

Park Board Meeting, Monday, April 19, 2021

1. Call to Order. The Chillicothe Parks and Recreation Board met Monday, April 19 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, Mitchell Holder, Janice Shaffer, Eric Turner, First Ward Councilman Reed Dupy and KCHI representative Randy Dean.

2. Approval of Previous Board Minutes - Janice moved that the minutes from the March 15, 2020 meeting be approved. Mitchell seconded the motion. Motion carried.

3. Old Business

A. Simpson Park playground project - New playground equipment (except swings & bars) is installed. The concrete should be poured this week; will need to cure 10 days prior to PIP being installed. City still has dirt work. We want to have a ribbon cutting and seeding & mulching around the area. First there will be a "soft opening" to the public when the playground is complete, allow the city to do the dirt work and put in the 30 linear feet sidewalk. When that is completed, we could have a ribbon cutting. The Playground will be accessible during the time that the city is doing dirt work. Josh is going to talk to Darin/Mayor about getting the dirt work done in May.

B. Danner Park (DP) Playground

When Collin Anderson with Athco (company putting in Simpson Park playground) was here in the past couple of weeks, Josh spoke to him about some of the needs of DP playground. He is planning to be in Chillicothe in the next couple of weeks and will meet with Friends of the Park representatives and Josh again at that time. Josh reported that when Chilli Bay is paid off as well as the TIF district time period is complete, there should be more money for the parks. Josh plans to place mulch in DP playground before Y ball starts on May 17. Capital improvement sales tax is going to sunset - need to think about how to present this to the public.

C Volunteer Groups

Janice & Drew have been speaking about volunteer groups. Drew has created a list of things for groups to work on. Janice/Drew are coordinating/keeping a fluid list of projects. Items can be shown to those who are interested in helping. We should entertain groups providing the cost of the supplies. Josh feels like it is moving in the right direction. Lee Rucker contacted Josh & he wanted to improve drainage on red field including a list of drainage supplies. City will buy supplies & Lee & Dads will do the work, probably in July.

4. New Business

A. Director's Report

Josh mentioned that he is short staffed and currently doesn't have his usual six offenders. The Chillicothe Correctional Center contacted Josh about getting offenders trained and back to work - maybe June or sometime this summer. Seasonal were hired - Norma Wood (mowing), Mark Harper & Robert Moore- two ball field crew & three additional project crew individuals to do weeding which was offender work and whatever else Josh needs done.

Chilli Bay is the focus now. The reworked motor arrived and has been installed. Eric Menconi has been assisting in cleanup & painting. He received instructor training in Colorado since no red cross training is available locally. Most of the Chilli Bay staff has been hired. Diana Holcer - admissions; Amanda Hall - concessions; and the lifeguard supervisor still needs to be hired. Started selling passes (\$15 off group pass; \$10 off individual pass - thru end of April). Josh, Drew & Eric will be getting the scheduling calendar set up. He said he is ready to turn over to Kali in City Hall right away

CHS Sports - baseball and tennis - played in Danner Park with CHS baseball tourney next weekend. Josh mentioned that he needs to add ballfield materials to Danner after HS baseball & before Y ball

The City Website is up and going. Park's page looks good. Currently the only "live" reservation part is for shelter house reservations. Eventually will work for Chilli Bay reservations & season passes, swimming lessons, O'hana hut rentals, after hours pool rentals, etc. Drew is spending a lot of time providing tech support to people who need to set up user accounts. As of April 1, Drew has been promoted to Assistant Parks Director. Drew will serve as a Liaison between Green Hills Golf Course, Great Life Mid Mo and the City. The City wanted this. And he will report back to Darin and Josh. Drew will have more administrative tasks and will be coming to some of the Park Board meetings. Drew will be the staff person at the July meeting since Josh will be on vacation. An American Indian, Michael W. Gross wants to have a "Pow Wow", a traditional native American dance, which would be a several day event in Simpson Park. Mitchell noted that this sounds very interesting for the community but as has been discussed previously in park board meetings, perhaps the Parks Department needs a formalized process for groups that want to use the park. Many of the area organizations that use the park have an established record of respecting the park, cleaning up after their events and in some cases providing remuneration for the use of the park. At this time, the only process in place is that if the park needs to be blocked off, the group has to come to park board for approval, then it goes to the city council. Concerns are potential liability issues, damage to park, cleanup, etc. If just a section of Park is needed and it doesn't require blocking off to the public, a group can reserve shelter house & have that area. There

appeared to be general consensus that a standardized process for dealing with these requests is needed. Josh is going to research this.

5. Financials - none

6. Questions and/or Comments

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 17 2021 at 5:15 p.m. at Chilli Bay.

Mitchell moved that the meeting be adjourned. Jim Hinrichs seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Lou Cowherd
Secretary