

City of Streetsboro

Parks, Recreation and Conservation Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 28, 2020

This PRCAC meeting was called to order on Tuesday, January 28, 2020 at 6:16pm.

**Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call**

Present: Sheri Gestring, Eileen Fitzsimmons, Richard Rynearson, Scott Clark, Joshua Lampa

Absent: Keith Smith, Amanda Hall

MOTION: To excuse Amanda Hall. Moved Mr. Lampa and seconded by Ms. Fitzsimmons. Upon voice vote motion carried.

MOTION: To excuse Keith Smith. Moved Mr. Clark and seconded by Mr. Lampa. Upon voice vote motion carried.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

- a. June 25, 2019 – no meeting
- b. July 23, 2019
- c. August 27, 2019
- d. September 24, 2019

MOTION: To approve Parks and Recreation Advisory meeting minutes from July, August, and September 2019 moved by Mr. Lampa and seconded by Ms. Gestring.

**Beautification Committee Update:**

Mr. Lampa began by providing three quotes for flower baskets at the corners of State Route 43 and State Route 14. Mr. Lampa explained if there was interest in seeing something like this the Beautification Committee could attempt to work it into the 2020 budget. He acknowledged they would need to work out details on how to water the baskets. The committee then discussed the options they preferred. Mr. Lampa said if time permitted he would take photos of other communities basket set up and also reach out to see who they purchased baskets from.

Mr. Lampa added that the committee had previously discussed a spring and fall cleanup. Mr. Lampa felt they could possibly approach Lowe's for supplies, and ask neighbors and family to volunteer.

Mr. Lampa explained another idea he had was a community trash day. Mr. Lampa said they could work with local scrap yards and possibly work with someone to provide dumpster to give residents the opportunity to dispose of items collecting around their property. He believed there could be residents in town with a lot to get rid of that might be unaware of how to dispose of it (example included mowers, pallets, etc.). Mr. Lampa felt the program could span over the course of a weekend and envisioned one central location. He felt this could aid in cleaning up some homes in the area.

Ms. Gestring explained a similar program that took place in Kent where the City drove to resident's homes and pick up the items for them. Ms. Gestring said she felt the people who would need this service the most might not have the physical ability to get the items to the dumpsters. Mr. Lampa suggested maybe having volunteers with trucks to help those individuals.

Mr. Clark suggested compiling a list to have available on the website on how to get rid of items too.

Mr. Lampa then suggested a program that would involve local businesses. He explained he would like to reach out to business regarding their landscaping and how to make everything look a little more uniform throughout the city. His idea was to reach out to Lowe's or Home Depot to put together packages or bundles of flowers/plants. He said business, or even residents, could purchase packages and either install themselves or for a fee volunteers could put them in. He added it could be a great option for seniors and also clean up the City. Ms. Gestring then suggested sending the businesses a letters along with possibly providing a beautification award. She felt it would give incentive to want to participate. Mr. Mytinger said something to take into consideration was a lot of business did not do their own landscaping and Mr. Lampa said they could possibly get in touch with their corporate offices.

Mr. Rynearson said he really liked the idea for seniors and felt it could be beneficial to start there.

Mr. Clark suggested that if a resident received a letter from the City regarding their landscaping it could be perceived that the City did not think their landscaping was presentable. Mr. Lampa said they would not send letters to residents and it could be something that was advertised in the program guide and email newsletters.

Ms. Fitzsimmons suggested approaching the business about adding flowers to existing landscapes.

Ms. Gestring also suggested providing individuals with how to maintain the flowers/plants after they were completed.

### **Old Business:**

#### A. Nature works Grant Update

Mr. Mytinger explained Council accepted the grant for the basketball courts at City Park. He said they would need to finish the basketball courts in its entirety before the City could submit for reimbursement in the amount of \$23,911.00 from the state. He said they had 18 months to complete the project. Mr. Mytinger explained he had been in discussion with Family Days on plans for a stage. Ms. Gestring confirmed the Department budgeted \$85,000.00 for the entire project. Mr. Mytinger confirmed. Mr. Mytinger said the Department applied for the entire grant, but the county offered Streetsboro \$23,000.00. Mr. Mytinger believed the county must have split the grant with another city.

#### B. Tree and Bench Dedication Program

Mr. Mytinger said the website was up and information would be in the program guide and email newsletter.

## **New Business:**

### **A. Hometown Heroes Banner Program**

Mr. Mytinger directed everyone to review their packets to discuss the forms for the program. He said they were going to work with Graphic Expression to make the banners. He explained the original idea was to have the banners along State Route 303, but he felt a lot of residents did not travel that direction. He then came up with the idea for Market Sq. Dr. instead. He said it was slower speed limit so people could actually enjoy them and the poles were owned by the City.

