

CANTON PARK COMMISSION

BOARD MINUTES

MONTHLY MEETING

December 19, 2023

4:30 pm

A meeting for the Canton Park Commission was held in person at the Canton Garden Center (1615 Stadium Park Dr. NW, Canton, OH 44718) on Tuesday, December 19, 2023.

- 1. Call to Order:** President Rinaldi called the meeting to order at 4:32 pm.
- 2. Roll Call:** The following board members responded to roll call: President Rinaldi, Vice President Gerzina and Member Williams. Also present were Doug Foltz, Amie Biltz, Ethan Amerine, Colleen Cochran, Dan Kunz, Joe Rodocker, Christa Barnes, Erin Thompson, Marvin McConnell, and Craig Riley.
- 3. Agenda:** President Rinaldi motioned to approve the 12/19/2023 Agenda, seconded by Vice President Gerzina. Ayes...Motion carried.
- 4. Minutes:** Member Williams motioned to approve the 11/28/2023 Minutes, seconded by Vice President Gerzina. Ayes...Motion carried.
- 5. Public Speak:** Craig Riley from the Black Sheep Squadron spoke about the group's support of disc golf in the area through voluntary work to improve course conditions and hosting charity tournaments to support the Delaney Riley scholarship fund. Mr. Riley also discussed the rapid growth of disc golf as a sport and the large increase in usage of the Arboretum course since 2020. He suggested some improvements to the disc golf course such as new baskets and shortening some holes for kids to use.
 - a) Craig Riley asked for financial help to replace the 32 baskets at an estimated cost of \$15,000.00. The Stark County Disc Golf Association, Black Sheep and Northeast Ohio Disc Golf Alliance can probably contribute \$5,000.00 towards the new baskets.
 - b) Vice President Gerzina asked for details on the course attendance and who would install the new baskets.
 - c) Doug Foltz proposed adding \$10,000.00 to the Capital projects for the new disc golf baskets. Vice President Gerzina motioned to approve and President Rinaldi seconded. Ayes...Motion carried.
- 6. Financials:** Commissioners reviewed:
 - a.) Accounts Payable Invoice Reports. No questions.
 - b.) Parks Department Fund 2530 Report by department - Additional funds may be available through December 2023 tax revenue.

c.) J. Babe Stearn Programming & Expense Report (David Miday)

1. Doug Foltz met with David Miday and Bob Lunsford to discuss youth baseball. The meeting was very productive for the future of baseball for the City of Canton children.
 2. Expense reports were reviewed for the last several months and adjusted to cover salaries and utilities incurred. Doug Foltz asked the board to pay \$57,932.00 to cover the salary and utility line items in the September, October and November 2023 expense reports. President Rinaldi motioned to approve, seconded by Member Williams. Ayes...Motion carried.
- President Rinaldi thanked Doug Foltz for being diligent on the J. Babe Stearn expenses and making sure they are compliant with the agreement.
 - President Rinaldi motioned to approve all financial items (6.). Ayes...Motioned carried.

7. Events: No new Public Events to review.

8. Old Business: Followed-up on old Business:

a.) Friends of Canton Parks and Recreation

1. Doug Foltz spoke with Jim Camp and discussed the Friends' future plans for some park development such as planting flowers near Fulton Avenue.
2. Doug Foltz would like to schedule a meeting in January or February 2024 to discuss our long term goals of clearing land under the trees west of the Garden Center in order to bring back the daffodils and plant wild flowers on Monument Road.
3. Pat Wyatt has legal information regarding the collaboration with Friends of Canton Parks and Recreation that needs to be reviewed by Doug Foltz and the board.
4. Vice President Gerzina would like to see a spring event in Stadium Park that would engage and attract volunteers.

b.) 2023 Capital Project Updates

1. Timken Gatehouse rehab project had a request for qualifications and approvals were made. The request for proposals is now with the Purchasing Department. Need to move forward in early January 2024 to utilize June grant money and lease requirements with Mercy Cleveland Clinic.
2. Challenger course \$290,000.00 purchase order will only utilize \$163,000.00 and frees up more capital for 2024 projects.
3. Some 2023 purchase orders will be carried over to help with other projects like rubberizing the exercise stations and resurfacing pickleball courts.
4. Crenshaw shelter was rebid for the third time and is due January 10, 2024. Doug Foltz spoke with Motter & Meadows to try and attract local contractors to bid this project so it can move forward.

