CITY OF MONROE OHIO

Park and Recreation Board
November 10, 2021 – 5:30 p.m.
233 South Main Street, Monroe, Ohio

Call to Order

Roll Call

Approval of the Minutes – October 13, 2021

Old Business

- None

New Business

- Brandstetter Carroll presentation regarding Monroe Bicentennial Commons Phase 2
- Monroe Bicentennial Commons discussion regarding Grand Opening
- 2022 Movies In The Park discussion

Administrative Reports

- Update on Dog Park
- Update on Monroe Crossings Park
- Update on Monroe Community Park
- Update on Monroe Bicentennial Commons

Adjournment

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OHIO

PARK AND RECREATION BOARD MINUTES

October 13 , 2021 – 5:30 P.M.
233 South Main Street, Monroe, Ohio

CALL TO ORDER: The Park and Recreation Board meeting was called to order by Chair Paul Koloszar at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL
The following members were present: Paul Koloszar, Jeff Hanson, Josh Howard, Michael Marchetti and Todd Hickman.

Staff members present: Public Works Director Gary Morton, Assistant Public Works Director Brian Perkins and Recording Secretary Donna Campbell.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mr. Hanson moved to approve the meeting minutes from September 8, 2021; seconded by Mr. Marchetti. Voice vote. Motion Carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business to be discussed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Request and consideration of a motion to approve The Cincinnati Ultimate Players Association request for Monroe Community Park on November 13, 2021 and November 14, 2021 for the 2021 CUPA Disc Golf Tournament.

Liz Anderson, Director of Operations, appeared before the Board to represent Cincinnati Ultimate Players Association. She explained she had the same event last year and wants to do the same this year. During the event, one day would be for beginners and one day for experienced players and they are hoping for around 150 people.

Mr. Marchetti moved to approve The Cincinnati Ultimate Players Association's use of Monroe Community Park on November 13, 2021 and November 14, 2021 for the 2021 CUPA Disc Golf Tournament; seconded by Mr. Hanson. Voice vote. Motion carried.

Mr. Callahan, Council Member, approached the Park and Recreation Board to talk about Monroe Bicentennial Commons. He discussed adding a drive around the park in Phase 2, putting a parking lot closer to the shelters, making the blacktop wider and striping it white for a bike lane, making the blacktop thicker, etc. He also mentioned adding basketball courts. He envisions that during the day the park will be used by retired people. Mr. Marchetti questioned the standing water

issue. Mr. Morton stated he is looking into that and talking with engineers and architects about getting a storm water system designed and in place to grow in the park since it was not done in the beginning. Public Works has covered approximately 9 acres with around 4" of topsoil and it is being hydro seeded to help with the problem. Mr. Callahan stated that there has been a lot of dirt hauled there to help with the issue. Mr. Hickman mentioned the vision of the park is a different type of park than what Mr. Callahan is talking about and ultimately it comes down to City Council. Mr. Morton stated that at November's meeting Brandstetter Carroll will be at the meeting to address some of the concerns and issues. There was a Master Plan and what Mr. Callahan is describing is not what Monroe Bicentennial Commons was intended to be. The City would not want to construct the Great Miami River Trail and have cars running along it. Phase 2 is supposed to be more playground equipment and some additional concrete work around that. The City has budgeted around $1,000,000 for that phase. Mr. Morton also mentioned that handicapped parking has been left out on the west side of the railroad tracks. Brandstetter Carroll has been asked to look for an area for handicapped parking to the south of the Carousel Building and perhaps some smaller shelters close to handicapped parking and leave the rest of the parking where it is to minimize traffic inside the park for safety with people playing, etc. Mr. Morton agreed that the handicapped accessibility piece has been missed. The City is looking at phases due to the expense. It is important that everyone attend Park and Recreation Board because these items will be coming up to move forward with bidding and continue with the next phase. Crossings and Community are more sports parks where Bicentennial Commons would be to take your family out and enjoy.

Mr. Hanson questioned the grand plan for Community Park as that is at the center of Monroe and does not need to be forgotten. Mr. Morton stated that there is a splash pad, etc. planned and that goes back to the allocation of budget and the distribution of funds in that particular year, but the Park and Recreation Board can recommend to City Council to spend a couple of years at Bicentennial then come back and look at another park.

Mr. Morton called on another visitor to come forward. Ms. Rita Kolp addressed the Board and stated she is the co-chair for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library and works hand-in-hand with Midpoint Library. They have a program called Story Time and they come to various parks in the area and she'd like them to come to Monroe. She stated most all the area parks are charging them $25 for the shelter fee and that is not a problem for them to pay. Ms. Kolp would like to be a liaison to get Monroe on the schedule for this program. Mr. Koloszar also mentioned they can contact the Historical Society and perhaps use the cabin. Mr. Morton stated that this is the first he had been informed of this, but to advise Public Works of the dates and perhaps even move it around to different parks. He also advised Ms. Kolp to contact Donna Campbell in Public Works to assist with reservations and payment of the shelters.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Mr. Morton stated that he had already discussed Monroe Bicentennial Commons.

CITY OF MONROE OHIO

Mr. Morton discussed Community Park, but Public Works is waiting on the playground equipment for the front of the park. It is not known for sure when it will be delivered.

Mr. Morton stated Monroe Crossings Park Restroom Building is complete, but the wrong door locks were received so Public Works is waiting for that to be corrected. The new locks would be on timers so the Police Department would not have to lock and unlock the doors. Seed and straw has been placed, but waiting for that to germinate. Mr. Marchetti asked if the soccer fields could get grass seed when they shut down the last weekend in October. Mr. Morton and Mr. Koloszar discussed it is late for grass seed, perhaps the spring of next year would be better. Mr. Morton stated it is hard to get the grass to germinate with their soccer schedule, but Public Works would try at the end of the season this year to put down grass seed. Mr. Marchetti also asked for a bulletin board on the outside of the building, the plexiglass in the building to be repaired and they need more toilet paper, etc. in the restrooms.

Mr. Morton updated about the Dog Park. He stated it is open, but he's not positive on how many people are using it. Board Members stated they have heard positive comments. Mr. Morton stated they are working on the sign and that will be made and installed. Mr. Perkins mentioned that the Public Involvement Committee is thinking about having a Grand Opening. Mr. Hickman asked what the building at the Dog Park is going to be used for and what is the plan. Mr. Morton stated that there is no master plan for the building, but Public Works may use it for storage. Public Works is looking for someone to put in glass block to make it look better. Mr. Hickman asked for a quote to tear the building down. Mr. Morton stated they would get a quote. He also mentioned that Public Works may use it for lawn mower storage, etc.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Marchetti moved to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Hanson. Voice vote. Motion carried.

The Park and Recreation Board meeting adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Campbell
Recording Secretary