

**Minutes of the Park Board  
City of Sheffield Lake, Ohio  
September 16, 2024**

The regular meeting of the Park Board was held Monday, September 16, 2024. Chairman Wright called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:**

Present: Wright, Fritz, Barker, Mayor Radeff, Service Director Hastings, Rec Director Kantouros.

Excused: Keely, Council Representative Kovach,

Attending: Citizens

**MINUTES:** \*Motion by Barker/Second by Fritz to accept the minutes of the August 19, 2024 meeting as written. Yeas All.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

**PRESENTATIONS:** Rachel Sommer, consultant/grant writer for the City of Sheffield Lake. Ms. Sommer hands out a document for review. A lengthy discussion on grants, etc. is had with the following key highlights. Ms. Sommer says I've been looking at a lot of grants and parks & recreation is just one aspect. Related to that, there have been several applications put in to support a project at Ferndale Park; that project being an amphitheater. We could do movie nights, concerts, etc. with seating that could be installed into the hillside. In the application that went to the Nord Family Foundation, we added some components that related to fitness equipment that could be both for youth and adults. There was a T-Mobile grant that we did not receive, but the other two we applied for, we are awaiting decisions on. The current proposals I'm looking at; one is Kentucky Fried Wishes and that is a small \$10,000 grant that I have a project summary about. The idea was brought to me around this reusable, interesting seating that is produced by a local vendor that recycles wind turbines and allows for use of the seating arrangements as also public art because you have the flexibility to paint it or do some kind of community project. I've built up this proposal to say this is a really eye-catching piece. It's a swing, but also a central art piece that's going to draw the community's attention. My understanding is this park is more passive recreation and that there is a lot of nature aspects to it. The other parks are more focused on playing and kids and playground equipment. This park has the opportunity to focus on preservation and the benefits you get from being in nature. I wanted to share and get feedback because we are hoping we can arrange this community art contest if we get the grant. We have until the end of the month to submit it, but my plan is to do it this week. Short discussion on art and location. The other grant I'm looking at is for Norfolk Southern and is also due at the end of the month. My hope was to recycle the plan from the T-Mobile application, because that project will be

roughly close to \$150,000 if we do everything, we want to do with that. We already know there is the skate bowl, the storybook trail, the other Metro Parks trail and the fields, so the idea was the amphitheater as a place where you can do programming for all ages and it provides the opportunity for intergenerational connections. One of the things I've seen in the survey Mayor Radeff did, is people want to have more activities and places to convene, they want to have more events. I know Zack is doing a lot of programming right now so having the amphitheater would be a really nice structure to house this stuff under. There is another small grant for the Ohio EPA water level refill station grant that is also \$10,000. I've priced them out and they are between \$1,200-2,500 per station. I would like feedback on places for those. I have the community center as one that would be good. There is also a major league baseball grant that is rolling and open all the time and you can use it for a lot of things. I wanted to mention the active transportation plan grant. This one isn't directly related to parks in the sense that it's not a park improvement. There is funding available through the Ohio Dept. of Transportation where they will lend one of their consultants to help you develop a transportation plan for your city. I've approached the City of Sheffield Village and asked them to partner with us. Chairman Wright asks the water bottle refill stations, does the grant include infrastructure like plumbing, etc.? Mayor Radeff replies I think you can use it for that. We are thinking of starting with the ones that already have a water source. Chairman Wright says Ferndale is a super active park, the boat launch is super active, the community center is super active. Mayor Radeff says we talked about Ferndale and we kind of see that as the center park, the park that really can hit everything. We would love to update that baseball field, we could do programming there with the skate park, if we can get the amphitheater and work out set, plus that is also like the center where the paths collide. The Metro Parks is going to do the rest of their path which will take you out to Oster. We really kind of see that as the focal point. We are also hopefully putting up a T-Mobile cell phone tower which would be income that we could use for that park as well. Ms. Sommers says I'm constantly looking at grants. We have about 6-7 on the docket to apply for between now and the end of the year. Member Barker asks are we set on the swing? Ms. Sommers replies that's up to you guys. That was recommended by Pat and Jonathan, but there are other benches that are less priced. Mayor Radeff says we are trying to look into doing a grant for a master plan for the lakefront. Chairman Wright asks the MLB grant, is that something you're applying for right now or is it just on the radar? Ms. Sommer's responds it's on my radar, but I think Zack and Rocky are gonna be focusing more on that. Chairman Wright asks is it eligible to go under private property or does it need to be public property? Mayor Radeff says it's rolling so it's open for nonprofit. For example, if we wanted to apply as the city for the rec center, for the turf part, that's an option. Ms. Sommers says about the coastal management, there is two parts to it. There is a pre

