

**Minutes of the Park Board
City of Sheffield Lake, Ohio
May 20, 2024**

The regular meeting of the Park Board was held Monday, May 20, 2024. Chairman Wright called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:

Present: Wright, Fritz, Keely, Barker, Council Representative Kovach.

Excused: Mayor Radeff, Service Director Hastings.

Attending: Zack Kantouros

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

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

PRESENTATIONS: Chairman Wright says Zack Kantouros is a recent hire of the city for the recreation director. Mr. Kantouros states as was mentioned, I will be taking over as rec director of the city. I am honored and proud of that as a father and as someone who has kids who are just starting to get in the groove of the ages of really participating in sports and activities. I know exactly what that entails and I have a big background of education and sports. I couldn't think of a more important or perfect position for me to kind of marry all of my experience and pour it into something that's so important for this city. It's such an honor to be able to build that up. The potential is there. I was just saying on the way in, I see nothing but growth, continued growth for this city above and beyond just the parks and recreation. I think parks and recreation are a foundational component to any city's growth and stability. I see no difference why this city and parks and rec program can't be a pioneer and a model and example for future years to come for other cities as well. Representative Kovach asks do you live in the city? Mr. Kantouros replies I live in Lorain County, North Ridgeville. I used to live in Sheffield Lake when I was young and spent most of my years growing up in Amherst. Chairman Wright says I sat in on interviews with the mayor and service director and we had six really good candidates. At the end of it, the decision wasn't terribly difficult and we were very, very impressed with Zack's preparation and energy, ideas and professionalism. I'm really excited that you are on board and I'm really excited to see what comes. Thank you and welcome.

MAYOR REPORT: Excused.

SERVICE DIRECTOR / PARK/RECREATION DIRECTOR REPORTS:

Excused. Chairman Wright says I was emailed the summary report and will do that on his behalf. He wanted to commend the volunteer effort on Pride Day. There were 120 cubic yards of garbage that was collected that day. Erie Shore Park had

all of the plants, trees and shrubs installed. The community center got mulched, the beach got cleaned at the boat launch, the covered bridge had flowers installed and a Lorain County Bicentennial tree was installed at the trail head. At Erie Shore Park, they are continuing daily maintenance and watering of the new plants. There is a stamped concrete walk and if you've seen the park, you can see where there is a pathway that's been excavated. That is scheduled to be installed in July. That path will connect and coordinate with sidewalks that are also being installed in July with escrow fund money due to property transfers. The entire park will now have sidewalks around and the stamped concrete pathway will connect to it. They intend to order additional bench swings for the parks and wanted to know what color we were interested in ordering, he suggests black. I concur. Board has short discussion on colors and decides darker gray/hunter green or something that matches what is nearby would be preferred. West Shore Park at the community center will host a food truck event on June 27th. The boat launch and restrooms are open. Tournament use has begun as well. The jet ski safety enclosure has been re-erected at the boat launch. Community Gardens are complete and operational. 75 yards of new playground engineered wood fibers have been delivered and will be distributed. Final quotes and details are being received by IT for security camera installation at Freedom Park and the dog park. They are currently obtaining quotes to line and paint new basketball courts at Gary Green and Freedom Park. The 10th annual summer youth craft program will resume in June at the community center. The program is full and a waiting list has been established. The program will culminate with an art show the evening of July 15th which will be open to the community with details to follow.

OLD BUSINESS: Chairman Wright says the past two meetings we have talked about the board selecting a park to prioritize for the city and what we would like to see done there. The two selections we have heard to date have been Lakewood Beach Park and West Shore Park. Member Barker, you were talking about an idea you had. Member Barker says I thought of adding benches or picnic tables on the east and west side of Gary Green playground. Short discussion on current benches/picnics and getting new ones. Chairman Wright says I am looking more for a large-scale sort of project. I love the idea of benches, but I'm looking for something a little bit larger. Members Fritz and Kovach both brought up Lakewood Beach Park. I suggested West Shore Park. My idea there was to simply replace the playground equipment on the east side of the building with something a little more modern and state of the art. Member Fritz says I would just like to make it (Lakewood Beach) a little more appealing when you first pull in there. Also, I had said something about Ferndale Park and maybe it was possible to rearrange what we have there and add. Right now, it's all the skating in the front and I think that kind of deters parents that want to bring their younger children around. I have heard multiple parents say the kids hanging out with the skateboards and all that are usually using foul language and inappropriate things and avoid that park. I was thinking how to perhaps utilize the south side of the baseball diamond and maybe

