

**Minutes of the Park Board  
City of Sheffield Lake, Ohio  
July 22, 2024**

The regular meeting of the Park Board was held Monday, July 22, 2024. Chairman Wright called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:**

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

Excused: None.

Attending: Rec Director Kantouros, Citizens.

**MINUTES:** \*Motion by Keely/Second by Barker to accept the minutes of the May 20, 2024 meeting as written. Yeas All.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

**PRESENTATIONS:** None.

**MAYOR REPORT:** Mayor Radeff reports the rec director is here and will update you on what he is working on.

**SERVICE DIRECTOR REPORS:**

Service Director Hastings reports I will be responding to the ODNR regarding our boat launch. We had some issues that we are working out. My goal is to potentially remove part of the sand that is in the sand trap now. There is a limit to the quantity we can have. I will be responding to them in the next 2 ½ weeks through engineering. I am meeting with a contractor in the hopes of yet this year removing a good portion of that sand currently there and then revisit the area next year with some additional work. Regarding our Erie Shore project, that is currently being formed for the concrete/slate trail that will wind through the garden beds. While in the area, we are doing some of the sidewalk escrow finds. I did lock the boat launch today for maintenance and hopefully by the end of the week we will have that back open. At Guenther Park I wanted to comment that the city has authorized a couple of trailers to be there for Sheffield/Sheffield Lake football. Freedom Park, we are still working with our IT people on the installation of cameras. Part of that goal was to monitor the community gardens. That project is ongoing and will involve the setting of a new utility pole and the cameras there. Chairman Wright asks at Erie Shores Park, have we started looking at site amenities like park benches, etc.? Service Director Hastings responds I have notes to the effect, but I haven't pursued much. There is some interest in a memorial bench over there. I would like the consensus of the board before I pull the trigger on anything. Short discussion on benches/suppliers. Chairman Wright asks is that faux well still at the south end of the park? Service Director Hastings replies yeah, it is. We are still discussing sprucing that up to some degree. Mayor Radeff says a couple weeks ago

I was contacted by coastal management and basically, they went around and looked at all the parks on the lake and decided which ones were key vistas. They picked three; BHS Memorial, Shell Cove and the boat launch. They asked if we would be ok with them, at their cost, placing signs to name them vistas and mark them and put them on a story trail on their website.

**PARK/RECREATION DIRECTOR REPORTS:** Rec Director Kantouros reports in my first month on the job it's been awesome. Some highlights and things that I've done are the following: I've been meeting with a lot of people including other local rec directors to pick their brains. I've met with people in the community who have been excited and want to be involved. It was great to meet people at the awesome food truck event we had. I had a table set up there. I was able to have some successful meetings with the superintendent of our school district and the athletic director about strengthening our relationship and collaborating. I'm meeting with them in a couple weeks again to see if we can actually get some concrete things down and move forward and advertise them. We have a youth soccer program starting in September. We are in the marketing phase of it. We are partnering with a company called FC North so it doesn't cost us anything and we also don't make anything from it. We are basically outsourcing the program to a third party. We don't really have a budget or staff so we need to work with other entities in this case to offer something to our community. We have a movie night coming up August 15<sup>th</sup> at the community center. We have a chalk the walk activity coming up August 17<sup>th</sup>. August 25<sup>th</sup> we are looking to collaborate with Sheffield Village with an Olympics type of theme; Sheffield Lake vs. Sheffield Village softball game/tug of war/volleyball. I think the biggest thing in the beginning is taking the endless amount of good ideas that are presented and streamlining it and focusing on quality over quantity. Unidentified member says I have a question about soccer, are they still gonna be using our parks? Rec Director Kantouros replies they are. For our first one, we are just offering like a 6 week trial type of thing. If we continue to work with them, the way that it works is then that we get a cut of the profit. Usually, it's an 80/20 split. So, we would get 20% of the profits essentially just for letting them use our facilities. Unidentified member asks so there is no upfront cost to the city? Rec Director Kantouros responds no, and we can actually still run concessions there and make some money. Chairman Wright says we have a shed full of equipment. Are we not going to use any of that? Rec Director Kantouros replies they are willing to bring everything that they need to run their program. If we can use them and we have it set up, obviously they wouldn't say no to using stuff if it's already there and existing. Chairman Wright asks with concessions, that would be volunteers from the city to run that, right? Rec Director Kantouros replies correct, partnering with programs within the city. We can do that how we want to. Chairman Wright asks do we know the last time someone was in that concession stand? Service Director Hastings responds we winterize and then dewinterize. It's one of our test locations for our water dept. It is regularly maintained. Chairman Wright asks can you send the flyer to Brandy and have her forward it to Park Board? Rec Director Kantouros replies absolutely.

