

**Minutes of the Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
Held in the Caucus Room of the Municipal Building, 36080 Chester Road,
at 7:00 P.M. on Thursday, May 11, 2017**

Acting Chairman John Weigman called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL:

Members in attendance were: John Weigman – School Board Representative; Mary Berges – Council Representative; Lee Belardo; Mary Brady

ABSENT:

Tom Mitchell and Cady Cianciolo

City Representative

Diane Corrao – Parks & Recreation Director

April 13, 2017 MINUTES:

A motion was made by Mr. Belardo and seconded by Ms. Berges to approve the minutes as submitted of the April 13, 2017 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission. The vote was unanimous in favor and Mr. Weigman declared the motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. BIKE PATH: Next update expected in June

2. BASKETBALL/SOCCER VILLAGE SCHOOL LOCATION: Ms. Corrao reported they are going ahead with U4 and U5 soccer leagues at this location. She advised that while the property is being utilized for soccer, the Parks Department is mowing that area and painting the lines on the field. Ms. Corrao stated she would let the proper officials know when the soccer season was over so the school grounds crews could pick the maintenance up once again. She said it depended on when the Schwartz Road Park Improvement Project goes out to bid as to whether they would do the same again in the fall. Ms. Corrao advised if it works out she would like to discuss the possibility of it continuing as it is a great location and they can keep the young children together in one location.

Mr. Weigman noted from the school's perspective it was their belief and intent for it to be a long term arrangement, to which Ms. Corrao was very pleased. Mr. Weigman inquired if the scheduling was working out satisfactorily. Ms. Corrao advised rugby is being played there and neither she nor Mr. Laub were aware at the time that rugby had applied for a permit for a practice night on those grounds and they are trying to move soccer to another location on Tuesdays to accommodate the rugby practice.

Mr. Weigman inquired if the trash receptacles were working out or if there was anything needed to support the soccer families. Ms. Corrao advised she has not heard of a problem and noted that 2 Port-a-Potties were placed in that area.

Mr. Weigman inquired if rolling the fields was working out. Ms. Corrao said they did what they could and they would plan to plug the field when the season was over as sometimes that helps and over time in conjunction with the rolling the field it improves.

Ms. Corrao advised regarding using the basketball courts at this location that she asked for quotes for resurfacing of the asphalt and then painting of the lines and finally purchasing some basketball goals and installing them. She indicated 2 high school/college size basketball courts would fit nicely. It was noted, the courts at Schwartz Road Park are NBA size. The Commission was in agreement that the usage of the courts and field at the Village School is

viewed as an ongoing opportunity. Ms. Brady noted the traffic could be heavy during those times on Detroit Road.

3. SURVEY REVIEW: The Commission had hard copies of the DRAFT survey for review during this meeting.

- Background Information – pg. 2. It was suggested that the year the last survey was conducted could be added.
- Executive Summary – pg. 3 Mr. Weigman indicated he has read most all the survey comments and there were lots of great positive commentary across the board about the parks offerings and the Parks Department and the Director and her team. He advised there are still some connectivity opportunities such as sidewalks on SR83 to get to the pool entrance and sidewalks in some of the parks.

Mr. Weigman inquired if it was fair to say they should have the survey wrapped up by the June 2017 meeting and present it to City Council shortly thereafter. Ms. Berges said she felt that was fair and noted in July and August there are only 2 meetings scheduled and usually a presentation such as this is done during a Work Session, which would be the first Monday in either of those months. Mr. Weigman suggested if it's completed and the Commission Members were satisfied that they submit it the Mayor, the City Council and to Ms. Corrao prior to an upcoming meeting. The Commission was in agreement to that suggestion. It was noted, it would be a final wrap up at the June meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission. Ms. Berges noted that it would be subject to Mr. Mitchell's availability if he is going to be the one presenting to City Council. A July 3rd Work Session of Council was suggested for a target date of presenting. Mr. Weigman asked the Commission Members to read through all the sentences and comment bullet points listed and provide any necessary edits to him and he would update the master copy. Ms. Corrao indicated she could mark off the bullet points that have been completed, whether a repair or update or other, on the survey to show completed requests or work in progress.

