

**Minutes of the Park Board
City of Sheffield Lake, Ohio
April 15, 2024**

The regular meeting of the Park Board was held Monday, April 15, 2024. Chairman Wright called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:

Present: Wright, Fritz, Mayor Radeff, Service Director Hastings Council Representative Kovach.

Excused: Keely, Barker

Attending: Citizens

MINUTES: *Motion by Kovach/Second by Fritz to accept the minutes of the April 15, 2024 meeting as written. Yeas All.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

PRESENTATIONS: None.

MAYOR REPORT: Mayor Radeff reports the last two weekends we've been working really hard to really push together the community gardens. There are still some spots open. I have been working on the results from the survey and once I get everything, I will share that with you. Some of the important things that were really hit were almost 80% of the people thought that recreational opportunities were generally important or extremely important. Almost 80% thought walkability of the city was important. People generally said that they were happy with the parks. One thing they wanted specifically to see at the parks was community events. The next top things were walking and bike paths, sports leagues and fitness classes. Some comments were made about adding bathrooms at certain parks or viewing areas. They wanted to make sure the parks were able to be used by toddlers and younger kids. I should have by next meeting, more of a breakdown. I know we talked briefly about what the next plan is or which park to look at and I think we brought up Ferndale. The baseball field could use a little work, especially on fencing. I don't think the intention was to keep that hill there forever. With the hill gone, there is a lot of opportunities. Chairman Wright asks how many spots are left in the gardens? Service Director Hastings replies quite a few have been taken at Gary Green, if not all. Mayor Radeff says Freedom has a decent amount of spots left. Service Director Hastings states I want to introduce a young gentleman I've been working with; his name is Austin Brandt. He approached me about an Eagle Scout project and it is at Ferndale Park. It is similar to the bike station we have at Erie Shore Park. He designed and is wanting to build/erect a repair station for skate boards.

Austin Brandt, 845 Dunny Ave. says I am a local skate boarder and a big part of the Shred with Ed. With all of the events going on over there, the group is giving

out all these extra parts and pieces for skateboards to people and nobody has the tools to put them on or test them out. That's one of the problems I'm trying to make a solution for as well as no two people ride the exact same thing, especially like the axles and trucks. When axles start to loosen up, it can add an extra piece of complexity and make it a little more unsafe, especially if you have no way of fixing it. My plan is to add some sort of tool station to make those adjustments. Chairman Wright says tell us about the station. What does it look like, how does it function, how is it secured? Mr. Brandt replies I am planning on having a 48in high, 3 1/2ft. wide effectively like an arch with all the tools being chained underneath it. If I can, have a flat metal plate on top to set the skateboard on top of. It's going to be bolted into the cement. Chairman Wright says so, it's very similar to that system at Erie Shores? Service Director Hastings responds exactly. Representative Kovach asks what troop? Mr. Brandt replies 334. Chairman Wright says I think it's an awesome project. Service Director Hastings states we will ensure that it's fastened correctly. The whole park is under surveillance. Chairman Wright asks what's the timeline? Mr. Brandt replies I'm going to have the students at Lorain County JVS in their welding labs, I can get all the parts over there tomorrow and I'm hoping to get everything installed and finalized by the middle of next month at the latest. Unidentified person asks do you have all the materials you need? Mr. Brandt replies yeah, with a generous donation from Patrick Hastings. He donated all of the steel and all of the chain. Unidentified person asks how big of a piece of steel do you need for the top? Mr. Brandt replies probably like a 1 by 3. Member Fritz says I think it's a good idea. *Motion by Fritz/Second by Kovach to approve the project. Yeas All.

SERVICE DIRECTOR / PARK/RECREATION DIRECTOR REPORTS: Service Director Hastings reports the park crews have worked quite a bit on the community gardens as the mayor pointed out. We definitely appreciate the volunteer efforts. We are battling the spring with tall grass and wet grass and maintenance is shifting on that. One of our mowers had a recall and recently had that satisfied. I continue to wait for some guidance from the USACE on our boat launch. We had to satisfy some issues with them and because of this, I did not do our traditional dredging. I do have engineering survey of it, so it's not overwhelmed with sand, but at the same time I don't want to mobilize twice. Typically, we don't put the docks in until May. Erie Shore Park, I have had some folks reach out from our newsletters where I've been asking for volunteers for Pride Day. I know we talked about some specific groups to help plant based on the design we have and getting that material. The volunteers reaching out are actually interested in beach cleanup. I want to direct people on their passion, if you will. Chairman Wright says I talked to the office and gave them the day and times and it will be advertised to all the agents tomorrow. I have an email into Zack at the high school and asked if we could recruit some high schoolers. I was thinking if the agents were going to be down at Erie Shores planting plants, we could have high school students doing mulch. Service Director Hastings says the final thing is the mayor has been having some correspondence with the Chamber of Commerce on a 200 year bicentennial. They

are planting a tree in every city in Lorain County and have asked us to identify a spot and we thought down by the covered bridge would be ideal. This is some kind of ornamental tree that will uniquely be in each city. Mayor Radeff says I spoke with the owner of Erie Marine and they indicated that if we are interested, he has a machine/rake that will help clean out beach sand. Also, I reached out to Jim Ziminek who is on charge of the Metro Parks and discussed the ditch on the south side of Ferndale. We own the ditch and they own everything else. I am meeting with him on Friday to get more information on what their plans are. I know last he said they were waiting on the USACE. He does have some plans and ideas of what he would like to see get done there. Chairman Wright asks why the covered bridge for the tree? What kind of tree is it? Mayor Radeff replies I don't remember. He said he made sure it is a tree that is going to last and is good for Ohio. We figured that was the best spot to put it, somewhere you could drive by every day and see it. Member Fritz asks with the Metro Parks and the ditch south of Ferndale, are you talking about where it goes across Idlewood also or just strictly behind the park? We talked in a previous meeting about that stretch from Idlewood to Harris to ever kinda get dealt with and we also discussed that it's Metro Park land and Sheffield Village. Representative Kovach replies we own the ditch and the trail next to it is Metro Parks and that's also in the village. It's a multi governmental project. Mayor Radeff says the goal is the whole ditch but to also discuss going forward. We can keep cleaning out the ditch, but if the water is just gonna keep going, we are gonna have to clean it out consistently. The goal is to come up with a more permanent plan that will keep the ditch clean in general and create a better pathway for that.

