

## WHITEHALL PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

January 13, 2021

### VIRTUAL MEETING

Mayor Kim Maggard administered the Oath of Office to Whitehall Parks and Recreation Commissioners Chris Bolich, GERAL Leka, Katie Quincel, and Nathaniel Stewart who all answered in the affirmative.

The meeting of the Whitehall Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order at 6:09 PM by Chairman John Fetters.

On a roll call, in attendance: Chris Bolich, Fetters, GERAL Leka, Mike McQuate, Katie Quincel, Nathaniel Stewart, Director Shannon Sorrell, and Shannon Werner. Absent: Mike Adkins.

Quincel moved, seconded by Bolich, to excuse the absent member and the motion carried 6 – 0.

To begin the re-organizational portion of the meeting, Director Sorrell opened the floor to nominations for chairperson. Bolich nominated John Fetters for chairperson, seconded by Quincel. There being no further nominations, nominations were closed and a voice vote was taken. All members answered in the affirmative, with Fetters abstaining, and John Fetters was re-elected chairperson of the Whitehall Parks and Recreation Commission for 2021.

Next, Sorrell opened the floor to nominations for vice-chairperson. Fetters nominated Mike Adkins, seconded by Quincel. There being no further nominations, nominations were closed and a voice vote was taken. All members answered in the affirmative and Mike Adkins was re-elected vice-chairperson of the Whitehall Parks and Recreation Commission for 2021.

There were no guests to poll for questions or comments.

Bolich moved, seconded by Quincel, to approve the meeting minutes for December 2, 2020 and the motion carried 6 – 0.

The Commission reviewed the following items: Invoice, Trust Fund, budget, and income for December 2020.

#### Director's Report:

Although the department returned money to the City's general fund for its operating lines last year, 2020 funds are still encumbered to finish several projects – including organizational tools for the shop.

Due to Covid-19, the Senior Center is still closed. Staff plans to post a new job listing for an Active Living Coordinator who will be tasked with reopening the senior center in accordance with FCPH and CDC guidelines with limited center hours.

AARP will be doing taxes filings via the Senior Center again this year. They will set up a drive-thru and phone system and only AARP volunteers will have access to the building. Parks and Rec. may assist with online sign-ups.

Robbie Johnson is back on light duty. He will start packing up the Senior Center so the floors can be refinished and walls painted. A new generator was also funded for 2021 through City capital dollars.

The WSC TANF after-school program has contracted Parks and Rec. to offer supplemental programming. Cory Ollie is teaching hour-long programs at their 3 sites, 4 times per month. About 100 students are enrolled, but attendance is closer to 30-50 per week. Reimbursement for the programs are deposited in to the Recreation Trust Fund.

Staff continues to put together and distribute Rec 2 Go boxes. The next box focuses on school supplies for younger kids. 200 boxes will be distributed to the TANF students, Center of Hope, and WCS.

Beginning in February, twice a month, Parks and Rec. will hold family programs inside the YMCA on Saturdays. Participation will be capped at 10 and held at no cost. Planned activities include soccer, cooking, and art.

The year's first big event is planned for May 15 at Whitehall Community Park. The event includes the Rockwell Aviation bench dedication, ribbon cutting of the new creek accesses, and a Big Walnut Creek cleanup.

Most events are planned for June, July and August. Staff will distribute an updated calendar to the Commission next week. The calendar includes programs at Norton Crossing 3 days per week (Farmers Market, family movement, music, and Yoga) as well as 2 adult-centered movie nights. 5 concerts, 3 of which will be paired with family movies, are being planned for John Bishop Park, as well as a park party at Lamby Lane Park. At JBP and Lamby Lane, staff will contract the Lions Club again to assist with the prep and distribution of free food. The department will also be supporting the Food Truck Festival (where the department will run Artist Alley), the fireworks, and National Night Out. 4 weeks of youth sports camps will be held if allowed. All events and programs will be planned in accordance with the most current Covid-related safety guidelines.

Sorrell will be meeting with Bob Straits to discuss creating an umbrella youth sports organization and bring back a youth soccer league. Quincel suggested restarting a recreational youth bowling league again in the future.

The City is preparing a virtual State of the City address. Department Directors filmed their portions today. Sorrell's segment was filmed at the new canoe launch and was mostly an update on awards received from OPRA and Clean Ohio funded creek projects.

Bid openings for parking lots and paving are scheduled for the end of the month. The City will evaluate the bid amounts, as well as consider postponing work on the WCP parking lot. These decisions will impact if one or both phases of the Dog Park construction will be completed in 2021.

Whitehall Parks and Recreation Commission January 13, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Bolich asked for an update on the Woodcliff/Midcliff development at the next meeting.

Due to technical difficulties, the meeting ended at 6:49pm

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

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Chairman John Feters

Prepared by:

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Shannon Werner