- Comments – 600 surveys with 1529 comments broke down into top themes (Refer to PowerPoint of survey for more detailed information)
 - Avon Aquatic Facility – 335 comments
 - Positives
 - Overwhelmingly like/love the new pool
 - Top Requests
 - Installing lazy river
 - Adding sidewalks at SR83
 -
 - Schwartz Road Park – 317 comments
 - Positives
 - Loved by community
 - Top Requests
 - Improving park access
 - Aligning the entrance with Jaycox Road and adding 2nd access
 - Adding to/maintaining biking/walking paths
 - Removing tire mulch and updating playground equipment
 - More parking and parking safety
 - Veteran's Park – 233 comments
 - Top Requests
 - 2nd entrance or traffic light on Detroit Road

- More parking
 - Additional bathrooms and/or port-a-potties
- Northgate Park – 182 comments
 - Positives
 - Hidden gem
 - Happy with new playground equipment
 - Like the pond and the sled hill
 - Top Requests
 - Remove geese/droppings
 - Curvy slide is dangerous
 - Add restroom in park rather than crossing the street to the community center
- Heritage Square (Gazebo) – 161 comments
 - Positives
 - Beautiful space with flowers and holiday lights
 - Landscaping looks great
 - Top Requests
 - Many not aware this space is considered an Avon park
 - Update landscaping
 - Concerts
 - Mr. Weigman felt the space was not practical for the square footage available. Ms. Berges felt it depended as there was a concert during the bi-centennial that was small enough with one or two performers at a time that worked well. Mr. Weigman suggested a place with ample parking and space available would be better suited for concerts in the park.
- Avon Isle Park – 151 comments
 - Positives
 - Historical site that is beautifully restored
 - Top Requests
 - Parking is limited
 - Improve on single lane for ingress/egress
- Little League Park – 150 comments
 - Positives
 - Nice set of baseball/softball fields for younger children
 - Top Requests
 - Improve quality of fields
 - Improve drainage
 - Add portable bathroom toward back of park
 - Move skate park behind police station to free up parking
- Many mentioned they would like full ADA accessibility in each park
 - Ms. Corrao mentioned the City plans to install an inclusive playground near the pool property that will accommodate all abilities. She noted the playground equipment currently at Northgate Park as well as Schwartz Road Park is ADA accessible. However, there is mulch in place at those locations that is not easily navigated and another reason the planned playground near the pool will be fantastic.

- Mr. Belardo advised he is concerned that City Council or others reading the reports might think that something written in the ideas and opportunities is a major theme. Mr. Weigman said they could add “The Ideas/Opportunities are in no particular order and could have been mentioned as few as one time”. Ms. Berges inquired if an asterisk should be added to those suggested ideas/opportunities from results that appeared the most frequent number of times. Ms. Corrao felt they needed to designate what was mentioned most frequently. Mr. Weigman suggested if it is mentioned in the sentence format under each park heading then those items were the most commented items and anything else was just statements and customer feedback and a visual for the Parks Department to determine if it was something that needed to be addressed or not. Mr. Weigman indicated he would put some more effort into it and he asked them to send any feedback to him and it could be slightly reworked.
- Question 10 – 567 answers; Q11-725 answers; Q12-448 answers; Q13- 335 answers
 - Mr. Weigman inquired if the Commission was satisfied with using the graphic from Survey Monkey that pulls the most used words with the highest usage bigger and bolder than the others. The Commission felt it worked great, but it make it bigger across the page for ease in reading.
 - Mr. Weigman inquired if the sentence structure at the top of each was acceptable as he did not want to list out all 600 ideas with over 2,000 comments. He suggested they should bullet point out some of the things that may be areas that can actually be acted on. Ms. Corrao suggested listing out the top seven themes/ideas. Mr. Weigman asked those who originally reviewed a specific park/area to give his presentation a quick glance for errors and omissions. Mr. Weigman indicated he would take the top themes and put them into sentence form and then capture a few more ideas and opportunities from some of the other comments. It was noted Mr. Belardo’s comments for Question 10 would be added as provided earlier.
 - Finalize in June and send to City Officials and present to City Council in July.

Mr. Mitchell arrived at 7:46 p.m.

4. FUTURE TOPICS

- INVITE CITY ENGINEER TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE BIKE PATH EASEMENTS
Ms. Corrao advised she would contact Mr. Cummins to see if there were any updates.
- REPORT TO SURVEY TO CITY COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY
Mr. Weigman reiterated that the survey should be finalized at the June Meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission and they should be ready to do a presentation to Council at the July 3rd Work Session of City Council. Mr. Mitchell confirmed his availability.
- DOG PARK
Mr. Weigman suggested they look back through the survey results to see if this is something that should still be being discussed.

COMMUNITY VOICE: - No known updates

REPORTS:

- COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE– Ms. Berges advised City Council voted on approving the contract for the concession company at the pool and several of the parks and it is the same company that was used last year for the pool.

