; he didn't think it was the purview of the board or the mission of the board to so regulate things that nobody can do anything. He doesn't see this as a positive thing. He didn't think it was up to the board to say who can sell what, where, or who gets to do what as opposed to the other. They certainly will take this under advisement. B. Wakefield said what she hears from all people present is that Mr. Kime hit the nail on the mark when he said that people need to join together and work out their own solution and schedules. They don't police the parks system and when somebody comes in with a request and it seems like a reasonable use for the park, then they will grant it without reservation. However, all of this information is posted and if any other business person has a concern they should come to the meeting so they don't grant something and regret it later on. She said this is the first time they are hearing about discomfort on these issues, so the businesses should come and talk to the board before the

park is approved. C. Gabel said the park and date has to be approved by the Parks Board and she feels it would benefit all of them if they didn't schedule on the same dates. Give people in town every weekend. Shawn Jeffrey asked if Vermilion has a one day when all the heads of organizations do an event calendar specifically for the parks, so they can sit down and talk and have a conversation, so it goes through one central location. T. Parker said these go through Anne Maiden who has the calendar, which is public information that is made available at any time if somebody wants to look when planning an event. It's as current as to whatever the board approves from the previous meeting and anything in between that the Service Director may have approved. G. Fisher said the meeting agendas are always posted a couple weeks prior to the meeting on the city website which shows who has submitted a request in a given month. T. Parker said either the City or the Chamber of Commerce needs to broker a conversation between the merchants, Friends of Harbour Town, and Main Street Vermilion to discuss these issues, so together they can come up with some constructive solutions amongst themselves. He said the board couldn't legislate this for them. C. Gabel said the Parks Board gave one group the park for the entire summer, and the administrative assistant doesn't promptly turn the papers into Gwen Fisher, and that's why her last event had to be approved by Tony Valerius. T. Parker said that's more an emotional argument than something they can verify right now. He said there is something in Exchange Park almost every weekend and they're selling trinkets and stuff. C. Gabel said that is not true and T. Parker said almost every weekend; C. Gabel said almost is a big word; two months it's two Saturdays and the rest of the months it's one.

Dana Corogin said they travel a lot and almost every community has a Farmer's Market; even in Europe they base travel calendars on where the Farmer's Markets are, so people will plan their trips around that and they are always at the same place and people depend on that. She said right or wrong she isn't saying they should have one in Vermilion, but it is pretty common in almost every small community. She said there's more than just produce; there are flowers and a representation of every single thing. She understands what the merchants are saying and in the community at various times there has been an attempt by all kinds of organizations to have one calendar where everybody comes together and they try to plan it so it makes sense for the whole community, but it's hard to do that. The Chamber of Commerce has tried it, Main Street has tried it, and even Kingston tried it for a while. Brian Crandall told the Parks Board that the can got kicked in their yard and T. Parker said they are volunteers and not elected officials. Mr. Kime said Vermilion is a great community and Main Street is great and they have added so much, but they just need a little more cooperation. T. Parker said the solution to the problem is not with the Parks Board.

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS:

D. Corogin stated she invited Dale Reising to attend the meeting to talk about security cameras with the board members. She said they have talked about the Skate Spot by making it safe for the students and athletics that use the park. They have a lot of young children with scooters and they have grandparents that come and they want to discuss whether they want to upgrade the camera that is on the building, but they have had repeated problems with the comfort station.

Dale Reising said he is a police officer but also is tasked with the IT responsibilities of the City. They are working on consolidating a lot of the security camera systems they have inside the City and having those systems being live monitored through dispatch. There is a camera system at the street department but nobody is watching it, so the idea is to add it on to what they currently have. They are running four cameras at each fire department and two at the boat ramp which are monitored by dispatch. He would like to migrate with the camera that is overlooking the Skate Spot and proposed being able to view the parking lot as this camera gives a wider view, but the key area is being able to get license plate numbers. The quality of the camera is 4k so they will be able to get better identification. They will only need one additional camera at the Skate Spot and they will be able to manipulate the camera angle. G. Fisher said unfortunately a lot of the people using the park don't come in vehicles. D. Reising said they would place the additional camera under the overhang so it's protected from the snow, rain, ice, and sun glare. G. Fisher asked if there would be a "Video Surveillance" sign posted so it may help curb vandalism. D. Reising said it's up to the board as that alone is a deterrent, but it's a public space and they have no reasonable expectation of privacy in a public space. B. Scholtz asked if this camera system