application that is due in October and the second part, is based on if you are invited back based on your pre application. There are a lot of things you can use it for, but I think the benefit is it's eligible for a study. What we need right now, is a study. We have lots of ideas, but we don't have feasibility of what's possible. It's a feasibility study, but it kind of ends up being like a master plan. It's kind of a compelling argument understanding that even though we have all these parks, we have kind of limited access to the lake. Chairman Wright asks what you are speaking of right now is the master plan for the lake front development, right? Just everything along the water and does that span the entire length of the city's shoreline? Ms. Sommer replies we are looking at the community center to the boat launch to start with and I think with the main goal being access and recreation and enjoying nature. Chairman Wright says you mentioned ideas about what you could write grants for, etc. What we have done is try to isolate one park at a time that we are trying to prioritize. It makes me wonder if we should revisit the idea of master planning for all of the parks. Ms. Sommer replies that's another thing we can look for funding, maybe some help for the master plan. Chairman Wright says I think it's a great idea. We had a landscape architect in here twice trying to get some momentum behind that. If we could get funding for that, would every body be open to a landscape architect coming in and doing a master plan for all the parks? What they would do essentially is they would map out all the parks, all the green space that's available and put some ideas in there and come to us and present and consult. Once that is completed, you have a template by which you can look for grants. Mayor Radeff says I would be on board with doing something like that.

**MAYOR REPORT:** Mayor Radeff reports we did get our master plan, it was passed by council. I think if we move forward with a master plan for the parks, that would be pretty helpful. I made sure to put in questions specific to parks and things they want to see, etc. Chairman Wright says when I talk about a master plan, it's more of the ilk of drawings. While we do have ten parks, those parks are not big. Conscientious use of the green space I think is a very important thing when we go into whatever we are planning. We have to maximize the footprint that we have. When I think about master plan, it's having a landscape architect do exactly that. They are going to survey the green space that we do have and then put designs together that Rachel would use to go and pursue grant funding. Once the administration, Park Board and the community kind of gets their heads around it and figure out exactly what we want in the parks and we have renderings and designs and specifications for equipment, etc., it makes grant writing easier. Mayor Radeff says about a month ago, the three mayors from Sheffield Lake, Sheffield Village and Avon Lake met with Ford and they were talking about the aspect of what kind of things we would like to see and our community would like to see. One thing that came up that they seemed pretty interested in was a possible splash pad at Guenther Park. I'll follow up with them in the next week or so. Chairman

Wright says I would never want to get in the way of progress like that, but now we have to start questioning when is soccer coming back and where does it go? Mayor Radeff replies my thought is it was going to go at the far east end. It's not going to be huge; we still have a baseball field and soccer. I even spoke to them too about some of the land that is theirs in Sheffield Lake by the fence. They liked the idea of putting money into a park that is connected with their plant. There is room to possibly expand over there. Chairman Wright asks any chance they might be willing to clear out the wood line right up next to the fence? Mayor Radeff replies I will have that conversation with them.

***SERVICE DIRECTOR REPORS:***

Service Director Hastings reports the new Kubota we got for maintenance in the park, we did receive our new plow for that. We finished a water line project at Day Ditch just south of the covered bridge. The embankment was eroding pretty bad and the fence was impacted. The asphalt was starting to crack and fade away. I did get a call from the vendor for our skate park equipment. Some time ago we entertained the idea of expanding with a bowl where the playground is currently. They reached out and at the time I told them it was tabled. I want to remind the board we have renderings and at the time it was coming in at about \$135,000. I wanted to keep that on everybody's radar. I think it would be a good addition to the park, they are very popular. I wanted to know the schedule of the soccer program that's coming. Is it every Saturday? Rec Director Kantouros replies every Saturday for the next 6 weeks. Service Director Hastings asks do you know what area they might be using? Chairman Wright responds I don't know exactly. Rec Director Kantouros says I will get you that info. Service Director Hastings states I did get some quotes on the removal of the sand at the boat launch. There are several steps we are going to do such as permitting that needs done from the original construction. Part of the punch list was to remove sand. That number is coming in between \$11-13,000. Finally, phase 3 A of our connectivity trail was moved from fiscal year 2026-2025, in which the city would be in agreement. Member Fritz says I do like the idea of expanding the skate equipment. I have already discussed the fact that maybe moving that towards the road closer so that way we maybe move the equipment the little kids play with, not so close to the road. Mayor, you did meet with the other mayors to connect basically Idlewood area to Harris? Mayor Radeff responds I met with Metro Parks and they own that piece and they have already committed to put it on for 2025 to complete from where ours ends all the way to Harris Rd. Chairman Wright asks are they gonna pave it or do the crushed gravel? Mayor Radeff responds they are going to pave it. Service Director Hastings says this week the city is starting the Forestlawn rehabilitation. That's essentially cleaning out that ditch line and putting in the pipes. Mayor Radeff states I know the big plan for the Metro Parks is they wanted to kinda turn that whole area there into a walking path and have some bridges, etc.

