

Park Board Meeting, Monday, March 15, 2021

The Chillicothe Parks and Recreation Board met Monday, March 15, 2021 at 5:15 pm in City Council chambers. The meeting was called to order by President Eric Turner with the following in attendance: Director Josh Norris, Lou Cowherd, Jim Hinrichs, Eric Turner and new member, Janice Shaffer. Mitchell Holder attended the meeting via speaker phone.

Lou Cowherd moved that the minutes from the November 19, 2020 meeting be approved. Jim Hinrichs seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Agenda

Election of 2021 Officers

There was general consensus that the 2020 officers would remain for 2021 - Eric Turner to serve as President and Lou Cowherd to serve as secretary.

Old Business

Simpson Park playground project.

The Chillicothe City Council approved the Simpson Park playground project at a City Council meeting on November 30, 2020. Since then, the City Engineer recommended that Athco provide a turnkey solution including playground equipment, pour in place surface, subsurface materials, drainage and concrete. Josh Norris met with Collin Anderson, Athco representative and installer representative, to go over installation details. City utilities impacted by the project have been re-located thanks to CMU. Trail light lines are still running under the area - concrete footings that will be poured will hopefully not affect the trail light lines. If they do hit them, corrections will be made at that time.

Phase 1 will include the new playground and also will include the removal of the toddler area and fence including dirt work and berm (3-4 foot tall).

Phase 2 - drainage and some dirt work in the old playground. Drainage in that area - phase 2 - is not part of current project.

Mitch asked a question about whether MO DOT had been contacted with safety issues - Josh explained that in approximately 2013, he had lengthy discussions with them. Mitch pointed out that we need to do everything we can to provide for the safety of our children with Highway 65 being adjacent to our playground.

Possible solutions - large boulder, planting trees.

There was some additional discussion about what to do in the next 5-6 years with existing playground. More discussion will follow.

New Business

A. Danner Park discussion

Current photos of the current Danner Park playground surface and equipment were distributed. It is in great need of updating. It was agreed that we need a plan as to how to do this. The surface is #1 issue. In the short term, Josh stated that mulch is going down before May. Collin Anderson, Athco representative, will be in town soon and it was agreed that Josh and Lou would tour Danner Park playground with him and solicit some suggestions from him. Funds will be needed to make improvements since most are not in current budget. Council will need to approve any additions or changes. It was decided we need to discuss at the next meeting if a plan has been started.

B. Volunteer groups

There was discussion that there are several volunteer groups in town that would be willing to do projects in the park. Josh said that First Baptist reached out to him and they have scheduled a work day on May 22 to stain carvings (need stained every couple of years). One project is working in the flower beds. Eric said that the District Boy Scout group can do a major project toward the end of May or 1st week of June.

Janice Shaffer will possibly be willing to serve as the volunteer project coordinator to schedule groups of 10-12 in the community to do projects. The idea of an "Adopt-a-flower bed" was offered. -

Josh mentioned that the city website is up and running (www.chillicothe.city.org). There is a calendar system and eventually the public can make on-line reservations for all park reservations including shelter houses and Chilli Bay reservations. The 2021-22 year will be a test year to see how it works.

C. 2021 Budget Projections

No new mowing equipment/vehicles needed this year.

Josh distributed a "Chillicothe Parks Department Itemized Budget Worksheet" handout which lists all of the projects with the fund account numbers and a "2021-2022 Parks & Recreation Budget Projects/Goals" worksheet. Please refer to those handouts for more information.

Director's Report

Mark & Rob are the seasonal employees that have begun work. The mowing crew starting soon

Festival of Lights - all lights/displays down

Bathrooms opened up

Shaffer Park -

HS baseball starting right away
No Mudcats last year resulting in lots of cleanup this year at Shaffer

HS Tennis started

Regular spring cleanup - including trash/tree limbs

Unsure of offender's availability but this year we will have summer baseball/softball and all summer park events will be held. There is concern for getting everything done if offenders do not become available. Hoping to hire two more seasonal workers.

Chilli Bay - - starting through interviewing/hiring process so Chilli Bay cleanup can begin. Water turned on for Chilli Bay Manager Eric Menconi. Washer/dryer added. New pumps in.

YMCA taking over SPA

Special Events:

Chautauqua - Sept 11-12

YMCA 5K

YMCA/ Parks Dept Mar 27 - Easter egg hunt - come early

Freedom Festival- probably be south of town

Car Show - Assume it will be held - 3rd weekend of July

BBQ event - unsure

Carnival -??

Motion was made by Lou Cowherd. Janice Shaffer seconded. Motion carried.
Meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting will be held at 5:15 p.m. on Monday, April 19, 2021.

July meeting - Josh on vacation - may or may not meet. Decision will be made prior to that meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Lou Cowherd
Secretary