allows them to investigate and pursue an issue that may arise and D. Reising said they can store over two weeks of information on their server. He said these are hard wired systems and it's all internal with the fiber network. G. Fisher asked if dispatch will be able to monitor the park daily and D. Reising said yes. D. Corogin said this year she hasn't heard of any problems at the Skate Spot and G. Fisher agreed as it seems to be a different group this year and they are much more respectful. D. Corogin said the price of the proposed camera is \$1,500, which includes licensing and installation costs. D. Corogin said there is no point in getting a camera unless it's of high quality and they can zoom in. D. Reising said they are also proposing getting a camera for the Comfort Station. They quoted two cameras which would be located on the male side and the other on the female side. He reviewed the location of where the cameras can be mounted with the board. He said the view angles would also help monitor all the events downtown. There is no fiber network or internet to the Comfort Station so the solution would be to have a wireless connection to the building which could be mounted on the chimney with the connectivity going to City Hall, and connection would be made to the server and dispatch. B. Warden asked if it was possible to put one up at Main Street Beach. D. Reising said in cooperation with the Mayor's office and Main Street Beach, there are a few cameras already down there. There is one on the museum property facing the beach and overlooking the lighthouse, and it's on the internet and recorded live at the police department. D. Reising said there is not a camera view on the west side of the building and E. Wakefield noted there is a lot of activity there. B. Warden asked if they could tap into any Homeland Security funding and D. Reising said he is not a grant writer. B. Warden thought coastal properties could receive funding. D. Corogin said if they see in the future they are having problems at the Skate Spot then it may be worthwhile to get the camera.

D. Corogin said the Skate Spot Committee worked hard to pull off the Open House that was held on August 9. She thanked Bicycle's Bill's for donating prizes for all athletes in attendance; Tristar Skate shop for donating two safety helmets as prizes, Jason Czech for playing fabulous music, Pizza Galley for donating the proceeds of their food sales to the new concrete skate park project, High Point Outfitters for donating t-shirts for the committee to wear during the event, Fred Miggins and Jerry Massanova for parking cars, and Libby Williams for volunteering at the event. A special thank you was given to the committee: Dennis Brudney, Kathleen and Jim Schoene, Lindsay and Ryan Heath, Val Hornyak, Reed Hettel and Dan Overfield. The police also came and gave out ice cream certificates. Parson's donated a bike rack to the skate spot and Will Heath and his family have volunteered to sandblast and paint it. She said the kids were really interested and attentive during the program.

She reported for next winter, the west end of the ice rink needs to be regraded and new lights installed. A small shelter with a bench for people to sit out of the wind to put on skates and spectate would be a nice addition to the rink. She thought perhaps they could rent a shed for two months – Mid December to Mid-February. She will provide estimates at the September meeting.

In terms of the events held at Sherod Park such as the Beach Market, Scottish Games, and the Triathlon, they all went well. In terms of the fee idea, she didn't think they could charge a fee for those events unless the city has personnel available to make sure the park looks nice. All they did was try to have it mowed and have the walking paths looking half way decent, but nothing above and beyond. They put the trash carts out but there is nobody there at the event to wait on people, or if the power goes out then who would fix the breaker, and if the water doesn't work. She thought they would have to offer more in terms of service to people if they actually charge. Also, they would need to make sure the restrooms (porta johns) are cleaned on the weekend. B. Warden asked if these events supplied porta johns and D. Corogin said they bring all their porta johns and the waste carts are provided for them by the city. She said Anne Naugle donated a memorial doggie waste station for the northwest side of the park. Mike Cyran will install as time permits. B. Warden said he was appalled at the parking situation during Anne Naugle's event as there were cars parked all over and off Lake Road; it was helter skelter. He said if they would have had rain they would have thousands of dollars of turf damage. He said she must bring in quite a bit of money and the cost of a doggie waste station is pretty minimal and there is a lot of money going into her pocket. D. Corogin thought there was money going into pockets of all the people using the parks. B. Warden said there is nothing going into the Parks and they are continuing to pay for the Comfort Station, porta johns, trash pickup, and personnel mowing the grass. D. Corogin said she didn't have a problem with the fee, but it's something they need to give thought to as how it will be collected and what they can offer to