***PARK/RECREATION DIRECTOR REPORTS:*** Rec Director Kantouros reports soccer has started. Last week was the first week for it. I am waiting to hear back from their program director because we did have some last-minute additions in the

participants. The number is over ten, but we didn't really set a goal. This is an introductory type situation. We have officially formed a recreation committee and have already met once this month and have another meeting scheduled for Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:15pm. We have a movie night/fall fest/Halloween party for our community on Oct. 12<sup>th</sup> starting at 5pm with the movie starting at 7pm. We have a softball game scheduled this Thursday between the city and Avon Lake. We are excited at the prospect of continuing it maybe in a more formal way beginning next spring/summer with different cities and forming some type of pseudo league/corporate challenge within the city departments. We have a new community center manager and I am excited to collaborate with him. I am looking to collaborate with the school district on a basketball league, some type of youth basketball programming. The rec committee is excited to start planning our Christmas movie night and pairing that with a Christmas event. Our main sponsor for the movie nights is Ford. Mayor Radeff says they gave us \$8,000 which is more than enough to cover the movie rights for 2025. Member Fritz says I had a discussion with somebody about not knowing about the movie night. I know the first one you advertised and we had that discussion. Is it possible to maybe get that put into the water newsletter? Mayor Radeff replies it was and this one will be too. Member Fritz asks is it possible for the movie night in December, to do some kind of like food donation for people that do come? Rec Director Kantouros replies I don't think there is any reason we couldn't explore that. I think the committee would love to hear that. I had mentioned the city softball game and that is kind of taking on its' on form. I talked to the mayor about how next year we want to build it up for a cause as well. To have it be something that where donating or raising money towards something so it's almost like a charity softball game in that sense. It is a little bit of a reoccurring theme as far as people saying that they didn't know about this (movie night). It is something that we are aware of. We have already made-up flyers and distributed them to local businesses, etc. Mayor Radeff says we have a newsletter now that goes out in every water bill, we have a Facebook that is no comments, that one is purely information and they should be following it. Rec Director Kantouros says I think there could be a point too where we over event ourselves and I think throughout this process what we are going to find out, is which core events we are gonna want to do yearly, etc.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Chairman Wright says neighborhood parks: Guenther Park with soccer going on and we talked about lines, equipment, etc., is there anything the park board can do or me specifically: connections, etc.? Mayor Radeff replies yes. Rec Director Kantouros states he will get clarity to find specifically what is needed. Chairman Wright says Erie Shore Park, I noticed that the kiosk, the actual map display in the center has been taken down. I had wished and hoped in the past the whole thing would be taken out, but it doesn't look like it will. I have asked a masonry company to give me a quote to put a stone veneer on the brick and where we have the benches, it's just concrete poured on top. I have asked them to remove the concrete and quote putting two 2 by 4 slabs of sandstone so it's brought more



