

## VERMILION PARKS & RECREATION BOARD

Minutes of May 15, 2018 - 7:00pm | Municipal Complex Courtroom (687 Decatur)

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

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T. Parker called the meeting of May 15, 2018 to order.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

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

**J. Logue MOVED;** D. Brudney seconded to approve the meeting minutes of April 22, 2018. Vote 5 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

### **CORRESPONDENCE/AUDIENCE/COMMUNITY GROUP USE PERMIT:**

#### **Community Event Group Use Permit:**

**Exchange Park** – Sheila Myracle – Harbourtown Knitting Circle – Saturday, October 27, 2018 from 9am – 6pm

S. Myracle explained that the Harbourtown Knitting Circle has been in existence for 17 years and in the fall they always get together. This year they are meeting at the Library, but also as part of their anniversary event the Knitting Circle and Cast on Studio would like to bring the Yarn Bird from Gahanna to Vermilion. They have a mobile Knitting Store which is in a RV, but they need somewhere to park it. She said the RV is a very nice store and they travel all over the country and they have a huge following. The Yarn Bird has put the Knitting Circle on their calendar and they are hoping they receive permission to park in the parking area where they pull the trolley up. They are hoping to bring between 1,500 and 2,000 visitors to Vermilion that day. B. Warden asked if they contacted the yarn shop in town on their feelings of bringing the Yarn Bird in. S. Myracle said yes and they are working together as they are friends. She said there is a yarn tour from September to October and Brenda Miklos is very much on board with bringing them to Vermilion. T. Perry asked if this is a self-contained and self-powered mobile unit. S. Myracle said if she doesn't have access to power than she has her own generator. T. Valerius said the police department can mark off the area with cones and said he would take care of letting them know. B. Wakefield said this is another opportunity to bring visitors to Vermilion to support another business in town.

**B. Wakefield MOVED;** B. Warden seconded to approve the Community Event Group Use Permit for the Harbourtown Knitting Circle on Saturday, October 27, 2018 from 9am – 6pm. Vote 5 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**Showse Park & Beach Area** – Kara Brewer/Ben Fowlkes – Church of the Open Door – Community Beach Party – Sunday, June 10, 2018 from 2pm – 7pm

Kara Brewer explained they would like to use Showse Park and the beach area for a community-wide beach party so they can love on and give back to the community, and celebrate the people within the community. It's not intended to grow or promote their church; it's more just to love on the community and provide a fun day for families to come together and share memories with their children. They will be having bounce houses, face

painting, balloons, sand volleyball, and will have a cotton candy machine and popcorn machine. They do have generators if they don't have access to power sources. T. Parker asked if they had their insurance available and Kara Brewer said she did. She was instructed to file it with Anne Maiden in the Mayor's office. D. Corogin asked them to contact her prior to the event, so they can try to clean the pavilion and area. She said they are short staffed, but will try their best.

**J. Logue MOVED**; B. Wakefield seconded to approve the Community Event Group Use permit for the Church of the Open Door Community Beach party on Sunday, June 10, 2018 from 2pm – 7pm. Vote 5 YEAS.  
**MOTION CARRIED.**

B. Wakefield read the following correspondence by Brad Scholtz – We did it! The team of Bob Cunicella, Betsy Wakefield, Cliff German, Dennis Brudney, Patrick Anders, Steve Herron, Dana Corogin, and Brad Scholtz took on the challenge of raising 36k in just over 45 days to keep our community pool open for 2018 by covering a short term financial shortfall in city funds. Our amazing community stepped up in a big way on all fronts! We surpassed our goal and as money continues to come in, we have over 40k collected! Private donations comprised approximately 75%; Spaghetti Splash – approximately 12%; Foundations/civic organizations – approximately 12%. A special thank you was expressed to German's Villa for donating their facility for the fundraiser; Vermilion Photojournal; Bob Cunicella for his fantastic passion and hard work; Sally Todd for an amazing job with the Spaghetti Splash; Lorain County Community Foundation, and Pat O'Brien Chevrolet for the ad space in the Vermilion Photojournal.

