

**Minutes of the Park Board  
City of Sheffield Lake, Ohio  
August 19, 2024**

The regular meeting of the Park Board was held Monday, August 19, 2024. Chairman Wright called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:**

Present: Wright, Fritz, Keely, Barker, Service Director Hastings, Council Representative Kovach, Rec Director Kantouros.

Excused: Mayor Radeff

Attending: Citizens

**MINUTES:** \*Motion by Keely/Second by Barker to accept the minutes of the July 22, 2024 meeting as written. Yeas All.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

**PRESENTATIONS:** None.

**MAYOR REPORT:** Mayor Radeff is excused.

**SERVICE DIRECTOR REPORS:**

Service Director Hastings reports since our last meeting, we have made more efforts on our beautification of Erie Shore Park including the slate winding trail from the front of the park to the back of the park. We put in city sidewalks around north Abbe/Willow Lane/Edgewater. Part of the original drawings included narrowing down those beds in an area so people could kind of walk through the middle of a bed and kind of get more interactive. They are a lot of pollinator plants, so it should be a good experience. I'm hopeful to have that done still this year. As for the boat launch with the engineers, I have answered the Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources as well as the Army Corp of Engineers about some of the issues we have down there. It is the intent of the city to remove the collected sand in the sand trap that is designed to hold about 2500 yards and we exceeded that amount which we did by design. They want us to pursue a permit for that. I'm hopeful to at least remove the sand this year. I want to make sure everything we do is approved. As I go down the connectivity trail, as I'm sure the board understands, the city has several million dollars in grants and that is going to start realizing construction next year. Right now, we are in the property acquisition phase. We have several appraisers working for the city and in some cases, we have to buy right of way so that we always maintain ownership of where the new paths will go. I'm meeting this week with some civil engineers and architects. As you know, the mayor is pursuing the potential construction of a fieldhouse and the city has been pretty successful in securing some grant dollars for that. We are hoping to surpass \$1 million dollars in grants. As a result, I am moving forward with civil engineers and architects to have very definitive plans and prices as we prepare ourselves.

Representative Kovach says in regards to Erie Shores, I went through there after the trail was poured and I inspected the swing in there, I can't see doing anything to that other than putting in a new set of chains and probably paint. That is a well-built, sturdy swing. Member Fritz asks the fieldhouse, is there a location disclosed? Service Director Hastings responds the proposed plan is across from the community center.

**PARK/RECREATION DIRECTOR REPORTS:** Rec Director Kantouros reports we had a movie night this past Thursday and that was awesome. It was great to see the community come out and I heard a lot of positive comments. We had a chalk the walk event this past Saturday at Gary Green and that was awesome as well. The kids got to bounce in a bounce house and write positive messages on the trail. It was a great activity to have a free, fun event for families to come out and come together as a community. We have a soccer program starting in early September that is a 6-week program. We are forming a recreation committee. It has been great to see how many people have come forward in the community to offer their support to me and to our recreation dept. I've met individually with several community members. I got to thinking, instead of meeting with everybody individually, we can kind of combine our strengths and talents and form a recreation committee. Through research, I found it is a common thing other cities do as well. It will be a committee of about 6 people, not including myself. My goal is to meet twice a month to get this off the ground and then go to monthly meetings. We have a movie night scheduled for early October and are in the process of finalizing that date. We have a movie night scheduled for early December as well and we are looking to pair a Halloween party type activity with the October movie night. We have a softball game scheduled for this Sunday, August 25 at 3pm. It is an all-cities employee softball game; Sheffield Village vs. Sheffield Lake. We are also in talks with Sheffield Village to put on some type of cornhole event/tournament towards the end of September. The final thing is junior cards. We are proud to report that we are beefing up our involvement with junior cards. They reached out about us attending some of their practices and brainstorming ways we can help them as they continue to grow. We are excited to collaborate with them on their youth football program. Unidentified member asks besides using the school for the soccer program, is there a way you can utilize the school system for future movie nights? I think there could have been more, but it was a good turnout. Rec Director Kantouros replies I was pleased with the turnout for a first-time event. I think that one of the lessons I took away is to beef up our social media presence for the recreation dept. to create a website, etc. Chairman Wright asks where is the Halloween movie night? Rec Director Kantouros replies it is slated to be at the community center again and the weather will determine if it will be outdoors or indoors. The party portion we would like to be inside. Chairman Wright asks what do the numbers look like for soccer registration? Rec Director Kantouros replies I have a call into them to get an update, they said they are pretty low right now. We need to continue to market to the best of our abilities. Chairman Wright asks junior cards, I believe they have been aggressively seeking

