

WHITEHALL PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

July 10, 2019

Location: Lamby Lane Park

The meeting of the Whitehall Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order at 6:01 PM by Chairman John Fetters. In attendance: Chris Bolich, Tiffanie Charles, Fetters, Katie Quincel, Director Shannon Sorrell, and Shannon Werner.

Charles moved, seconded by Fetters, to excuse the absent members and the motion carried 4 – 0. Mark Schieber subsequently arrived at 6:06 PM.

There were no guests to poll for questions or comments.

To follow up on the discussion of a future tree ordinance that was included in the June 12, 2019 meeting minutes, Sorrell said the department was meeting with ODNR to evaluate the trees at the Woodcliff/Midcliff property so that the city can make an educated recommendation for tree retention to developers to include in their RFPs.

Bolich moved, seconded by Charles, to approve the June 12, 2019 meeting minutes and the motion carried 4 – 0.

The Commission reviewed the following items: Employees' wages/ personal service for 5/26/19 through 6/27/19; bills and refunds for June 2019; and the Trust Fund, budget, and income for June 2019.

Director's Report:

Sorrell reviewed a written report comparing 2018 and 2019 event and program participation numbers. Music in the Park has been well attended and the department hosted fewer softball tournaments. For clinics and summer camps, approximately 50% of those who signed up, showed up. The 3-on-3 basketball tournament has been moved to the fall and the department is seeking teen advocates. And the FSWCD hosted creeking event was cancelled due to high water and low sign-ups.

As an official ambassador, Sorrell received a family membership from COSI which will be raffled off during the movie series.

The department is waiting on a new quote from Jess Howard for the ball diamond netting.

Staff has met with Heartland Bank, and is scheduled to meet with FSWCFD on-site to get their opinion and discuss remedies for the rain garden.

Sorrell and Ollie toured the Marion Technical Center. The center has a very passionate instructor who has introduced a heavy construction program into Marion's high school. The Center would like to build a relationship with and extend their program Whitehall, possibly in partnership with the YMCA.

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Next, Sorrell explained that while there is no prescribed mechanism to name new parks in the charter, the offer of financial contributions, in exchange for naming rights, has been made for the future park at Norton Crossing. A combined \$30k/per year, for five years, has been offer to name the park “Kelly Green” (in perpetuity) and the stage “Byers Auto Pavilion” (for five years).

Charles moved, seconded by Feters, to name the facilities at Norton Crossing the “Kelly Green,” in perpetuity, and the pavilion the “Byers Auto Pavilion,” for five years. The motion carried 5 – 0.

Sorrell said that renting the shelter at Lamby Lane Park has been very successful this year. Looking ahead to next year, the department has received requests to open the restroom building and this would require further discussion to integrate this request into the rental agreement.

Lastly, Schieber explained he recently attended a seminar put on by FSWCD which studied the value of trees to offset/ improve storm water systems. He provided copies of the presentation.

There being no further business, Charles moved, seconded by Quincel, and the meeting adjourned at 6:35 PM.

To the best of my knowledge these minutes are true and correct.

Chairman John Feters

Prepared by:

Shannon Werner