

VERMILION PARKS & RECREATION BOARD

Minutes of March 20, 2018 - 7:00pm | Municipal Complex Courtroom (687 Decatur)

Roll Call: B. Scholtz, W. Warden, J. Logue, T. Parker, J. Keck, D. Brudney, E. Wakefield (*late arrival*)

Also Present: C. Kuhns, REC. DIRECTOR; D. Corogin, PARKS DIRECTOR; B. Holmes, COUNCIL REP.

T. Parker called the meeting of March 20, 2018 to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

B. Warden MOVED; J. Logue seconded to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2018 meeting. Vote 6 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

CORRESPONDENCE/AUDIENCE/COMMUNITY GROUP USE PERMIT:

Community Event Group Use Permit:

-Shore Thing – Concessions, brochures, beach cleaning & visitor greeting – May 17 – September 20, 2018 (Main Street Beach) – Noon - 6pm

Jennie Pryor of the Shore Thing announced this is their 8th year and they are going through a couple of changes. Last year they had around 12 people involved and this year they have 24. It will allow several of them to retire, so they will have new faces and energy. They are working through the process of sliding under 'Main Street Vermilion', so they will be a committee under them, which they will become not for profit as they were an LLC before. Last year they were able to give over \$3,700 back to the city in various ways, so they're very happy about this. They will not have the Drum Circle this year hoping somebody will miss it and new people will step up. She said they have noticed that road signs in Florida say, "Exit here for Taco Bell or Gulf Beaches". She asked why there aren't signs like this for Vermilion possibly saying, "Exit here for Lake Erie Beaches and Parks". There are so many beautiful areas in Vermilion, so why not get them off Route 2 and into Vermilion. Therefore, she asked if the Parks Board would want to pursue this or if they would want to give them permission to pursue this with ODOT. The board expressed interest with this concept and was willing to let the Shore Thing pursue this and to reach out to the City if a formal request needs to be made.

J. Logue MOVED; B. Scholtz seconded to authorize the use of Main Street Beach to the Shore Thing from May 17 – September 20, 2018. Vote 5 YEAS; 1 ABSTENTION (Parker). **MOTION CARRIED.**

Dan Pryor asked the board members where they stood with a mobile restroom. J. Logue said nowhere at this point as they are trying to figure out the cost and how they are going to do this. C. Kuhns noted he received an estimate for a mobile restroom in his mail, which he would forward to the responsible party.

S. Herron, President of Council, of 6799 Cliffside Drive, advised the Parks Board that the city is going through a difficult budget and everyone is tightening their belts. Unfortunately, the pool has taken a hit and the city doesn't have the money to fund the pool. He said they will do the best they can to find this funding, but if there is anything as a community that can be done through private funding to get the pool going, then he thinks they should work together to do this. He noted Council and the administration is behind this as well. D. Corogin asked if somebody would take the lead on this. S. Herron said this happened years ago and there was a community effort at that time through private donations. He would be happy to do what he can, but he thought they should look at what they did years ago. J. Logue asked if there was a dollar figure to open the pool and S. Herron said \$50,000. Mayor Forthofer said \$50,000 is the total operating amount for the pool. He believes memberships pay between \$20,000 - \$30,000; leaving about this much to open the pool. If they can squeeze

