

WHITEHALL PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

August 25, 2016

The meeting of the Whitehall Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order at 6:09 pm by Chairperson John Feters. In attendance: Tiffanie Charles, Feters, Katie Quincel, Greg Thurman, Director Steve Carr, and Shannon Werner. Absent: Mike Adkins, Kyra Barnes, and Zach Wright. Guest: Councilman Wes Kantor.

Thurman moved, seconded by Charles, to excuse the absent members and the motion carried 4 – 0.

There were no guests to be polled for questions or comments.

Carr noted, regarding the August 4th meeting minutes, that the WBFA got permission to remove the goal posts and staff shifted to field to the west. The diamond's infield is now out of the field of play, though still in the end zone. Quincel moved, seconded by Charles, to approve the minutes for the August 4th regular meeting and the motion carried 4 – 0.

Charles moved, seconded by Thurman, to approve employees' wages/personal service for 7/22/16 through 8/18/16 and the motion carried 4 – 0.

Thurman moved, seconded by Quincel, to approve bills and refunds through July 31st and the motion carried 4 – 0.

The Commission reviewed the Trust Fund and budget through July 31st. Werner also included a July 2016 income report which the Commission reviewed.

Director's Report:

In his report, Carr attached a summary of the Whitehall Community Survey and an updated status of the 2016 goals. He added that he had solicited more quotes from blacktop and seal coat contractors for work on the JBP basketball courts and will report back with those numbers.

Carr said Deputy Chief Sharpless reviewed the Metro Parks' Park Ranger Policies and Procedures manual. Carr received his breakdown and recommendations today. Sharpless provided very valuable input and Carr will have more updates.

Carr highlighted the park projects updates. Vortex's splash pad drawings are 95% complete. He reviewed the revised timeline which still has a firm opening date of Memorial Day weekend, 2017.

Regarding WCP, the city's engineers EMH&T, have completed the design for the boulevard off Hamilton Road and the circular drive leading to the Activity Center. While the conceptual plans previously submitted by EMH&T showed the future building addition to the Activity Center's entrance, the final design did not. A parking area in the final design overlaps the footprint of the future building addition and there is a loss of a significant portion of the main lot closest to the building too. Carr has left a message with Ryan Andrews of EMH&T to discuss these concerns.

Charles asked why the completion of the basketball courts keeps getting pushed back. She feels strongly that this a project that needs to be accomplished as soon as possible as it something the community has been asking for.

Carr said he didn't think the Commission had taken an official action and the first quote seemed exorbitantly high.

Charles said the quote was for two half courts and one full court. The Commission had previously agreed to 3 half courts, and wouldn't that be cheaper?

Carr said it would be a little less expensive and he did think there were sufficient 2016 funds to complete the project.

Quincel asked how much longer it would take to get more estimates. Carr said one company looked at the area today and he would follow up with the other companies. Charles reiterated that she'd like to see the project expedited.

Carr said he'd like to see the Commission to take an official action before he spends \$30k. He said they could give him a "do not exceed" price and the project could potentially be done before the next meeting.

Thurman did not think they could give an informed "do not exceed price" and urged patience as they have a lot of projects on the table.

Charles said she that, while she wanted to do the project well, she is frustrated by the slow pace that is hindered further by only meeting once a month.

Fetters suggested that Steve get three estimates for three half courts by the next meeting and they would take action then.

Quincel also asked that they look into adding security cameras for the courts to the 2017 budget.

Carr requested a formal action.

Charles moved, seconded by Quincel, to build three half basketball courts at John Bishop Park chosen from three estimates and the motion carried 4 – 0.

Carr stated that the department's 2017 goals and budget are due to the mayor after the September regular meeting and he referred again to the status of department goals. Carr also asked if everyone was still on board with finishing the disc golf course project. He said 72 people could participate at once. Its construction is relatively inexpensive. And it is a free amenity for all ages and all skill levels.

Charles said she was definitely still on board.

Quincel said they should finish it and market the course as it is a well-kept secret. Once the project is completed she'd like to see programming like leagues or lessons incorporated.

Carr suggested they could consider information from the community survey when drafting the 2017 goals and that he'd like some discussion and ideas from the Commission. He said people could also email or call him during the week too.

Carr said the 2016 budget includes money for trees and the best time to plant is in the fall. He asked for suggestions as to where tree should be planted, noting that WCP may not be the best choice due to construction.

Quincel suggested the take a look at where shade is needed in the pocket parks. And that focusing on one park at a time may make a bigger impact.

Charles asked how often swings were replaced. Carr said they we replaced only as needed. Charles thought that new and different swing designs throughout the parks would be nice. Fetters said that was tricky because, for safety, swings needed to be compatible with the frames.

There being no further business, Charles moved, seconded by Thurman, and the meeting adjourned at 7:16 pm.

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