

City of Streetsboro

Parks, Recreation and Conservation Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

This PRCAC meeting was called to order on Tuesday, October 26, 2021 6:15 pm.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Present: Josh Lampa, Dick Rynearson, Chris Yonish, Eileen Fitzsimmons, Sheri Gestring (arrived late), Wendy Scott-Kemp

Absent: Keith Smith

MOTION: To excuse Mr. Smith. Motioned by Mr. Yonish and seconded by Mr. Rynearson. Upon voice vote, motion carried.

Mr. Lampa took a moment to introduce Wendy Scott-Kemp, the newest member of the PRCAC committee, and Jen Rebecchi the new PRCAC student advisor/ liaison.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

None.

Beautification Committee:

- a. Bulky Items Clean Up: Saturday, November 6, 2021 from 9:00am – 2:00pm.

Ms. Gestring asked if the Department needed help with the event. Mr. Lampa said he had been in contact with Mr. Greathouse and he had agreed to help. Mr. Mytinger said he would have one to two parks staff available to help with the equipment. Mr. Lampa said this year would be a little different because they added the tire dumpster and was questioning if they needed to have staff monitor the drop-offs. Mr. Mytinger said he had been in contact with someone strictly regarding electronic recycling. He said they did not charge, but they kept the profit from the recyclables. Mr. Lampa questioned the idea about having more than one Bulky Item event per year and the committee thought it was something they could consider.

New Business

- a. Community Garden

Mr. Lampa began by explaining that Mr. Kidd, the Streetsboro Highschool Social Studies teacher, and his class approached him about creating a community garden in Streetsboro. Mr. Kidd wanted his students to manage the project and used the PRCAC committee for guidance.

Ms. Rebecchi began by explain some of the background of the project and potential locations of the garden. Ms. Rebecchi said they were contacted by The Chapel at Tinkers Creek and they were interested in creating a community garden as well. She said she reached out to the Pastor (Pastor Dave McClellan) and was waiting to hear back. She added she was in contact with other local Parks & Rec Offices to gather feedback on community gardens. She explained they were still early in the planning process. Mr.

Rynearson asked for the dimensions and Ms. Rebecchi was unsure at this time. Mr. Lampa answered the question saying initially they wanted something smaller, possibly a 10'x20' and would have room for expansion and approximately 4'x4' raised beds. He said some people could request a bigger spot.

Mr. Yonish brought up some challenges with raised beds and Mr. Lampa said they had discussed some of those and said they were going to reach out to Aurora and Twinsburg for feedback.

Ms. Gestring commented on the potential location saying the area on Tower Drive they were considering did not have parking or accessible water. Mr. Lampa said the church Ms. Rebecchi mentioned did have parking and water. Mr. Mytinger said the only other community garden location he could think of would be the middle entrance to Thomas Heritage Park. He said the cell tower was in the back. Mr. Lampa said he would put the students in contact with Mr. O'Malia (the City's Economic Development Director) for possible locations. Ms. Fitzsimmons suggested the old barn location and that part of it was not part of the conservation land easement. Mr. Mytinger had some concerns about the barn area and some liabilities.

Mr. Rynearson said they would need to have the soil tested to make sure it was not contaminated. And said they needed some significant fencing so the deer would not eat all the plants in the garden.

Mr. Lampa gave kudos to Mr. Kidd for allowing his class to take on this responsibility.

Ms. Fitzsimmons said the Portage Parks District was planning to buy 25 acres on the Wilcox property near Seasons Road and wondered if that could be a viable location.

Mr. Rynearson said he was a member of the Kent Garden Club and said she could talk to anyone there for feedback.

b. Student Liaison – discussed community garden above.

c. Seasonal Pole Banners: Custom vs Stock Images

Mr. Mytinger said he got the approval to purchase 60 pole brackets to go on poles throughout the city.