OLD BUSINESS: Chairman Wright says with the community center activities, I guess that kind of relates to our efforts towards recreation director. Mayor Radeff says we had 8 people apply for the job and we interviewed all of them. We are done with interviews and now it is just deciding the final person. We had some very qualified people. Right now, it is before council. Tomorrow is work session and I plan for there to be a lengthy discussion on it. It then comes up for a third reading next Tuesday which requires a vote.

CITIZENS COMMENTARY: *Tammy Asire, 648 Maplewood Ave.* says this is the second or third Park Board meeting I've been at where the printed agenda has listed a pier proposal and funding behind the community center and I haven't heard a word about it. Why are we putting things on it that aren't being discussed? Chairman Wright replies it has been on the agenda for quite some time and it has been an endeavor that Mr. Hastings has been working towards with finding grant funding. I believe the last round of grant funding we were denied. Service Director Hastings replies that is correct. When they solicit openings for the grant, they always have a highlighted section and when the city was applying, unfortunately we weren't on their target theme. They are more into tangible projects. In this case, because a pier would run up to \$100,000 in design alone, we were seeking that

money for the design. I'm glad it stays on the agenda. It is part of the lake front connectivity and the greater goal of lake access and the community walking trails, etc. We are limited by when these grant cycles open. I suspect we will revisit the topic. Chairman Wright says because we continue to seek this money for this project, we should keep it on the agenda. I know you continue to work grant cycles for the splash pad, is that something that should be on the agenda every time? Service Director Hastings replies the mayor's office submitted for the capital budget for a splash pad. The state is trying to back off of these splash pads because they funded so many of them through the state and they wanted to get other projects going. Although we haven't heard an answer yet, to your point we could keep it on the agenda and pursue it in other realms. Mayor Radeff says from the survey, 60% of people wanted a pier, so it's something that is of interest. Chairman Wright says should we add the remaining phases of the connectivity trail? Service Director Hastings replies absolutely. That city currently is awarded \$3 million dollars. The construction dates are picked and engineering is happening. Every time a grant cycle opens, we would like to continue to pursue it with the Park Board's knowledge and blessing. Mayor Radeff states with the Lincoln Trail, the police and fire depts. have opportunity to apply for 2 separate grants through Norfolk. One was about increasing safety. One thing we talked about with that is possibly lighting at the Lincoln Trail.

NEW BUSINESS: Chairman Wright says last time we talked about thinking of a new park project since the completion of Erie Shores is within sight. I believe I recently saw it prepped for the concrete path. So, I ask the members what other parks have you identified and why? Member Fritz replies I would like to discuss/throw out the idea about having maybe certain parks geared towards certain age groups. I know one thing said to me several times is that parents of younger children tend to stay away from Ferndale Park because of the age group of the kids that hang out there. Would it be something that would benefit us? The other thing I was looking at is Lakewood Beach Park. Just overall, it's overgrown and seems like it's not as pretty and inviting as others. My thoughts are a few of the parks could use a little something and not necessarily put all our eggs into one basket. Chairman Wright asks when you say add something to each space, what do you have in mind? Member Fritz replies there's nothing specific, maybe just cleaning up a little bit and making it more inviting. Service Director Hastings we do have picnic tables and grills, but could consider a shelter/pergola. Representative Kovach says that was going to be my choice. Go into Lakewood Beach and maybe start out with getting a new sign. Perhaps visit again with the gentleman that designed the rehab of Erie Shores. Service Director Hastings replies we have identified Lakewood Beach Park sign as one of the potentials for the wood shop. Short discussion about signs at different parks and how to request. Chairman Wright says my idea was the civic center/West Shore Park. The idea was we have that dated, old equipment next to it put something in there that is state of

the art playground equipment and really pop from the road would be a beautiful look. Member Fritz says she agrees. Chairman Wright says I know the administration talked about Ferndale; do you have ideas about what to do in the south half? Mayor Radeff replies not off the top of our head. We just thought that is a huge space not being utilized. We have been slow to move there as we want to do the water tower there, etc. Service Director Hastings states there is a water tower and telecommunications tower earmarked for that area. However, we have recently had discussions on the replacement of the fencing.

MEETING ADJOURNED: With no further business before this committee,
*Motion by Fritz/Second by Kovach to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:43 PM.
Yeas All.

CLERK OF COMMITTEE AFFIRMATION: This meeting of the City Committee of the City of Sheffield Lake, Ohio was held and conducted under all Rules and Regulations Governing The Sunshine Laws of the State of Ohio as they may apply. All meetings are recorded and available in Council's Offices.

CLERK OF COUNCIL

Brandy Randolph

CHAIRMAN

Jonathan Wright

I, Brandy Randolph, duly appointed Clerk of Committee Of Sheffield Lake DO HEREBY CERTIFY that this is A true and exact copy of the Minutes of the Park Board of April 15, 2024

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

Rick Rosso