



**CITY OF TWINSBURG, OHIO
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
Thursday, October 26th, 2023
6:30pm**

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm

ROLL CALL/INVOCATION

Present: Tom Weirich, Robert Coleman, Nyall McKenna
Jennifer Betenson, Parks and Recreation Director and Karen Labbe, Council Representative

SWEARING IN NEW MEMBERS: Karen Labbe presented the oath of office and swore in new Commission member, Julie Miller.

**Motion presented to elect Robert Coleman as Chairperson.
Motion was seconded and Motion passed unanimously.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Motion presented to approve the minutes from *the last* Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.
Motion was seconded and minutes were approved unanimously.**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No public participation

COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

Nyall McKenna – Noticed that the city visited a park in his neighborhood on Burton Dr., took down a fence, trees, filled in holes. Commended the service employees for a job well done, stated that the work was completed in one day.

Robert Coleman – Spoke about the wind storm that came through over the summer, and the trees that came down at Center Valley Park around Tinkers Creek. Stated that service department have been doing a great job cleaning up the debris from the trails. Additionally, spoke about upcoming project along the pathway at Center Valley Park, Jennifer to elaborate later in the meeting.

Tom Weirich – Spoke about how great the Water Park season was this year, despite the struggles with staffing and weather. Lifeguard staff did a good job trading off the slide and diving boards to ensure that everyone was able to participate.

Julie Miller – Would like to see a Pickleball Tournament for Summer 2024; would bring non-resident participation to the city. Butterfly garden at Center Valley Park, would like to see family program to plant milkweed to attract butterflies. Milkweed aides in the growth of the butterfly population. It was discussed amongst all committee members that the Garden Club may have initially put in the butterfly garden, but it has

not been maintained. Jennifer will look into it. Proposed a geocaching event put on by Parks & Recreation Department. Discussion. Julie also talked about a food truck night at the square.

Jennifer Betenson – Jennifer commented during Robert’s report that any department compliments (Service Department in this specific scenario) are relayed to both HR and the Mayor’s office to ensure that appropriate accolades are known and recognized.

OLD BUSINESS

Robert opened discussion for the crosswalk lights at Liberty. Jennifer stated that she followed up after Carol brought it up. She will forward Julie the email correspondence. She does not have an update at this time, they are still waiting on parts, but will let committee members know as soon as she has more information.

Bee Pollinator: Jennifer was waiting on an update from Deb from Friends of Twinsburg Parks. Jennifer commented that she attended sessions at the NRPA conference regarding bee pollinators, and suggested that Friends of Twinsburg Parks heads the project, and Parks & Recreation Department be a logistical support.

Jennifer gave an update on the Storybook Walk. Stands are installed, installation was paid by the city. Collaborated with Tinkers Creek on this project. Once everything is printed and set, we will have an event where Mayor Scaffide will walk the story and have children with him.

Another item mention is sustainability. Parks & Recreation is working to get recycling information for all parks. Some benches are currently made of recycled material. Jennifer has asked the Service Department to inventory all current benches and begin replacing with the recycled material benches. Jennifer is open to the food truck idea presented by Julie. States that the Mayor has also mentioned the idea a few times.

Glen Chamberlin park update: everything is currently on schedule. Restroom has been through Planning Commission and will go before the Architectural Review Board next week. Updated on the delayed Rock the Park start date due to construction. Rock the Park will start in July, with 2 concerts in July and 1 in August. Karen suggested that a meeting happen at the park so the committee members can visually see the plans.

Tom followed up on the timeline for updating the remaining city parks. The goal is to do 2 parks a year, but the larger parks will likely be the only park done in one year’s time. East Idlewood Park is on the priority list for 2024.

Jennifer announced that she and the new Assistant Parks & Recreation Director will work together to create a new Master Plan for the park system. She will then bring it to Commission for review.

Finally, Jennifer touched on the new Winter Wonderland program. This event will move away from the Luminocity event of the past. There will be similar elements from the previous years, with new attractions scattered in. The reasons for the changes included that the parade has gotten so large it has become a safety issue with walking back in the dark. Information will be out on November 1st.

Nyall inquired about TFC and how its operations are going. Jennifer confirmed that membership numbers are steadily rising, and our aquatic program revenue is increasing as well after looking at the current revenue formula and making necessary adjustments. Jennifer stated that the goal of Michele, the Assistant Parks & Recreation Director, is to review current programming and bring in new programming to engage our customer base. Jennifer mentioned that we are facing major projects in the near future and are looking to maintain a 0 subsidy for a 2nd year in a row.

NEW BUSINESS

Covered in old business.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

Motion presented to excuse absent members Carol Miller and Deborah Peltz.

Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

SCHEDULE OF NEXT MEETING

This was the final meeting of 2023. The next meeting will be scheduled for February 22, 2024 at 6:30pm in Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT

**Motion presented to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded.
The meeting was adjourned.**