current and is more attractive. I wanted to make sure there was no objection before I have them come give this quote. I have a company that is willing to donate a portion of the money, if not all the money. Board and administration think it sounds great. Chairman Wright says we are talking about putting an amphitheater at Ferndale Park and I'm not necessarily opposed to that, but I wanted to bring up this fantastical vision I have had for years now of at the boat launch. We've got this green sloping hill with grass on it and it's nice and people enjoy it, but it is a little more difficult for people who aren't as mobile. I have had this vision of that area being terraced. Much like the solstice steps at Lakewood. Maybe instead of all hardscape, maybe maintain some of the green on top of each terrace and then maybe some electrical run down at the base and a potential canopy that could be brought down for events like movies, etc. What are thoughts about turning that space into an amphitheater? Mayor Radeff responds that is very much on board and that's kind of why we are trying to approach this coastal grant. They will tell us if yes, that's possible. When we are talking about amphitheater, it's not a huge thing at Ferndale. It's kind of like a shaded spot with concrete underneath it. As of Wednesday, there is a group coming that really wants to put significant money into the shopping center. We are talking tens of millions of dollars so there may be some opportunities to arise. Chairman Wright says West Shore Park, we discussed last time that we kinda want to prioritize this, specifically the playground there. We discussed do we want to replace it with another playground, are there other ideas for it, etc.? Member Keely sent me a text earlier with his thoughts. He said he looked over the equipment and likes everything. He would love to see a few benches installed as well as a picture-perfect spot along the shoreline, specifically designed for weddings, senior pics, etc. The gazebo is kind of outdated. A three-year plan would be ideal. Say year one would be play equipment for the kids, year two exercise type stations for adults/seniors and year three sand volleyball for teens/adults. Member Fritz says I think that we should focus on having some of those swings and things because of the idea that we've got a beautiful space for events and then you go outside and there are only a few things and they are outdated. I know it was presented at one point to have adult fitness equipment and I'm hoping that across the way will end up being a fieldhouse and my opinion is that we can put that adult equipment across the street. Member Barker says I agree with that. (inaudible) kind of in the back yard just because the sunset is nice back there and there is no seating. Updating the gazebo would be a good idea. I agree with putting playground equipment in there for the kids instead of fitness activity, because across the street will hopefully have the fitness equipment inside. I like the ropes courses more, just swings get boring after so long. Service Director Hastings says I think the goal of the administration is really to expand across the street. If we are successful, those kind of things like pickleball, basketball and sand volleyball would be. The same thing with this physical fitness. Personally, what you shared with the board last month with the ropes and more contemporary looking, I think that's fantastic. Mayor Radeff says we even thought about putting a play center over at the rec center as well. Maybe opening up the community

center space for more like leisure activities; horseshoes, bocce ball, oversize games, etc. The goal is for both of those properties to function together. Rec Director Kantouros says there is only a certain amount of green space and once it's used up, it's used up and to change it again is expensive and time consuming. I know the idea was floated around just having people look at things as far as a master planning standpoint and getting an architect or whoever. I would just recommend that no matter what we do, it's strategically done and that there is a good amount of strategic planning that goes into it before we do it. What we do at one park does affect the other parks. Mayor Radeff says we really want to make the community center more community event oriented. It's great you have rentals and stuff, but the rentals aren't really, we are still supplementing income there. It's not like we are renting it out to the point where we are making money, which is fine. It's a community center and we want things to be going on there and we want that to function with opening a fieldhouse. Short discussion on community center and use/programs/updates/equipment. Chairman Wright asks would the board and administration like me to pursue different companies to get different looks/equipment? Mayor Radeff replies I am totally ok with that. Chairman Wright says there is a fine line between creating something that is very attractive for the community, but at the same time, not creating a maintenance burden on the staff. Also, with Lakewood Beach Park, we talked about that being another project like we did at Erie Shores where we have volunteers design, do some landscape stuff, etc. Should we start talking to people about that? Should we approach the same folks who did the designs at Shell Cove and Erie Shores, should we put that on the table? Mayor Radeff replies that one would fall outside of the purview of what we are looking for, for the water front. Service Director Hastings says I would remind you that that is one of the four dumping locations for the excess sand at the boat launch. Chairman Wright says we have discussed in the past approaching the special improvement districts, the whole coastline, is that maybe floating out bonds to create erosion control at a minimum in front of public spaces to try to keep that from happening. Any initial thought? Service Director Hastings responds the mayor and I toured that and that would be towards the mayor and Rachel's lakefront coastal management. Mayor Radeff says we picked that spot because we were looking at some of these plans and every time you add a park on the lake, the master plan becomes another \$15,000. We can strategically say it's between this spot to this spot or we can say this park or this park.

**CITIZENS COMMENTARY:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:** None.

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** With no further business before this committee,  
\*Motion by Fritz/Second by Barker to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:26 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 September 16, 2024

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**PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL**

*Rick Rosso*