funding for turf field? Rec Director Kantouros responds that is correct. Chairman Wrigh says the location they want to put that is Guenther Park. That has traditionally been the home of soccer in the community. Just know that is something that they are pursuing. Rec Director Kantouros replies I think the key thing is getting the donation of the turf football field. If and when we get that, then we can start to talk about location. I have a meeting with the mayor of Berea this week, because the way the junior cards are looking to get that donated is through the Cleveland Browns.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Chairman Wright says I am super happy and proud of what I have seen at Erie Shores Park. Representative Kovach says last month there was a motion and an approval of putting bocce ball in at West Shore and I think I would like that put on under the grants/gifts. Chairman Wright says we had talked about zeroing in on West Shore Park and that playground there and some sort of renovation. Is that what we want to do in that space? Do we want to replace that old playground equipment with playground equipment or is there an idea for something else that might go there? I for one am on board with replacing it with more playground equipment. When it comes to that particular place, I am familiar with this product line and the kind of stuff they make. I chose this for the sake of an example. They create some pretty interesting state of the are equipment that is a decent value. Chairman shows pictures/options and goes over them. Board has lengthy discussion on preferences, ages, equipment, cost. Chairman Wright says I think we should move towards vision first, because you can always adjust equipment. Is the city comfortable installing the equipment? Service Director Hastings replies no. Chairman Wright says there is a company in Avon that makes these benches out of the remains of wind turbines. These are not cheap, but you can paint them and make them look incredible. Service Director Hastings asks what is the per unit price? Chairman Wright replies about \$8,000. Short discussion about equipment/memorial benches/bulletin board using QR codes. Member Fritz asks I am in favor of the playground equipment, but are we looking to expand the area that is currently there? Chairman Wright responds I think the best approach is to keep the footprint the way it is.

**CITIZENS COMMENTARY:** Tammy Asire, 648 Maplewood Ave. says listening to your presentation about playground equipment, don't get me wrong, I like kids, we have a lot of new playground equipment/a lot of new places. I would like the board to take into consideration a different opportunity there. You are right by the bike trail, the connectivity trail is going to go through there, the bocce ball court is going to go there. There are equipment programs out there for young adults and seniors. I would like to think that maybe there would be some consideration for something besides 5–12-year-olds. The mayor mentioned he bought new equipment for the fieldhouse and if the fieldhouse fell apart, that maybe it would be used in addition for the police. I would like to know if we have through the

parcs dept., because it was your money used to buy it, do you have an inventory of what was purchased? Do you have the total dollar amount of what was purchased and do we know where it is? Chairman Wright replies I don't have a report of any of the things Ms. Asire just brought up. Does anybody else? Service Director Hastings says I have a full inventory, it is stored in our cold storage building and I vouchered \$6,000 for this. This was a club that was going out of business that the mayor and I had been watching for a few months. We pursued it with the idea that it could be a nice inclusion to the rec center/fieldhouse should that become a reality or at the very least, expand physical fitness opportunities for our safety forces. We currently have some of that in the fire station now. Representative Kovach asks how many pieces and what kind of equipment did we get? Service Director Hastings replies the equipment is dismantled so I can't speak to it 100% unless I look through photos. It's like circuit equipment where one unit can do both lats and a smith bench, etc. it does several things in one unit, weights and kettlebells. These machines new will run you in the range of \$15-17,000. You have to have some conceptual ideas to get the ball rolling and set the ground works so that's what we have done. You have to spend a little money to get the conceptual drawings and better understand the costs associated with it. In this case, those conceptual drawings included an area for fitness inside the fieldhouse. You have to be a visionary to get these things for the city. Our prior master plan as well as our current, all reference the recreation facility/fieldhouse. Basically, the last plan said it's such a fantastic plan that we can never do. Well, why even put it in there and start a goal with negativity. The reality is that we can do it. It takes time and planning which we are doing now. Representative Kovach asks with pickleball, what if anything are we doing? Service Director Hastings responds when I redid the court at freedom, my intention was to have a multipurpose court. I had some issues finding companies. My goal is still to do that. I'm trying to bounce around the idea of how I can make it available for basketball and at the same time people have the opportunity to spread this net out, etc. Another greater goal as part of the conceptual drawing around the fieldhouse is a series of courts. As these things develop, that's kind of the hold up as well. Chairman Wright says I brought up the playground equipment at West Shore and I'm going to send those links out, but let's consider if that is exactly what we want to do there. There are a ton of options.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None.

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** With no further business before this committee,  
\*Motion by Barker/Second by Kovach to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:54 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 August 19, 2024

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PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

*Rick Rosso*