T. Parker thanked everyone on the committee for a fantastic job and noted it was an exciting event.

#### **OPEN TO THE AUDIENCE:**

Mark VanFossen of 411 Ewa Yea Street questioned Nokomis Park and what is happening to it. He said he gets down to the park every day all year long and he came back one weekend and it looked like it had been bush-whacked by a team of chain saws and it was clear cut along the bank and down below. Then they had a northeastern come along and they lost a tremendous amount of property. He understands the lake levels are high and he couldn't blame Mother Nature for it all, but it didn't help with the clear cutting of it. He asked how this came about and why it was done.

Dana Corogin said routinely in all of the lakefront parks they get complaints constantly from the public about the brush getting too high and they receive questions on why the parks department can't maintain it, so in November she had Edwards Tree come out and look at this and not knowing they were going to have all those storms and that the lake level would be as high as it is; it was a routine thing to have them trim all the brush and limb up some of the trees to make it more attractive. She had met with Edwards Tree and had showed them what needed to be done and she happened to be out of town when it was done. M. VanFossen asked if they were instructed to do the work to this degree. D. Corogin said they were instructed to clean up the area and to limb up the existing trees and to be mindful of the bank in terms of the retention of the bank. M. VanFossen asked if she thought they did what they were asked to do. D. Corogin said she talked with them a couple times and they used their judgment on the project. The only thing she had questioned to them was a specific tree because of an erosion issue and their point was that all the roots are still there and nothing is rotted. She said it's a situation of a perfect storm and if she had known all this, then they wouldn't have touched any of it. She said they have had a lot of erosion issues at all the parks because of Mother Nature. She expressed her deepest apology for this happening, but at the time in November it didn't seem that bad. She said it was trimmed severely. M. VanFossen said it would have probably been a little different if it would have been supervised by the city when they came in to do the work because they cut the weeds and such right to the ground. In addition to the loss they had along the lake shore, is the driving along the lake bank and the use of motor vehicles, golf carts, and motorcycles in the park for turnarounds and driving through from Minnie Wa-Wa to Ewa Yea. He has seen vehicles and people parking in the park where 'No Parking in Grass' signs is posted. He has called the police on a couple occasions and one time they stopped at his house and he told the police he would show them and they

told him, no they weren't going down there and they asked him why it bothers him because he doesn't live down there. He told the police he does live down there and the people parking there don't. He called the police for help and this was the wrong answer.

M. VanFossen said according to the city ordinance there is no parking on any curbless street in Vermilion and he knows he's not allowed to park in the street there, and one time he had two tires on the pavement and he received a warning violation, so he has never parked on the street again. This applies to everyone on Minnie Wa-Wa and Ewa Yea, except for Shoreline Way. On Shoreline Way there are a few people who park in their driveways, but there are others who use the street for the parking lot, and when they use the street for their parking lot they have to drive out and around these cars, and when they do this they drive out into the park right around the 'No Parking' sign. He wants to know if there are different rules for different folks.

T. Parker said he has a good understanding of the rules, but apparently it seems that some people don't think it applies to them. J. Logue asked if residents are parking there are people visiting the park. Markos Paradissis of Minnie Wa-Way said it's a unique park and it's a small strip of land. He is on the east side right by the lake. M. VanFossen couldn't say they were all residents; it is a homeowner and family. D. Corogin asked if they were repetitively violating the rules. M. VanFossen said yes and that they had driveways, but they filled them in with pavers and now they use it as a patio, so they have to park on the street because they can't park in the driveway anymore. He said when one house was under new home construction, he asked the building inspector if they were building a driveway so they could park in it and the building inspector said they were providing a space for a two-car driveway. They never put a car in the driveway. They paved the entire front yard and then they put a fence around the entire front yard, and they don't ever park in that driveway. They park on the street double wide which is causing the neighbors to drive in the park and around to get out of Shoreline Way and onto Ewa Yea so they can exit their property. B. Warden asked if it would possible to put in some composite portable curbs. M. VanFossen said they have railroad ties there and the bigger pickup truck just drives right over them. B. Warden said this is an issue for the police department and not for the Parks Board. M. VanFossen said it's frustrating when he has to talk to the police.

