



Park & Rec Committee
Thursday, October 14, 2021 - 10:00 AM
MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Committee Chair Carol Van Deest called the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting for October 14, 2021 to order at 10:00 am

Members Present - Carol Van Deest, Mayor Chip Dutcher
Absent - Sharon Hendren

Staff present - Jim Lenner - Village Manager, Jack Liggett - Ast. Village Manager, Marvin Block - City Council, Bailey Klimchak - Planner, Jim Blair - Zoning Inspector

Public present - Richard Waugh - Licking Park District, Keith Ryan - Greater Johnstown Parks and Recreation District

2. Action on Minutes

a. August 19, 2021

ACTION: Chip Dutcher moved to Approve; Carol Van Deest seconded and all were in favor
Dutcher, Van Deest

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Passed 2 - 0

3. Trailhead Park - Project updates (Bailey)

Bailey Klimchak said the Arborist is trimming the oak tree in the Dog Park; when finished, the fence gates will be put on, waste stations and signage will be installed. Jack Liggett said he thought within three weeks the additional Trailhead parking lot paving would also be done. A parking lot on Douglas in front of the Dog Park is in CIP for next year; \$30,000 for gravel and grading in 2022 and paving in 2023. Discussion on drainage and residential sump pump flow from Concord Crossing, and the potential for reinstating the drainage ditch.

2021 Committee Goals

- 1. Apply for the 2020-2021 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant through ODOT for Raccoon Creek Park Trail Phase I
- 2. Establish a Joint Recreation District - Discussions in progress
- 3. Continue to work on the Mastodon Preserve and the Johnstown Trailhead Park projects -Parking lot completion, ~~Concrete pad removal~~ Establish a Dog Park, Tree plantings
- 4. Continue to work toward a Longwell & Miles Memorial Estate implementation plan
- 5. Continue discussions with JYAA about their soccer fields that are surrounded by Raccoon Creek Park (Dick Hill property) - In Progress
- 6. Pursue bike path extensions - In preliminary discussion
- 7. Pursue a Raccoon Creek path extension to Edwards Road
- 8. Market community assets - Parks, Trailhead (Shared ED goal)
- 9. Walkway to Hannahs Park from US 62f

Carol Van Deest introduced Richard Waugh to Keith Ryan who gave a brief overview of the new Greater Johnstown Parks and Recreation District function.

Ms. Van Deest highlighted completion of the new sidewalk to the shelter house.

Ms. Klimchak said there was some interest in memorial benches at the Dog Park, discussion on cost and where Licking County gets theirs, their charge is \$1,250.00. Mr. Waugh said they are heavy and almost need to be put on a concrete pad; that in the short term a picnic table could be used, in the long term the city should consider a concrete walk from the gate for ADA accessibility to a gazebo or shelter. Ms. Van Deest suggested some research on benches or picnic tables to bring back to committee for discussion.

Ms. Van Deest highlighted park links and pictures she has been working to add to the Johnstown website; discussion on work that has gone into making the Johnstown parks viable. Discussion on park amenities; the charcoal grill stands are used often, if more are needed, Mr. Waugh said the Park District may have some extra. Discussion on drinking fountains, getting water to the Dog Park, electricity at the shelter house.

Marvin Block said that Council members are donating trees to be planted at the Trailhead; looking at two Ginkos and Three Tri-Colored Beech trees to be planted near the parking lot, discussion on watering.

4. Tap Grant Update (Bailey)

a. Raccoon Creek Trail Cost Estimate

Bailey Klimchak provided an updated estimate for the trail in Raccoon Creek Park. TAP Grant funding has been decreased to eighty percent, application is for Phase One from US62 to the new parking lot in the Pulte development. Ms. Klimchak said the Letter of Interest is due October 30th and they should let us know by December 1st if we can apply; the application is open December 1st through middle of January. Richard Waugh asked Ms. Klimchak to check with city engineers on the construction contingency percentage.

5. Discussion - Recognition Plaque (Jack/Bailey)

It has been requested by a family member of Darwin "Chops" Montgomery that there be some type of memorial with his name on it; Mr. Montgomery was a WWII veteran, long-time village employee and life-time Johnstown resident. Discussion on a memorial tree or boulder plaque in Bigelow Park; family to be consulted for wording, discussion to continue.

6. City Flag Contest

a. Flag Entries

Committee review of all entries submitted, group discussion on likes and dislikes, the possibility of combining different entries into one, or enlisting a branding company. No decision, discussion to continue.

7. Other Business

1. Richard Waugh said the Dog Park looks awesome, a change was made on the fly and

he is going to change his schematics on the design for future ones because it saves money and makes sense. He is glad they put gravel down there. Mr. Waugh provided information on the Licking Park District levy on the election ballot.

2. Bailey Klimchak to check with Monroe Township Trustees on "Pedestrian Crossing Ahead" signage on Concord Road for the new parking lot at the bike trail. Discussion on turning the old gravel parking lot back to grass; Mr. Waugh said to let him check with their contractor. Committee direction for Jack Liggett to buy the signs, Bailey to work with Trustees on permission.

3. Keith Ryan said the Greater Johnstown Parks and Recreation District is doing well, they have officers and terms picked. Additionally, they are working toward getting 501c3 tax exempt status; noted they are not able to use a PO Box and must have a physical address, asked if the village address could be used; permission given. Mr. Ryan said the board continues to discuss who they are, what they are doing, obligations and a future tax levy.

4. Jim Blair said he and Carol met with Kevin Looker, the property owner of the Johnstown Railroad Station, discussion on the idea of someone purchasing and taking ownership and moving it to the trailhead. Potential interest by the Babcock Foundation, Heartland Bank or Evans Foundation. Mr. Block said if the station got moved, Ohio Rail Museum might possibly give us a rail car; also said an idea for it to support itself would be to rent it out for a restaurant or other business. Some further discussion on conversation with Mr. Looker and potential plans for the property.

8. Adjourn

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 11:41 a.m.