Mr. Mytinger said the average amount of cars that traveled daily from the Turnpike to the middle of town was approximately 31,000 cars. Mr. Mytinger then asked for feedback from the committee. The committee suggested staying away from trees, angels, or anything that could offend people. Mr. Mytinger said the biggest challenge was coordinating staff to be able to change the banners and stabilize the truck at each pole. Mr. Mytinger estimated it would take appx 15 minutes per pole - times 60 poles.

Mr. Mytinger then said he was contacted by a gentleman who was trying to open his own Christmas Light Display company. Mr. Mytinger said he was going to fix the Toy Solider display and Candy Cane display. Mr. Mytinger said the department was getting 6 pieces done for \$3,000. He said a brand-new Candy Cane display would have cost approximately \$2,600.

d. The 2022 Budget

Mr. Mytinger spoke about the different line items and what they were used for. He also explained the plans for the budget for 2022.

Ms. Scott-Kemp asked who would be in charge of the library's interior, specifically windows. Mr. Mytinger said he believed that would fall under city or schools' responsibility. Ms. Scott-Kemp said the library building was in dire need of new windows.

Ms. Gestring asked who insured the building since the county, city and schools were all in charge of parts of it. Mr. Mytinger said he would have to look at the city's assets list.

Ms. Fitzsimmons asked why the Capital Improvements accounts decreased. Mr. Mytinger said it did not necessarily decrease, he was just requesting a lesser amount for Capitol Improvements in the coming year. He explained the big projects earmarked out of the line item included tennis courts at City Park and engineering costs to run water lines to Thomas Heritage Park. He explained he was trying to get the engineering together so they can look at a 2023 build.

Mr. Rynearson asked about the funds from the cell tower and Mr. Mytinger said the Parks Department received about \$1,000-\$1,500 per month from the tower.

Ms. Fitzsimmons asked when the Department would receive the money from the Geis Company. Mr. Mytinger said he believed it was \$50,000 over the course of a few years. He said it would go directly into the Parks Capital Improvement fund.

Ms. Gestring asked about the election line item. Mr. Mytinger said it could be the money to create ballots, or levy fees but was not sure.

Ms. Scott-Kemp asked about the Bicentennial line item. Mr. Lampa said he believed the money that the Economic Development Director received from businesses towards the Bicentennial would go into that line and then could be transferred out.

Old Business:

a. Community Stage Concept Plan – Next Step

Mr. Mytinger said he presented the next steps in the amphitheater project to Council and Mr. Mytinger said the total project was estimated at 1.7 - 1.75 million dollars. He said some members of Council were okay with the dollar amount and some were not. Mr. Mytinger said they decided to put the plan on the November, 8, 2021 Council agenda. If approved by Council the City would enter into a contract with Thrasher group to design the documents to be able to build our vision. Once the City had the documents, they could put those out to bid for the construction process.

The committee then had discussion about the logistics of the amphitheater.

Ms. Scott-Kemp commented that open forums were not really well attended and could be hard to find information on. She suggested finding a new way to advertise them to the community feedback.

b. Sand Volleyball Courts

Mr. Mytinger said the Service Department dug out the sand volleyball courts and added some drainage. Ms. Scott-Kemp asked why the sand volleyball courts were being done this time of year. Mr. Mytinger explained the project was earmarked for May 2021. He said the timeline for completion was less than 30 days. He explained that as things started to happen a lot more paperwork was needed from different departments that he was not anticipating for such a simple project. Now they are battling the weather.

The committee started talking about the idea of using the hole for an ice-skating rink over the winter months. Mr. Mytinger loved the idea but said they could not use actual ice. They had to use a synthetic product called Glice.

Mr. Mytinger circled back and said he wanted to complete the sand volleyball courts in 2021 and did not want the project to carry over in 2022.

Ms. Scott-Kemp asked what the department was going to do to keep animals out of the sand volleyball courts. Mr. Mytinger said there was not a lot they could do aside from keep shovels on hand.

Mr. Mytinger added that he wanted to explore the idea of adding black lights to courts to do glow sand volleyball games.

Adjournment

7:34pm

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Rachel Miller
Clerk of Parks and Recreation

Greg Mytinger
Director of Parks and Recreation