The board reviewed pictures of erosion issues and T. Parker said there are safety concerns and an issue of protecting property which they need to address both with signage and a barrier that's not horrible to look at. He asked D. Corogin and T. Valerius to figure out a way to protect the shoreline and to keep people off the grass. T. Valerius said there is a sign down there but obviously people are ignoring it. T. Parker said there is a danger now and you go much past that sign you might be standing in air at the eastern end in particular. T. Valerius said they talked about putting in wooden bollards with a rope in between to keep people off the grass.

Jack Schneider said he has a place right where all this is going on and they generally lose three, four, or five inches a year due to erosion and last month they lost three feet, possibly more. It went from a nice hill to a straight downhill. The trimming is far from routine and they haven't trimmed it in 11 years. They trimmed some of the trees up above, but not on the hill side. The dirt is unstable and D. Corogin helped them get some gravel in because they hadn't had gravel on the road there for 10 years, and they drove their equipment back and forth on this unstable ground; the city did after they attended a meeting they had there. It was explained how unstable this property was and this happened a couple months ago and anything that could be done should be done sooner than later because it's eroding as they speak. He said they pulled things out by the roots and there were trees lying at the bottom of the hill. He urged the Parks Board to do as much as possible. He said one comment from the engineer is there is a possibility of them losing an additional 30 feet. He said he is extremely concerned and if there is anything the board can do he would appreciate it. T. Parker said they are concerned as a board and have been unaware of what they have been running into on a daily basis. It isn't a highly traffic area, but they will do anything they can to come up with some solutions. M. VanFossen said the snowplows need to not plow out into the park which he has seen many times. They need to define the city park from their city street. B. Warden asked how long the park has been in the city's possession because it was formerly a neighborhood park much like Elberta. He has been on parks board for 10 years and he can't remember the board discussing this park. He said at some point in time the trustees must have deeded the park to the city. M.

VanFossen said he has lived there since 1976 and there has never been any fees or trustees associated with this park. B. Warden asked if the city has been mowing it this whole time. M. VanFossen said the residents mow it because there isn't that much there. Markos Paradissis said they trimmed the trees until Edwards Tree Service came in and butchered it. B. Warden asked to their knowledge if the park has ever been a privately owned entity and M. VanFossen said not to his knowledge.

T. Parker said the board will commit their best going forward to stabilize the situation and get the traffic off the grass. B. Holmes suggested planting some deep rooting grasses to stabilize the bank. D. Corogin said it was suggested to use warm season grasses, viburnum, and some dogwood that could help as it has more root structure. D. Corogin said signage is like cluttering something that is beautiful and natural and people who don't live on the lake like to visit the lake. However, she doesn't know what other choice they have, so maybe they could use the split rail fence. M. VanFossen said they almost have to separate the park from the street because if you put the fence closer to the bank then cars will be parking right up against the fence. D. Corogin said there are three separate parts to the park and addressed the outfalls. T. Parker said separating the street from the park is one issue and the mowing is the more immediate one. He asked if they could use lower signs that landscapers use that just say, "Don't Mow Beyond this Point". M. VanFossen thought notes on people's doors indicating, "No Mowing 10 Feet from the Back" may help. D. Corogin thought it was a good idea to educate the residents in the area because it creates a huge problem if they dump their grass clippings and their leaves because it causes erosion, and it's illegal. She thought maybe the building department could compose a letter and let the residents know not to mow there anymore. B. Holmes said he wouldn't allow them to mow their period as this could be a liability issue for the city if somebody was mowing on city property and got hurt. M. Paradissis said there are only five of them on the lake that have been cutting grass and he can't stop the other people. He thought the residents have an opinion that they own the property and they may do an adverse possession situation. B. Wakefield and T. Parker said it doesn't matter if it's city property. J. Logue agreed it would be a liability on the city's part if something happened while they were mowing.

