



**CITY OF TWINSBURG, OHIO
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION**

October 24, 2024

6:30pm

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 6:30pm

ROLL CALL

Present: Deborah Peltz, Robert Coleman, Julie Miller, David Kleinman, Doug McLaughlin
Jennifer Betenson, Parks and Recreation Director and Bill Fuery, Council Representative

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion presented to approve the minutes from *the last* Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

Motion was seconded and minutes were approved with 4 confirmed yes, 1 abstain due to absence at the last meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

No presentations

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

No public participation

COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

Deborah Peltz – Shared feedback on Resource Day with Twinsburg Ward 1 residents hosted by Councilman Chuck Bonacci. Deb felt the event was a success and suggested holding this annually as a community event.

Robert Coleman – Would like to thank Parks & Recreation for the garden season. There were many new members as well as. Robert has noticed the project being made on the East Idlewood Park bridge and park project. Followed up on the Center Valley Park trail (Dodge end) asphalt damage. Jennifer noted that she will dispatch the service team to evaluate. Finally, raised concerns regarding the gentleman inside Center Valley Park who creates mounds/huts in the woods. Jennifer assured the commission that he is not damaging city property and police are aware of the situation. Robert clarified that the damage isn't necessarily seen, but when he moves the branches from the floor, he disturbs the natural environment, potentially damaging the surrounding habitat.

Julie Miller – Great summer at Pickleball courts; requests sun covers over the benches. Julie reports that there are over 750 followers of the public pickleball Facebook page; because of this, wait times for courts are getting long. Suggested the possibility of instructors at the Fitness Center for beginners, as well as adult volleyball.

Doug McLaughlin – Glen Meadow field 4A (back field) has a hole in front of one of the goals. Jennifer was made aware by AYSO and dispatched Service, who temporarily filled the hole. There will be more work done to fix the holes. Another request made by a resident was regarding the ditch near the parking lot leading to the back baseball field at Glen Meadow Park. The concern is that there is not a barrier between the parking spaces and the ditch. Jennifer will have the Service Department inspect the situation. Additionally asked if there was a

way to confirm which shelters and fields were reserved. There is a way to confirm which shelters are reserved, but there is not currently a way to confirm which fields are reserved. Jennifer does hold the master schedule for field rentals. Finally, Doug inquired about the possibility of a skate park within the city. It was confirmed that while Twinsburg used to have a skate park, a new skate park is always on the list of suggested amenities. Skate parks are one of the amenities that fluctuate in popularity, so there is a responsibility to add amenities that are best utilized by location and need.

David Kleinman – David asked follow-up questions to Jennifer regarding volleyball, pickleball courts, and the Post Road trail head parking lot.

Jennifer Betenson – Jennifer clarified the volleyball suggestion made by Julie. It will be open volleyball play Monday-Friday from 2:00p-4:00p. Additionally, a proposal was made to Capital Improvements Board, as well as under Engineering’s Road program to add two additional pickleball courts in conjunction with the already functioning pickleball courts. At the Post Road trail head, next steps will be asphalt and grindings.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Robert Coleman would like to continue to thank the Service Department for their ongoing maintenance of the parks.

Deb Peltz gave an update on the Friends of Twinsburg Parks. Updates to current documentation will kick off beginning in November and a relaunch will take place in the new year.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

MISCELLANEOUS

Jennifer reiterated the addition of new pickleball courts. It will go before Planning Commission in November. Wind screens at the current pickleball courts will come down as park winterization has begun. Parks does not run their own parks maintenance crew; everything filters through the Service Department. The first of four pollinator gardens will be planted inside the Community Gardens. The remaining three locations will be announced in 2025. A sunflower garden will be planted, hopefully before first snow fall, if not in the beginning of Spring. The sunflower garden will be planted at the top of the Community Gardens. The intention is to allow the public to cut the sunflowers as they regenerate quickly. Community Gardens are being re-aligned to allow for the five-foot accessways between gardens to be cleaned up and made accessible.

Jennifer discussed Parks & Recreation Department events: The 3rd annual Fall Fest took place on October 19 and was the most successful Fall Fest to date. The department will continue to expand on the event in the future. Turkey Trot is the next event on November 16. Winter Wonderland will take place on December 7, Light the Night on December 30. Jennifer will have a 2025 Special Event calendar available for commission members in December. Volunteers are always welcome.

House Bill 47 passed through the State requiring all sports teams, fields and recreational locations are required to have access to AED’s. While there are already AED units at the parks for youth organization use, they now need to be accessible to the public in the event of an emergency. Eight more AED units will be purchased and strategically placed, and Jennifer will continue to work through the language in the bill. The city is still working through logistics such as vandalism and theft, but they will all be available to the public beginning in the Spring.

The Glen Chamberlin restroom is finished but will be winterized and closed until Spring. Jennifer is still waiting for grant approval on continued Glen Chamberlin projects. Sustainability continues to be a priority for Parks & Recreation. The department is committed to providing the most sustainable

resources to community members at all events and programs.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

Motion presented to excuse absent member Tom Weirich.

Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

SCHEDULE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be scheduled for February 27, 2025, at 6:30pm in Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion presented to adjourn the meeting, and the motion was seconded.

The meeting was adjourned.