



## **Parks Advisory Board Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, October 2, 2012 - 7:30 p.m.  
Municipal Building Meeting Room C**

Attended by: Board members Hugh Beal, David Franklin, Susana Montoya, Bill Moorhead and Bruce Parry. Also present were Commissioner Kelly Fraasch, Director of Public Works, Tom Kelley and Director of Recreation, David Donnellan.

Absent: Board Members Patrick Eberz and John Vogel.

### I. Approval of the September 4, 2012 Minutes

The minutes were approved as submitted.

### II. Citizen Comments

Dianne Wayneright shared concerns regarding the proposed improvements to Brafferton Field including: the need for sprinklers, bleachers and general care and maintenance. She indicated it is the only municipal Pony League field. She spoke in favor of paving the parking lot at Wildcat field. She stated that it is important that recreation be a marquee for Mt. Lebanon. She stated that it is imperative that we put artificial turf on the Cedar Boulevard Fields.

Brooks Broadhurst stressed the importance of collaboration among the municipality, school district, and the YSA regarding field improvements, and questioned when the field users would be heard on the issues. He stated he would like to see more private funding for the improvements.

### III. Park Inspection Reports

The Director of Public Works, Tom Kelley, was present to answer any questions or concerns regarding the parks.

Kelly Fraasch reported that residents near Rockwood Park praised the Public Works Department for the maintenance of the park.

Bill Moorhead reported that Bird Park is in very good condition.

Susanna Montoya reported that Main Park showed visible improvement following the volunteer efforts to spruce up the park. Bruce Parry indicated the hand rails at Martha's

Playground needed repainted. The vandalism at Pavilion 3 was discussed. Mr. Kelley mentioned the swings near the Commissioner's Parking Lot need to be removed.

Bruce Parry reported that the storm drain in Williamsburg Park needs a cover.

#### IV. Approved Park Improvement Projects to Church Place, Iroquois and Rockwood

Mr. Kelley reported that a letter was sent to the Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church regarding the improvements being undertaken in the park. Mr. Kelley updated the board on the progress of the project including: installation of new sidewalk to the play area, removal of old benches and tree trimming. He stated that the benches, play equipment and safety surface were ordered and scheduled for installation on October 4.

Mr. Kelley reported that at Iroquois Park the old swing set and bench were removed, Ash trees were treated and some trees were removed. A new bench, play equipment and safety surface were also ordered. He indicated that the basketball court at Iroquois will be resurfaced by T.A. Robinson next week.

Mr. Kelley informed the board that at Highland Terrace Park the sidewalk was installed. He reported that drainage improvements, lowering the manhole, retaining wall, fencing, tree trimming, court resurfacing, two benches, a table and a new play structure were planned for the park.

The equipment suggested for the park was reviewed and a color scheme was selected. Mr. Kelley stated that he would order the equipment immediately.

Vonnie Hornburg shared her concerns regarding parking on the sidewalk and vandalism. She stated that residents in the area would like to see lighting installed at the park.

#### V. Recreation Capital Improvements

##### A. New Approved Project List

David Donnellan reported that the Commission approved funding from the unassigned fund balance for the following projects:

	Estimated Cost	Contributions	Net Cost
1 Highland Terrace Park	\$ 48,560	\$ 4,000	\$ 44,560
2 Ice Rink Ceiling/Sound System	\$ 110,100	\$ -	\$ 110,100
3 Golf Course Mower	\$ 39,620	\$ -	\$ 39,620
4 Tennis Upper Paths	\$ 90,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 70,000
5 Tennis Court Lighting 13 &14	\$ 102,500	\$ -	\$ 102,500
6 Community Center Floor Room B	\$ 51,100	\$ -	\$ 51,100
7 Community Center Hallway Floor	\$ 83,050	\$ -	\$ 83,050
8 Brafferton Field Upgrades	\$ 197,400	\$ -	\$ 197,400
9 Wildcat/Middle Parking	\$ 143,000	\$ -	\$ 143,000
10 Tennis Center Building Renovation	\$ 110,160	\$ -	\$ 110,160
11 Traffic Calming	\$ 50,000	\$ -	\$ 50,000
Total	\$ 1,025,490	\$ 24,000	\$ 1,001,490

## B. Brafferton Field

David Donnellan stated that both the parking and Brafferton Field projects were on the agenda because both of these projects could use input from the Parks Advisory Board. Mr. Donnellan reported that there was discussion on the necessity of sodding, and the possibility of grassing over the infield and not using the field for baseball any longer.