Ms. Fitzsimmons asked about placing the banner on State Route 14 and Mr. Mytinger said the city would have to obtain approval from every utility company. He tried to obtain approval for the poles on State Route 303 (only on the left hand side) and it took nearly 4-6 months – along with all the contingency of when they needed taken down. He said the Market Sq. Dr. poles were City owned and felt it was a cleaner look. There were not wires or utility lines running from them. He said if it was popular enough they could look at expanding.

Ms. Gestring asked about the cost and Mr. Mytinger said the hard cost was \$64.00 per banner (just the banner). He went on to explain the City absorbed to cost of all the brackets on the poles to keep the program affordable for residents. He said he would charge \$75 per banner – that included a slight markup in case brackets broke and needed replaced. The committee then discussed design options.

Mr. Lampa asked about displaying high school seniors and Mr. Mytinger said that would be a great idea for the schools. At this point in time the City only had approval for the left side of poles (south side) along 303. The other side he believed was AT&T and has had no luck contact something there.

Mike Lampa:

Mr. Lampa said the Hometown Heroes Banner Program had been kicked around a few times and one rendition was to have the high school seniors displayed on State Route 303 and the idea was formed by Ms. Laudato – who also wanted to put Hometown Heroes Banners up on 303 for the Memorial Day Parade. After some discussion it did not make sense to put High School seniors along State Route 303 because the High School was no longer there.

Mr. Josh Lampa said he liked the location [of the Hometown Heroes Banners along Market Sq. Dr.].

The committee then discussed more design elements.

Maryann 9294 June Drive:

Asked a question about the banners and Mr. Mytinger said the program would be Hometown Hero.

Mr. Mytinger said they would need to rent a lift to install the banners.

### **B. 2019 Annual Report**

Mr. Mytinger said it had been a very busy year. Some highlight included 91.6% of the recreation programs offered were a success – with very few being cancelled for lack of participation. He explained that showed the Department was serving the needs of the community. He said summer camp had hit all-time high and they average 46 campers per week.

Mr. Mytinger then went on to say the senior center went on 13 different trips and were averaging 13 – 20 participants for their evening dinners. He also highlighted that Ms. Tressie Gardner (Senior Center Clerk) collected items for Safer Futures and sent out invitations to local media outlets. The Cribbs in the CLE show picked it up and came out the Streetsboro Senior Center to film the piece that aired on their TV show.

Ms. Fitzsimmons was a little underwhelmed that only 24 seniors utilized the Senior Center. Mr. Mytinger agreed. He felt they were missing a large demographic.

### **C. 2020 Capital Improvements**

Mr. Mytinger said they were going to market the Hometown Heroes Program. Others improvements included: restrooms upgrade by ballfields. Possibly adding to the south section of the walking path due to flooding near field 9. He said they were looking at a new truck for the parks staff along with a golf cart. The Department would be adding the basketball courts (from the grant) and adding trails at Thomas Heritage Park. Additional upgrades would include solar LED lights for the Dog Park at Thomas Heritage Park. Mr. Mytinger added he would be looking into a mini bus for the Senior Center along with hiring a new senior center coordinator.

Ms. Fitzsimmons asked about a water pump at the Dog Park and Mr. Mytinger said he did not have it in the budget for next year (2020), but would like to talk more about it moving forward because he would like something there as well.

### **D. Thomas Heritage Park**

He asked for any suggestions from the committee. He explained unfortunately they were limited for what they could do to the property considering there was no parking.

Mr. Rynearson then spoke about a safety device he had been introduced to. It was an alarm that reached 130 decibels in volume. He explained it could be a useful safety device because it couldn't be turned on the victim to hurt them, but it was also loud enough it could scare off a potential assailant or animal. Mr. Rynearson said it was neat safety device and wondered if it could be a part of a give-a-way – and he would be willing to donate some.

### **E. 2020 PRCAC Meeting Dates**

Mr. Mytinger sent the committee a list of all the 2020 meeting dates.

The committee then discussed their availability and potential days they would not be able to attend meetings.

Directors Report:

Mr. Mytinger said they were staying busy and would like to hire someone soon for the Senior Center coordinator position.

### **F. Citizen's Comments:**

An audience member asked if the Department offered self-defense classes and Mr. Mytinger said they had in the past but they were never successful.

Ms. Fitzsimmons said she would like to see Streetsboro become a Tree City and went on to provide some details. Ms. Fitzsimmons added that the Portage County Environmental Dinner was on April 25, 2020.

**Directors Report:**

He advised everyone to review the annual report.

**Announcements:**

Next meeting was Tuesday, February 25, 2020 at 6:15pm.

**Adjournment**

7:54pm

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rachel Miller  
Clerk of Parks and Recreation

\_\_\_\_\_  
Greg Mytinger  
Director of Parks and Recreation

RM