T. Parker said between the parks department and the building department, or safety department, they should be able to have a sit down and figure something out going forward. T. Valerius said if it's being proposed that the city takes care of the mowing of that stretch of Nokomis and they want the building inspector to put letters on the doors this is fine and the parks department can mow, but do they want them to mow the entire park because there is a lot of encroachment from the residents onto city property, and now they are mowing around their furniture and fire rings, etc. B. Holmes said in the letter it should be stated that these encroachments need to be removed from city property. M. Paradissis said the city would need to do a survey to figure this out.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORTS:**

C. Kuhns reported that baseball and softball has started and they began practice a couple weeks ago. They have around 220 participants in the league. There are seven leagues and 17 teams, and four of the leagues are traveling. They are using Showse Park and games start the week of Memorial Day.

He stated that the Movies in the Park schedule has been set and the movies will be on July 20, July 27, August 3, and August 10. He thanked Main Street for offering to pay for the movies. B. Warden asked if all the coaches are volunteers and C. Kuhns said yes. B. Warden asked if background checks are done on the coaches and C. Kuhns said yes. T. Parker asked if they do any appreciation event at the end of the season. C. Kuhns said they get free t-shirts and they receive a free team picture for the coaches. He stated that he thanks the coaches for all their efforts.

B. Holmes reported that financial reports have been submitted to council from January through March. The council was provided with amendments to the 2018 appropriations and Certificate of Estimates Resources at the May 21 meeting, which reflects the donations to the pool.

T. Valerius reported that he and D. Corogin met with Reed Hettle and Dan at the Skate Spot as they had some adjustments to the half pipe to make it look better. He thanked them for doing these adjustments. He said a group headed up by Jim Schoene is replacing the skate material on the existing ramps.

D. Corogin reported that new lighting is going in soon at Showse Park. She addressed the erosion problems along the bluff and passed out pictures to the board of various parks. They haven't even trimmed anything at the other parks this year. The fence at Showse Park was vandalized and she received a price of \$800 to get it repaired.

She said if they want to put signs up at Nokomis Park they need to determine what it will say. She provided a sample sign that says, "Danger! Keep away from the edge. Due to bluff erosion no mowing beyond this point. Pedestrian Traffic Only.

D. Corogin said the track team did an awesome job cleaning Main Street Beach this year and she also thanked Erie Metro Parks for donating a container. They stacked the wood and put a blurb on Facebook that the public could take the wood for free and it all disappeared. She said because of the rain and high water they haven't been able to get to the Metro parks to clean up their property yet.

She addressed Village Greens as over a month ago she asked for board approval for eight historic lights to be converted to LED for \$1,000. However, there is a cost to connect to the meter at an amount not to exceed \$1,650. T. Parker said according to the minutes the board approved \$1,500, so the board would only need to approve an additional \$150.

D. Corogin said the Skate Spot is still a long way off from opening, but they do have somebody organizing the volunteers. She said there were 17 trees planted along Devon Drive. The trees and planting were funded by the beautification fund of the Community Foundation of Lorain County. They also put up a barrier for a wooden screen eventually at the Skate Spot. She reported the mini half pipe ramp is complete. She said Libby Williams with the help of Dennis Brudney wrote a grant to the Erie Metro Parks for funding from the Erie Metro Park Capital Improvement Grant Program which was awarded. The grant awards were made as follows: New bench and trash receptacle - \$2,051; new sign - \$545.00; material and labor for ramp renovations - \$6,613, and lighting options are still being explored. She said they need fence repairs to the gate and rail in an amount not to exceed \$300.

She said the engineered playground mulch has not been ordered yet because she doesn't have any labor to spread it and in Sherod Park it's all under water.

She thanked all the Vermilion in Bloom volunteers who have been weeding and planting flowers in the park.

She provided the board with a sample of the new Skate Spot sign addressing rules, etc. J. Logue suggested replacing the word graffiti with the word vandalism.

T. Parker said the signage along Nokomis Park is essential at this point just for liability reasons. B. Holmes suggested putting the word Caution in place of Danger on the sign. T. Parker said they should underline in large print "No Mowing". D. Corogin said this could be a problem because that would mean they are deciding where the mowing is going to stop and start with that sign. T. Valerius said they either let the residents continue mowing it and back the signs off 10' from the edge, or they get it surveyed and make everyone move their encroachments off city property, and they try to find time for the crew to mow it. T. Parker said the survey would not be cheap. B. Wakefield said the city doesn't have to be the one who initiates a survey because basically they know pretty much where their boundary lines are and they have a right as a city to go in and say, "Take your stuff off immediately". She said let them get the survey to show where their boundary lines are. Mayor Forthofer said he would like to see blocking of vehicles driving behind those buildings on the edge of the cliff. T. Valerius and D. Corogin will get together on this issue.

