

**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, October 12, 2017**

Chairman Tom Mitchell called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL:

Members in attendance were: Lee Belardo; Mary Berges; Mary Brady and Chairman Tom Mitchell

ALSO PRESENT:

Diane Corrao – Parks & Recreation Director

ABSENT:

Cady Cianciolo and Vice Chairman John Weigman

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 14, 2017 MEETING

A motion was made by Mr. Belardo and seconded by Ms. Berges to adopt the minutes of the September 14, 2017 meeting as published; all Yeas on roll call and motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

- Review Proposed Charter Language
 - Mr. Mitchell put the ballot language up on the screen for all the Commission to view and review together to be able to better answer questions of the voting citizens.

The Ballot Will Read:

ISSUE #11
PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT
AVON CITY
A Majority Affirmative Vote is Necessary for Passage.

Shall Article VII, Section 3, of the Avon Charter entitled “Park and Recreation Commission” be removed?

YES

NO

The Reasoning of the Charter Review Commission for the Proposed Amendment:

The proposed amendment to Article VII, Section 3 would eliminate the Park and Recreation Commission. Many of the duties the Commission performs are the same duties being performed by the City’s Parks Director. If this amendment passes, City Council will deal directly with the Parks Director and residents can deal directly with their elected representatives on matters concerning City Parks.

Mr. Mitchell noted the notation regarding the reasoning behind the proposed amendment does not show up on the ballot.

Ms. Berges stated that all three ballot issues with the reasoning commentary added will go out to the newspaper and it was prepared by the City Law Director. It was also noted that it is on the City website currently. Ms. Berges wondered if they should encourage any of the reporters to meet with Mr. Mitchell and interview him about the ballot issue or if they should be a little bit more proactive in explaining this ballot issue.

Ms. Corrao felt a reporter would most likely be contacting someone on the Commission.

Ms. Berges explained there was some changeover with the reporters at some of the local newspapers and she was concerned it would get overlooked.

- Discuss Pros/Cons for Adoption of Charter Amendment
 - Ms. Brady said that most of the people she spoke with about the issue have asked why have the redundancies. She stated she brought it up to the Avon Garden Club and they were in agreement with whatever the City feels is best. Ms. Brady advised the Garden Club’s

biggest concern was that they could still talk to Ms. Corrao or other City Officials about projects. Ms. Corrao confirmed that would not be an issue.

Mr. Mitchell advised after serving on this Commission for a long time, he felt things are running really smoothly, which seems like an opportune time for the Commission to be eliminated. He noted there was a time when that was not the case and who knows what the future holds and he said that is one reservation of his. Mr. Mitchell stated the other reservation he has is that City Council has a lot of stuff going on and the Parks Director has a day to day list of things going on and he felt this meeting once a month may just force a conversation about bigger strategic items and ideas. Those things by human nature we do not always find the time to think about unless that time is dedicated and set aside to do so. Mr. Mitchell stated he does not feel super strongly about it either way and he is curious to see what the constituency thinks about it although most people probably do not know what goes on at these meetings.

Ms. Brady advised the residents may associate this Commission with the survey that was just recently completed and she felt that may be still in their mind. She said other than that most people probably do not know of this Commission.

Mr. Mitchell stated the current City Council has also been very strategic thinking and aggressive in regards to the acquisition of property, which has helped to support a lot of the objectives in this group. He said you cannot always control what City Council looks like and does even though right now City Council works well, but that has not always been the case. Mr. Mitchell said there can become situations where City Council is not supportive of the Parks Director, who is trying to get something done; having a Commission such as this can sometimes help in some way. He gave an example of the Strategic Plan that this Commission keeps up to date that the Parks Director would have as backup to the reasons behind some of the proposed plans and would serve as justification. Mr. Mitchell advised 10 years ago this would have been a very different discussion and who knows about 5 years from now. He said it is a given that City Council will eventually have some turnover and hopefully they would continue to operate with the efficiency that it has in recent times. He said those are his only reservations. Mr. Mitchell stated that they should know unofficially by the next meeting. He advised they will hold their meeting next month and make their plans based on the assumed outcome of the election. He made note that next month's agenda would be to review the results of the election and establish a plan forward.

No further discussion.

FUTURE DISCUSSION TOPICS

- Review Election Results
- TBD-Invite City Engineer to discuss possible bike path easements

COMMUNITY VOICE

- Nothing new

REPORTS

- Council Representative – Mary Berges advised City Council passed a Resolution in Support of Submitting a Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative Application for the Development of a Citywide Bicycle Route Master Plan. She said this application is due in October and they would find out in February or March as to whether it has been accepted or not. Ms. Berges stated they are applying for funding through NOACA to help do a study and set the criteria for what they want the Master Plan to look like.

Ms. Berges advised when there is property available the City is looking for opportunities and while not directly related to this group, the Jameson property on the corner of Wisteria and Detroit was recently purchased by the City to be used for a Visitors Bureau and they were not razing the house or the barn, but were hoping to refurbish it. She said there was interest from another buyer, but they wanted to tear down the barn and the house and build a restaurant. Ms. Berges stated the intent is to also use some of the rooms in the historic house for various meetings as there always seems to be a shortage.

Mr. Belardo inquired if the maintenance and upkeep would fall under the Parks and Rec Department purview to take care of the barn and house.

Ms. Corrao felt it might, especially if they do some rentals of the rooms similar to other venues owned by the City.

Ms. Berges advised it will still allow the antique vendors to come to Avon for events, which is a big draw to our City.

- Park Director – Diane Corrao had no additional comments.
- School Board Representative – John Weigman was absent.

COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Belardo advised it has been a pleasure working with the group.

Ms. Berges advised in the Lorain County Magazine there is an article about Pickle Ball for information purposes if the other Commission members want to read it as it is becoming quite popular.

Ms. Brady stated she is the newest member of this group and she thanked everyone for being very nice and very gracious.

Mr. Mitchell had no further comments.

Ms. Cianciolo was absent.

Mr. Weigman was absent.

ADJOURN:

A motion was made by Ms. Brady and seconded by Mr. Belardo to adjourn the meeting, all in favor and motion passed.