5. Bike pump track design will be carried over into 2024. Purchase order went through for \$400,000.00.
- VP Gerzina and Doug Foltz discussed possibly redirecting some of the unused Challenger Course funds to smaller projects like the Japanese stone garden and clearing out some trees. The Timken Gatehouse is now in the request for proposal stage with Purchasing.

c.) 2024 Capital Improvements/2024 Budget

1. See 2024 spread sheet for projects carried over from 2023 and specific estimated costs for new projects.
 2. Highlighted projects included: Gatehouse bridge, Gatehouse rehab, stone garden enhancement, electric/Christmas display needs, entry arch gate.
 3. Weis park splash pad/electric needs around \$550,000.00 (ARPA funds)
 4. Shuffleboard improvements/roof to be considered. Discussion was held regarding the sight lines with a roof, other uses of the facility, hours of open play and availability.
 - President Rinaldi advised that the roof drawings should be the starting point and to be sure they're stamped signifying building codes have been met.
 - Bathroom upgrades were discussed given the increased usage from volleyball leagues and the new destination playground.
 5. Crenshaw shelter-awaiting news bids.
 6. Nimisilla tennis courts and pickleball courts bids to go out
 7. Harmont Park: upgrades to electric and bathrooms with splash pad and playground additions planned
 8. Garaux Park: electric upgrades
 9. Department equipment needs: passenger vehicles, truck repairs, mowers, SECC building improvements.
- President Rinaldi asked for an update on the Amateur Sports Hall of Fame and the building status was discussed.
 - Motion to approve the first draft of the 2024 Capital Improvements/Budget was made by Member Williams and seconded by President Rinaldi. Ayes...Motion carried.

9. New Business:

- a) Canton Parks and Recreation will be taking over some of the city youth baseball leagues and working with J. Babe Stearn and Canton City schools. The addition of a second Adult and Youth Sports Supervisor to manage baseball leagues was discussed.

1. Age divisions and responsibilities will be:
 - J. Babe Stearn: ages 4, 5, 6, 7 (JBS to schedule using JBS and CP&R facilities)
 - Canton Parks & Rec: ages 8U, 10U, 12U (CP&R to schedule using CP&R facilities)
 - Canton City Schools: ages 14U (CCS to program using CP&R facilities)
 2. All registration and revenue to run through Canton Parks & Recreation
 3. The second Adult and Youth Sports Supervisor will run the baseball programming with Joe Rodocker supervising. There is an internal candidate for this position.
 4. Field scheduling will be managed by Rec's Adult & Youth Sports Supervisors in the order of: travel tournaments, internal leagues, open to public. Changes to field rental rates and lighting rates were presented.
- Motion to add a second Adult & Youth Sports Supervisor and increase field rental rates was made by President Rinaldi and seconded by Member Williams.
Ayes...Motion carried.


- b) The park hours for Willy's Dog Park at Mother Goose Land are Dawn to Dusk. Patrons would like to use it a little later and Doug Foltz to look further into it.

10. Monthly Directors Report and SECC Update:

- a.) Parks Superintendent Report – Dan Kunz highlighted the following from his report:
 - Spiker Pond cleaning has been completed and the debris piles are almost gone. Electric is installed and fountains will go in each basin.
 - Leaves have been removed quickly this year. Encroaching and hazard trees have been removed from several parks.
 - Crews have been busy with holiday light display maintenance and Holiday Hay rides.
 - Continuing with small plumbing issues and training on towmotors, chainsaws and chippers.
 - Staff is still short 2 positions, but recently hired Dale Brownfield who is fitting in well and working on his certifications. Dale is very involved in the 9th Street DIY skate park.
- b.) Recreation Superintendent Report – Joe Rodocker presented detailed baseball league development earlier in the meeting. Please see his report and contact him with any questions.
 - SECC visits have continued to increase.
 - Partnering with LAVA Athletics out of Akron on some projects: free computer coding class, financial literacy class and self-defense class.

- c.) Marketing and Special Events Coordinator Report – Ethan Amerine highlighted the following from his report:
- Letters to Santa are ongoing
 - Holiday Hay Rides had 200+ people each night. Maintenance staff members did a great job as drivers and helped in all aspects of the evening.
 - SECC events were documented: E Sports tournament, Community Christmas and Unforgettable Christmas.
 - Social Media down this month compared to October and November which had our biggest events of 2023.
 - Preparing for 2024 events: Sweat now-Wine Later preparations. Reach out to Pat Wyatt and provide information on upcoming volunteer opportunities.
- d.) Edward “Peel” Coleman Community Center – Danselle Williams
- Please see the attached report for visitor statistics and community events.
 - Gym space was donated to hold the Community Christmas of Stark County event and 223 families benefitted from it.

11. Adjournment: At 5:33 pm, motion to adjourn by President Rinaldi, seconded by Member Williams. Ayes.... Meeting adjourned.



President

January 23, 2024
Date



Secretary

January 23, 2024
Date