anything out of the budget they will, but it would be best if they could also help themselves. He is a member of Rotary and they may have a great interest in helping. He will chip in personally; as Eileen Bulan did before him. Also, there is the issue of the water loss in the pool itself. The Service Director is ready to contact the pool company to look at it. He asked the Parks board if they were willing to look into the capital fund to see if they can put anything to the cost of repairs. D. Corogin said they received close to \$19,000 in income last year, but they aren't sure if it will be the same this year. She asked Bob Cunicello if the deck needed to be done this year to open it. Bob Cunicello thanked the Parks board for allocating the money for the deck. He wanted to know if they could transfer this money and not do the pool deck this year. T. Parker said the board oversees the capital levy and they can only invest in capital projects and not operations pursuant to the ballot measure passed in the 1960s. It has to have a usable life of five years or more and they can pay for repairs for the pool, but they can't transfer this money. B. Warden asked if there was a possibility that something the city would normally purchase be considered capital of which they could save them money by using Parks money to buy the item that may have joint use between Parks and the city; like a backhoe or truck. If the city didn't have to spend that \$20,000 for a new piece of equipment, but could use their capital funds for that, it would also benefit the Parks in the long run, it would save them money they could in turn use to help fund the pool. T. Parker said the issue is that until they know for sure where they stand, they are operating as if they don't have any money other than finishing Showse, buying the mower, and the money they set aside for the pool deck. They don't want to do the deck until they know they will not have to dig it up to fix something under it. B. Cunicello agreed why they would fix the deck this year if the pool isn't going to open. D. Corogin said this is the feeling of the Parks board too because they aren't going to allocate those funds until they know for sure it's opening. B. Cunicello said unfortunately by then it may be too late. D. Corogin said if they got the leak fixed, but did not do the deck this year, could they live through the season with the condition of the deck. B. Cunicello said he is not adverse to going out and getting six or more bags of quick right and doing the work himself. B. Scholtz asked how they managed to get the pool open years ago when they ran into a budget issue then; was it through private donations. B. Cunicello said it was through private donations and his salary that he gave up, which he is willing to do this year too. S. Herron said they would like to try to avoid this. Hopefully it's early enough to do something still this year. D. Corogin asked if there is any item that can be purchased with a grant or a donation from like the chemical company. B. Cunicello said the donations they received last time was from Gross Brothers who did all the plumbing work for free, but the chemical companies wouldn't do anything. He didn't think Pool Tech charged the city for opening and closing the pool that year.

B. Holmes asked if there were any programs that happen in the evening at the pool. B. Cunicello said they do six weeks of swim lessons in the summer and they have had a few large size parties there, which they haven't raised the costs for a private party since 2001 or longer. B. Holmes suggested "Movie at the Pool" nights to bring in additional revenue, as well as raising fees for private parties. B. Cunicello said memberships fees haven't been raised since 2001 either. B. Holmes this is something that can happen for the city to be able to keep the pool open. They haven't raised fees since 2001. T. Parker said they need to balance this with not pricing people out of it. B. Holmes said at the same time they need to grow with times and continue to keep the pool open, so they need to look at the fee structure and special events, along with programming activities at the pool.

J. Logue asked if there was any major advantage to reducing hours to cut costs and B. Cunicello said not really because they have such fixed expenses with the chemicals, and cutting hours will not do anything, but make people upset. They have a lot of families who use the pool after their work hours.

T. Parker said they need to wait till it's warmer until they find out what is causing the leak. T. Valerius said Pool Tech is scheduled to come out and take a look at the problem, which the board wanted to still happen.

B. Cunicello said they currently charge \$5.00 for children and \$6.00 for adults. B. Holmes said they charge \$7.00 at Splash Zone and Mercy and they get a lot of people there. B. Cunicello pointed out these places offer more than what the city can. B. Holmes understood this but said the fees will help. T. Parker asked who sets the fee structure. G. Fisher believed in the past it had been at the discretion of the Mayor. B. Cunicello confirmed it would be the Mayor. Mayor Forthofer said if they recommend changing the rates then he would do whatever

they want. B. Wakefield suggested talking with the Rotary Club because they sponsor swim lessons, so maybe they can see if the foundation would kick in a little bit. B. Holmes wouldn't be opposed to talking to some of these groups as long as they have supporting numbers. B. Wakefield said people will be confused because the parks levy passed, but it's the only way to open the pool this year. B. Scholtz questioned if they should try to pursue private fundraising at the same time. D. Corogin suggested putting a big "splash" in the paper about the pool and to advise the public that the pool is available for parties, etc. B. Scholtz, D. Brudney and B. Wakefield said they would tackle the fundraising efforts. D. Corogin asked B. Cunicello what the deadline will be in making the final decision to open the pool or not. B. Cunicello said the chemicals and pool heater have to be running two weeks before Memorial Day weekend. The board discussed trying to have all the money raised by May 1. B. Cunicello said the offer is still on the table to give up his salary. He legally found out from the law director that he is not allowed to work for free and that he would need to be paid something. He said whatever he can do he would be more than happy to do it. When you live on a lake and you can't offer quality swim lessons, you're hurting the kids. The only place in Erie County that offers them is the Boat Club and he believes you have to be a member. T. Parker said for B. Cunicello to give up his salary should be an absolute last resort. They will do everything they can to work towards opening the pool this year. D. Corogin wanted the word to get out that levy money that was passed doesn't come in until 2019. B. Scholtz asked the mayor if he could put a blurb in the paper explaining the situation. Mayor Forthofer said he will be writing a regular column, so this is something he was willing to do and will move it to the top of the list.