She said that Ms. Corrao did a wonderful presentation of all the updates on the playground equipment at Northgate Park and it was very well received by Council.

Ms. Berges stated she received an email from a Council Member who asked for and received a copy of the draft survey and also asked for the raw data. She responded to the Council Member that the Commission was still digesting the results. Mr. Weigman said he would reach out to the Council Member and see what he is looking for as he could send him the Excel file or any other document being requested.

- PARK AND RECREATION DIRECTOR– Ms. Corrao advised her department has been very busy trying to keep up with the rain and the field maintenance. Ms. Brady inquired if Ms. Corrao contracts with a company to control the mosquitos and other insects. Ms. Corrao answered they contract with a service that puts applications on the playing fields and as part of that application it includes mosquito and tick control. Ms. Corrao indicated she has three seasonal sports starting Monday and they would hopefully start filling the pools soon and opening day is scheduled for June 2nd, which is a FREE SWIM for Avon residents from 6a-8p and regular hours begin June 3rd.
- SCHOOL BOARD REPRESENTATIVE – Mr. Weigman advised the school year is winding down and he felt it has been a good cooperative for the property behind the BOE to be used for soccer and hopefully basketball. Mr. Weigman inquired if Ms. Corrao had a use for the gym in that building to let him know and they could discuss it further. He said the schools are open to any use that will benefit the community. Ms. Corrao agreed and said the schools have been a pleasure to work with.
- COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS:

Ms. Berges inquired about who maintains the playgrounds behind the Board of Education building. Ms. Corrao answered the schools maintain that property. Ms. Berges clarified there was no issue, she was just curious since the school is no longer open for students any longer.

Ms. Brady advised the members of the Garden Club inquired if there were any areas of beautification that Ms. Corrao wanted the Garden Club to work on in the near future. Ms. Corrao stated as far as an installation she did not have anything at this time. Ms. Brady indicated the Garden Club was working on new flower boxes for the bridge in conjunction with the carpentry students at the JVS and that project would be complete this fall. Ms. Brady said they would work on getting those flowers boxes installed once they were built and then flowers planted. Ms. Brady indicated the Garden Club was also asking about the Christmas decorations and the various items displayed throughout the year if the City or the Commission had ideas on what was preferred for this year. Ms. Corrao advised that was completely up to the Garden Club and their effort is appreciated. Ms. Brady advised she read in the paper that the Avon Isle was being temporarily used by the Avon Youth Theatre and she thought that was very nice.

Mr. Belardo expressed his thanks to Mr. Weigman for all the work he put into compiling the survey results into a summary and he said it is a job well done. Mr. Belardo said there have

been thoughts of electing a vice-chair to this committee and he would like to make that motion now.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Mr. Belardo and seconded by Mr. Mitchell to elect Mr. Weigman as Vice-Chair of the Park and Recreation Commission. The vote was unanimous in favor and the motion was declared passed.

Mr. Mitchell stated he has received a lot of feedback recently, mostly from high school baseball parents and players who are a little disappointed in the limited use they have had this year of the Crusher's stadium for practices. He said it seems the new ownership is providing that accessibility a lot less than previously offered. Mr. Mitchell advised what he is hearing is that it was taxpayer dollars that built this stadium and they felt the high school team's use of the field was a part of the agreement and he is hearing some definite frustration from parents and players. Mr. Mitchell felt it was a great way to take advantage of the stadium as there is very little overlap between the two seasons.

Ms. Berges advised Mayor Jensen responded to that issue and she was happy to forward that email response to Mr. Mitchell as those concerns were addressed.

Mr. Mitchell thanked Ms. Berges and added he felt it was a great way to bring people in from other communities as everyone wants to play at that location and then possibly attend a Crusher's game in the future once they see how nice it is.

Mr. Mitchell advised the survey is a pretty comprehensive report and he felt when he presents to Council in July that it would be better to have an Executive Summary available pare it down quite a bit.

Mr. Weigman agreed and said the larger report is more of a working document for the Parks Director to work from and the presentation could be cut down quite a bit.

Mr. Mitchell thanked the rest of the Commission Members for covering in his absence as it gets a little tough for him during this sport season.

Ms. Corrao commended Mr. Weigman on the great job he has done pulling all the survey information together in a usable format. She said it is a great working document and great information.

Mr. Weigman had no further comments.

Ms. Cianciolo was absent

ADJOURN:

A motion was made by Mr. Belardo and seconded by Ms. Berges to adjourn the May 11, 2017 meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission. The vote was unanimous in favor and Mr. Weigman declared the motion passed.

Transcribed by Barbara Brooks, Clerk of Council
City of Avon