Chairman Wright asks about the two upcoming events and Rec Director Kantouros gives a brief explanation. Representative Kovach asks the soccer program, what ages are they going to start gearing with? Rec Director Kantouros replies right now for this initial program, they are starting with ages 5-9. Chairman Wright asks the Olympics event between the two communities, is that for residents or city officials? Rec Director Kantouros responds city officials.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Chairman Wright says there are a couple items I wanted to discuss. Councilwoman Gee sent an email that brought our attention to an event that is going on at Veteran's Park. Councilwoman Gee is invited up to speak about the event. Councilwoman Gee says I sent the information to the mayor and I am sure he is already looking into it. A resident called me screaming and yelling about how disgraceful it was that my political party was using Veteran's Memorial Park for a rally. I didn't have the faintest idea what she was talking about. I went on Facebook and found it. I sent it out to everybody because it is something to be concerned about. Chairman Wright says I for one don't have a problem with political parties using public space to do their thing. Do they have a permit? Mayor Radeff replies the first I heard of anything was today. I sent it on to the law director.

Chairman Wright says previously we talked about parks that the Park Board would like to see some emphasis placed on for future development. We talked about landscaping happening at Lakewood Beach and I believe we discussed that maybe being a project for next Pride Day next year. We also had consensus on that we would like to see maybe something else go on at West Shore Park. Specifically, we talked about new playground equipment there. In future meetings, I will bring in some images so we can start looking at different types of playground equipment we may want to go after.

**CITIZENS COMMENTARY:** *Councilwoman Gee* says Monday morning senior coffee had Mind Challenge this year and they won. Along with the trophy they had, here is a \$2,500 check that goes to CCC. We are asking CCC to cut a check to the City of Sheffield Lake if the Park Board, mayor and service director would consider allowing their bocce ball court to be built at the community center. The service director said they already found a nice location. They have already formed their group and are currently using a business' bocce ball court which is for the business employees. It's not the safest location and sometimes the employees would like to use the court. The seniors would really like one at the community center and are willing to pay for it. The court can be used by all residents. We have two sets of balls; one belongs to the seniors and I will donate the other set to the city. Maryann (unidentifiable) says we have been playing since 2023. We do it mostly on Mondays and we also go into Cleveland in indoor bocce courts. There is a whole group of us. Chairman Wright asks would you have traveling teams come in to compete against you in our home court? Maryann replies no, we have never

done that. Chairman Wright asks where is the location you have selected? Service Director Hastings replies we are looking at the eastern side of the property which is right next to the parking that moves the farthest north. As it relates to use of the building, it wouldn't really interfere. It's off to the side with the court running east/west. Chairman Wright says if it's east/west somebody is having sun in their eyes. Service Director Hastings says admittedly, I haven't worked on this a lot yet. Chairman Wright says I find it very hard to deny folks who have put a grassroots effort together to raise money for something like this. You have selected a location that is relatively discreet and off to the side so it doesn't cut up the green space. I'm in favor of it. \*Motion by Keely/Second by Fritz to accept the construction of a bocce ball court at West Shore Park. Yeas All.

*Kathy DeBottis, 868 Lake Breeze Rd.* says my husband and I would like to donate one bench to the Park Board. Chairman Wright says talk with Service Director Hastings and thank you very much.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None.

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** With no further business before this committee, \*Motion by Barker/Second by Keely to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:34 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.

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CLERK OF COUNCIL

*Brandy Randolph*

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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 July 22, 2024

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PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

*Rick Rosso*