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS:

T. Valerius confirmed Pool Tech will be investigating the leak as planned.

C. Kuhns reported basketball season was finished on March 8, and everything went well. They worked with Firelands for the girl's league. He was looking into getting together a spring flag football league, but he wasn't able to get the communities they play with in the fall to play again in the spring. He noted he sent out the forms for sponsorships and received great support from the businesses and the community to sponsor teams for the recreation department. For the softball and baseball leagues; the past couple years the softball kids ages 11-13 had two teams, so this year they joined the Westshore Rec League Conference, and did the same with the baseball kids ages 13-14. They continue to play with Amherst in baseball and softball, ages 9-10.

B. Holmes said council is here to help in their positions as elected officials. He commended Amy Hendricks for a great job as she is truly working through a mess and she's making it right. He said 2019 will come out more financially set, so anything he can do personally he is willing to do, as the pool is important to his family as well.

D. Corogin said the parks maintenance in the general fund got cut by \$24,000, so they will need to see if they are able to hire a part time person to help with the mowing. They talked about other ways of mowing the vacant lots with an outside contractor. She didn't think they could clean the beaches if they don't have additional help because keeping the parks mowed at an acceptable level will be challenging, so they will see if they can get somebody seasonally on a part time basis. Even getting Main Street beach cleaned will be difficult. Getting the container delivered costs several hundred dollars, so she wondered if they would be able to get a burn permit to burn the wood on the beach. She said Vermilion is in a mini recession this year and they all need to help to make things look nice. She feels bad that it's on the tails of passing parks levy money, but its reality.

In terms of projects going on at the parks they are waiting for the weather to break to start the lighting project at Showse Park and she commented that Justin Miller will be doing the revetment. There will be improvements that will be done this year from money that was encumbered last year. In East Exchange Park, Vermilion in Bloom was thinking about trying to do a project down by the dock because it's a trip hazard, but they are meeting with the city engineer tomorrow, along with a contractor, an architect, and Barnes Nursery to look at this area to see if they can rehab it. They may have problems with the bulkhead and if this is the case, then it could be a bigger project than what they are able to do, but they will evaluate to see if it's possible. She said they are trying to make Village Greens look nicer and more park-like and the eight historic lights do not work so in

speaking with Satellite Electric she found it will cost \$125 per lamp to put a new LED lamp in there and rewire around the existing ballast at an estimated cost of \$1,000. Satellite Electric is meeting with Doug Keith who is representing the Chamber of Commerce to see if they can hook into the meter that they put in for doing their festivals. She thinks it could be around \$1,500 when it's all said and done if they want the lights on during the summer.

She reported the Skate Park project is moving right along. The volunteer group built a new half pipe and it's really exciting. She learned that skateboarding and BMXing is like sailing and powerboating, and downhill skiing and snowboarding. The group was going to remove all of the damaged ramps that need repaired, but the BMXers pleaded with them not take out the ramps because they were perfect for them. They like to use the perimeter of the park with the spacing. They are excited about the new feature but they still need to fix some of the ramps. They can repair them with the Gatorskins and it will give them the option to use the park that much more. Therefore, she presented a cost of additional materials not to exceed \$5,000. She said the volunteer group consisting of Reed Hettle, Dan Overfield, Johnny Chaney, and Jim Smillie said they would get a group together and will assess the ones in really bad shape, and will put a piece of plywood under the area and will put Gatorskins over it. So, they think they can do this for a lot less and they can get the BMX community involved with helping with this work. She noted in her report other volunteers include Justin and Damian Damron from Norwalk; Noah and Tony, Vermilion BMX guys, and Joey, a skateboarder from Bay Village.

She felt the Parks Board needs to take a stand that they are not opening the park until its safe. She would like the board to allocate some funds to get the additional Gatorskins in to fix minimally what needs to get done. There are other areas that are flaking, but they are not dangerous. She said if they had \$6,000 to put into this, then she would recommend they replace all the Gatorskins now. However, if they want to save, then she feels they can do it for less and revisit it next year. She said the volunteer group is dedicated to the new concrete Skate Park, but until then, these kids have no place to do this activity if they don't get the Skate Spot up and running again. The one positive is that the culture is changing. They have adults utilizing the Skate Spot along with the children.