put the ramps back there or something. That would keep the front part of the park more for younger children or vice versa. My concern was we just spent a lot of money putting that stuff there. Representative Kovach replies I know we are working on either removing and/or replacing the water tower. I know Pat has got some plans in place and it would probably not behoove us to move that stuff back there by it at this time. Unidentified member asks in looking for a bigger project, would it be something the city would look at, putting like a splash pad in at one of the parks similar to what Avon Lake has? Chairman Wright responds a splash pad is something Service Director Hastings has actively been seeking grant funding for, for multiple years now. He mostly applies for funds through the state and he thinks that their desire to fund splash pads has really cooled off. A splash pad is something that was targeted at Gary Green Park west of the pavilion. That is something on the radar. Unidentified Member says I have had thoughts on several projects, but wasn't quite sure what park it would fit into. One was a roller rink that would double as a roller blade style rink in the summer/spring and then we could apply ice to it in the wintertime. I've grown up in several different communities with outdoor rinks. Representative Kovach says the city actually has a removable ice rink that was installed at Ferndale for several years. The only problem with that is that for the last several winters, it hasn't gotten cold enough for any length of time to promote that. Unidentified member says I was thinking with a surface that is playable in the spring/summertime with roller blades so it is being utilized all year round. Chairman Wright asks is there a park that we want to pinpoint to be the next thing we would ask the administration to focus on? Unidentified member replies I feel most of the parks have more swings, etc. There is nothing like more active for the kids to climb. I go to Avon Park because there is so much more to do like climbing on stuff, swinging on this, rocking on that, interactive stuff. Member Fritz says I really think we should focus on improving the area around the community center. They revamped all that and it's a very nice venue. You go outside and there are only a couple little things for kids to do. It's a very nice area. Why not have something nice that on a nice day they could go out and play on? Chairman Wright asks Representative Kovach about his thoughts on Lakewood Beach Park. Representative Kovach says I don't know that Lakewood Beach needs a complete refurbish like Erie Shores. I think maybe we concentrate on upgrading, like along with putting additional tables and benches at Gary Green, something along that same line like landscaping at Lakewood Beach. Maybe working on trying to get a replacement sign for the one that was extracted. Chairman Wright says I would love to see new playground equipment there (Community Center) that matches all the beautiful upgrades that have been done to that building. When it comes to landscaping and beautifying Lakewood Beach, I like that idea as well, but maybe that's something to target for next year's volunteers (Pride Day). Short discussion on things to do there. Chairman Wright says it sounds to me that our priorities, it's not just one park, but maybe three. Our priorities being at Gary Green, at minimum benches surrounding the playground, at least two on either side. At West Shore, we would like to see the playground

equipment get updated. Maybe next meeting we can look at some ideas and start to narrow that down. We would also like to begin looking at a landscape design for Lakewood Beach Park and begin to seek some sort of in-kind assistance with design and making that a potential project like we did with Erie Shores for next Pride Day. Member Fritz says we mentioned Memorial Park and I had said something about a couple little areas to sit, but I think we said something about maybe approaching the veterans, VFW, AMVETS, etc. Representative Kovach replies they have adopted that park. Chairman Wright says I recently met with the ownership and management of North FC which is a very large soccer club in the area. I have asked them to help us launch our soccer program again. The exact details of the arrangement are not quite ironed out, but the thought is they are pretty much gonna run the show and they will collect registrations, payments, etc. and would lease or rent the space from us until the program grows enough that we can recruit enough volunteers to reestablish the program again. They intend to do a two-day camp in July to introduce themselves. It would be Sheffield/Sheffield Lake soccer as it was in the past. It's going to be a community program. One thing we will need to do is get Mr. Kantouros connected as clearly, he will be the liaison for the city. We have in a way promised to make sure that the facilities will be there for them. We have fields, equipment and there are goals that may need some new nets. We could probably help line the fields and get prepared for them. I would like to do whatever we can to limit their costs, specifically for manpower.

CITIZENS COMMENTARY: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Representative Kovach says there was a request after last month's meeting that we have the pier on the agenda forever and we should have at least some discussion on it. Chairman Wright says so an audience member came up and asked why these things sit on the agenda, but we never bring them up in meetings, etc. What we discussed here is that we leave them on the agenda because these are initiatives that the city is still working towards. These are things the city continues to pursue in grants. Representative Kovach says the state awarded the city \$1.2-1.3 million for the connectivity trail.

MEETING ADJOURNED: With no further business before this committee,
*Motion by unidentified member/Second by unidentified member to adjourn.
Meeting adjourned at 7:31 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 May 20, 2024

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

Rick Rosso