them. She thinks they would need a staff member there supervising the event. B. Warden said they should investigate what other communities are doing and G. Fisher said she will have this information for the September meeting to review. B. Scholtz said some of these parks may be at different level as opposed to Sherod and Showse; they have restrooms and flowing water, and nice pavilions. G. Fisher said she will ask the communities what they provide and what they offer.

T. Parker said they will devote additional time at their September meeting to discuss financial issues in general. The Finance Director had indicated that the recreation department is going to end the year in the whole and they will need to supplement it out of the general fund. It's a difficult situation and there is another fee discussion that is needed. He was told that with the exception of payroll and absolute necessary supplies, the general fund allocation for parks maintenance is exhausted as of today. The Finance Director told him that she just paid the groundskeeper for the ballfields, so if they want to paint something it will have to be next year. He said the only money available is levy money and that has to be the capital expenditure category. They should think about getting their budget subcommittee back together again. Mayor Forthofer said they are getting a list of their city costs for putting on festivals; they are nice but they are not free and they are thousands of dollars in police, fire, and city streets time. They will need to have a talk with the organizations that put them on because they need to cover all the costs for the city too.

T. Parker said there was a proposal from the mayor about establishing a pool trust, so they owe themselves to have a finance emphasis at an upcoming meeting. They have enough to get them into 2019 for the pool. This will be put on the September agenda.

T. Parker said Brian Holmes sent the clerk pictures of one of the vendors parking their truck on Saturday on the soldier brick portion of the sidewalk by the Comfort Station to load and unload. He said a week ago there were two cars parked in the fire lane at the Auction House and a pickup truck was parked on the grass between the two buildings and he thought the Service Director should write a letter to both the Auction House and The Friends of Harbour Town about no parking in the parks and reminding them that it's illegal and potentially damaging.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

T. Parker reported the unencumbered balance in the 204 fund is \$189,048. D. Corogin said they will need to discuss their priorities. They had talked about the Gazebo roof and redoing all the pavers in Exchange Park, and paving Sherod Park, pervious pavers in Nokomis Park, shoreline erosion problems, and the pool deck. She said there is still a huge leak and there is so much standing water which smells like chlorine. T. Valerius said the leak is not in the lines from the pool building to the pool. She said they need to determine if there is a playground they want to do. All the mulch was delivered but they haven't had the personnel to spread it. She said in the future they could consider rotating the mulch deliveries at the different parks. She would also like to move forward with something new for the community but isn't sure which park is best to do this in. They are also having a meeting at Main Street Beach as there are some ideas of expanding the pump house to include restrooms/shower/concession stand. They should address the lakeshore and whether they want to put in a boardwalk. There are a lot of things they need to think about pertaining to the museum property.

Harbor View Project – Jim Schoene reported they are planning to meet more frequently and get things going. The discussions have been very positive and leaning in the direction of a big vision. He said the mayor has said, instead of focusing on the donut hole they need to focus on the donut. The Harbor View Project is important and how does that feed into a larger vision for Vermilion. He is encouraged to hear the committee talking about the vision and the big picture, and how does the Wakefield property feed into that, and what does that do if they demolish it. What this will be turned into is the vision and part of the bigger picture.

T. Parker said that Katie Lalonde had thought the Parks Board was going to form a committee relative to the playground at Sherod Park and the Parks Board thought she was forming it. E. Wakefield thought she would be

in attendance at the September meeting. G. Fisher said it was brought up at a previous meeting that the Parks Board could possibly look into forming a subcommittee that she would be a part of. T. Parker said the board should think about this for exploration sake as they can't raise the funds for her.

ADJOURNMENT:

J. Schoene MOVED; B. Scholtz seconded to adjourn the meeting. Vote 5 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

NEXT MEETING:

September 18, 2018 @ 7:00 pm - Municipal Complex Courtroom (687 Decatur)

~ Gwen Fisher, Boards and Commissions