**J. Logue MOVED;** B. Warden seconded to approve fence repairs at Showse Park in an amount not to exceed \$800. Vote 5 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**J. Logue MOVED;** B. Warden seconded to approve the signs at Nokomis Park in an amount not to exceed \$750. Vote 5 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**B. Wakefield MOVED;** D. Brudney seconded to authorize an additional \$150 toward the Village Greens lighting cost. Vote 5 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**J. Logue MOVED;** B. Wakefield seconded to authorize the fence repair at the Skate Spot in an amount not to exceed \$300. Vote 5 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

B. Wakefield reported they wrote a grant from the Lighthouse Committee and they received \$2,700 to do story boards. They will match the story boards in Friendship Park in terms of the style and size.

Mayor Forthofer congratulated everyone who stepped up on the pool fundraiser. It was an eye opener in the community and it helped them learn some things. He said it's the last public pool in the area with regards to size. He said it has been a recurring situation where the city is unable to fund the pool opening. They also learned there is a passion for the pool even by a lot of people who never get wet. A lot of the people who donated don't even go to the pool, so there is some sense they need to have a pool available for the summer. He suggested they stop funding the pool at the mercy of the city. The pool's funding should operate through a pool fund trust. They raised almost enough funds this summer in that they are two-thirds the way to funding the pool next year, which suggests this may be something they want to go with. If there was such a thing as to a pool fund trust, it would be separate from the city. It would be administered by three to five trustees; some of whom would have to be Parks and Recreation Board members. The funds are raised through donations such as what they have been raising, to maybe a more aggressive campaign of marketing the pool during the season, so they could have more revenue and the overhead of that is less, and possibly some investment instruments could be examined that might have a permit revenue yield to the trust. This trust would be a pool trust; not necessarily a Valleyview Pool Trust. This is to not take away the operational responsibility which could still be the Parks and Recreation Board, but the money that is funded would come from the trust.

B. Holmes asked if the revenue that comes in from memberships would go into the trust as well or the city. Mayor Forthofer said it would go to the trust and he would have to talk to city council because he thought the City of Vermilion's general fund could contribute \$10,000 to the Vermilion Pool Trust annually for the next five years; depending on council approval. These funds will be designated for pool operations.

B. Wakefield asked if there were any possibilities that the school system is going to go forward with a health campus and a pool. Mayor Forthofer thought absolutely with a health campus, but wasn't sure about the pool because buying a pool is one thing; maintaining it is another as they should count on building a new pool every 10 years.

T. Parker asked the board members to give this a study and make some notes, so they can discuss it next month.

#### **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Skate Spot:

D. Brudney said Jim Schoene is working with people from Open Door who will be resurfacing half of the ramps at the Skate Spot. They had originally looked at doing all sheets but it was too costly, so they are doing the ones

that absolutely need to be replaced. The problem is that the product made out of plastic is only made in Alabama and they want a tremendous amount of money and 10,000 pounds worth to make a run, so they couldn't get this done. Therefore, they are going with treated plywood underneath. The ramps are being taken apart and they are pulling out the bad sections over the next week or two. There are volunteers from the Rotary Club and Open Door, and some other community volunteers who will be working on this. They hope to have their biggest volunteers available on Pride Day. They are shooting to have the park open by June 6, but it depends on how quickly they can get the work done. As far as the other regional Skate Park thought, Reed Hettle is working on a power point presentation to give to Mr. Pempin to take to the school board for possible approval, as well as using a piece of property on the school campus to do this. He said Reed is going to be the city's advocate and there will be decisions to be made by the Parks and Recreation Board and the City on how they want to support this entire project. They won't hear from Mr. Pempin's group for another month and then they will know what direction to go.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

**NEXT MEETING:**

June 19, 2018 @ 7:00 pm - Municipal Complex Courtroom (687 Decatur)

*~ Gwen Fisher, Boards and Commissions*