T. Parker said the likelihood of a new skate park happening is at least five years down the road, but these kinds of repairs could extend the life of this park a good five years. D. Corogin said with the financial climate of the city, it's not even the best time to entertain this new grandiose Skate Park, which they are all so excited about, but now she thinks they should get the Skate Spot up and operational and keep working on doing their research on the new Skate Park. The community is interested and the Library may also help fundraise for another feature, which is exciting. She wants everyone to remain positive. B. Holmes said the volunteers are very positive and energetic and the repairs will give longevity to the current skate park.

Upon further review of the budget and costs to put additional repairs into the Skate Spot the board made the following motion:

B. Wakefield MOVED; D. Brudney seconded to approve a not to exceed of \$6,000 for the Skate Spot repairs. Vote 7 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED**.

OLD BUSINESS:

Tennis Court Project – Vermilion High School - J. Keck reported after speaking with Superintendent Pempin they wanted to advise the board there is something bigger they are looking at right now, so this project has been put on hold. They may even change the locations of the tennis courts, so there is something in the works that is in the early stages. He said that Mr. Pempin had asked if the Parks Board would still honor their commitment to the Tennis Courts once they decide to do the project. Therefore, the \$5,000 allocated this year to the tennis courts is available for the Parks Board to spend if they don't need it this year to put towards the tennis courts.

D. Corogin asked J. Keck if he could find out about the playground money as she thought the Parks Board said they would help with the project. T. Parker confirmed the board committed to this project a couple years ago. D. Corogin said the finance department just asked about the \$6,000 that was encumbered, but not spent. J. Keck said there was a change in the administration, but thought the previous Principal would have handled this before leaving. J. Keck said he would look into it. It was noted the work was done, but apparently they never billed the city for it. T. Parker noted that J. Keck pulled out the actual request for the Sailorway Playground Project and the schools asked for \$6,000 in 2016 and that's what the board approved. For some reason that money didn't get transferred, stated Parker. It's levy money so it won't impact the operating budget.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Harbor View Project

J. Logue said things are moving along and there had been discussions on what they want to do there, but they need additional time to figure it out. At the last Parks Board meeting they had known they didn't get state capital funding, but since then there were a couple of them that went to Columbus to meet with Senator Gardner and Representative Arndt. They have an idea of what they need to do to get money out of the state capital budget. They have two years to put together a good plan to make sure they get some allocation from the state. They need to figure out how they will add additional parking, restrooms, and some sort of a venue for people to use. Mayor Forthofer said J. Logue presented the project well to Senator Gardner and Representative Arndt, but the project wasn't far enough along to be able to get the funding they were looking for. J. Logue said they would like to have a plan in place this year, so they can move forward with fundraising. B. Scholtz said there are three good points they need to address which include parking, public access, and something appropriate for the site. J. Logue said they certainly need restrooms and a concession area would be good, along with increasing the parking in a very thoughtful way. There are limitations and restrictions on the property of what they can and cannot do that he thinks a lot of times gets lost in the shuffle. They want to put parking, restrooms, and an event venue there, but they can't have anything that is fully commercial or government offices, or anything that's a private business, and it's limited by the size. They can't exceed the footprint of what is there and the impervious surfaces. They have a decent sized property to work with and with proper planning they can come up with what is exactly right for this site, but it won't happen overnight.

Long-Range Planning - J. Logue said they met last week and discussed the city pool, which was addressed this evening.

2018 Budget – T. Parker said now that the budget is done they can get squared up and know where they are by next month. He said possibly the budget committee can meet again to identify priorities for the rest of the year. They should be getting some more money pretty soon.

New Skate Park – D. Brudney said they have held two meetings with Superintendent Pempin, Dana Corogin, and Reed Hettel who is the community activist on this project. At this point the most important thing is going to be a location. He said Mr. Pempin has offered his services and help in trying to get a location that is somewhere on the school campus. It's important to give a power point presentation that can be delivered to the Parks Board and School Board. He said Mr. Pempin would like to present this to the School Board and Reed is working with them on this. The main goal is to come up with a location and to pursue fundraising. Getting the schools support on this project is very important and they feel locating it somewhere on the campus will be the best use for the kids.

J. Logue MOVED; B. Wakefield seconded to adjourn into executive session to discuss property acquisition. Vote 7 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

ADJOURNMENT:

T. Parker adjourned the meeting after the conclusion of executive session.

NEXT MEETING:

April 17, 2018 @ 7:00 pm - Municipal Complex Courtroom (687 Decatur)

~ Gwen Fisher, Boards and Commissions