Dave Franklin stated that it seemed that the Commission didn't understand what was included in the improvement plans for Brafferton. He also stated he does not believe the fencing needs to be replaced. He indicated that he believed only the backstop and benches need replaced, and the trees behind first base cut.

Susana Montoya asked why we are sodding Brafferton. Kelly Fraasch responded that Public Works recommends sodding every 5-7 years, and Brafferton has gone beyond 7 years. She continued that Brafferton could be the start of a renewed maintenance plan for fields.

## C. Parking Expansion in Mt. Lebanon Park

Concerns over the parking project were discussed. Dave Franklin stated that any evaluation of the parking on Cedar Boulevard while the high school is under construction was foolhardy.

Commissioner Fraasch stated that the current parking spaces on Cedar Boulevard will be removed. She also stated that parking needs at the recreation center also needed to be addressed, and that this project needs further discussion among the Commissioners.

Susanna Montoya applauded the Commission on their initiative in putting money in to recreation which has been long overdue. She also shared that she is concerned that discussion regarding improvements have been piecemeal, and believes that discussion among the Parks Advisory Board has been lacking entirely. She also indicated the lack of involvement of the sports associations and school district in the

discussion is a problem. She stated that there should be a consensus before a big investment is made. She further stated that she feels it should be the role of the Parks Advisory Board to bring the groups together, and make a recommendation on the fields.

Dave Franklin expressed his frustration over the lack of communication with user groups and the Parks Advisory Board on the Brafferton project. He stated he believes that Brafferton needs parking. He stated that his belief is that the Parks Advisory Board exists to make these kinds of recommendations.

***The Parks Advisory Board recommends that steps be taken to facilitate the coordination of information to and from stakeholders relative to parks and fields projects, and that the Parks Advisory Board play a central role in facilitating that information.***

***The Parks Advisory Board also wants to clarify with the Commission that it considers fields to be within the purview of the board.***

#### VI. Recreation Bond Issue (Kelly Fraasch)

Commissioner Fraasch presented her plan for a \$5.5 million recreation bond issue. She indicated the bond would be floated to finance a renovation to the swimming pool, a new full sized athletic field and a junior sized field in Robb Hollow Park and improvements to the golf course. The pool renovation would include infrastructure improvements, renovations to the bath house and a zero beach pool entry for \$3.3 million. The Robb Hollow improvements would include two fields, the purchase of 2.2 acres of land adjacent to the park, an improved driveway and parking at a cost of \$1.5 million. Plans for the golf course include either a learning center or improvements to holes 4 and 5 at a cost of \$561,000. The plan also calls for a committee to raise funds for an eco-friendly artificial turf field in Mt. Lebanon.

Discussion regarding artificial turf versus grass followed. The need to add fields to allow resting fields was mentioned. The ability to maintain our existing fields and maintenance costs of both types of fields were discussed. It was stated that artificial turf will allow for play in wet conditions when grass will not, and that turfing was preferred by the YSA leadership over adding additional fields.

Hugh Beal suggested that a compromise would be to take the funds allocated to the upper field in Robb Hollow and apply it toward turf and lighting Wildcat and Middle, and move forward with the field at the Public Works site. He believes that Robb Hollow should remain a passive park.

Commissioner Fraasch also reported that a Recreation Stakeholders meeting was scheduled for October 14.

#### VII. New Business

No new business was discussed.

#### VIII. Announcements

There were no announcements.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.