



Park & Rec Committee
Thursday, October 8, 2020 - 10:00 AM
MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Committee Chair Carol Van Deest called the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting for October 8, 2020 to order at approximately 10:00 am.

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

Staff present - Jim Lenner, Bailey Klimchak, Jack Liggett, Ben Lee, Jim Blair

Public present - None

2. Action on Minutes

a. September 10, 2020

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

AYES: Carol Van Deest, Chip Dutcher

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Passed 2 - 0

1. Apply for the 2020 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant through ODOT for Raccoon Creek Park Trail Phase I

2. Establish a Joint Recreation District

3. Resurface Bike Path (Concord to Jersey)

4. Continue to work on the Mastodon Preserve and the Johnstown Trailhead Park projects

5. Continue to work toward a Longwell & Miles Memorial Estate implementation plan

6. Discuss with JYAA about their soccer fields that are surrounded by Raccoon Creek Park

7. Establish a dog park (probably at Johnstown Trailhead Park)

8. Plan for bike path extensions

9. Plan for a Raccoon Creek path extension to Edwards Road

10. Market community assets that will bring more cultural events to Johnstown

3. Raccoon Creek Park (including TAP grant)

Bailey Klimchak said the letters of interest for TAP opened on October 1st and she is currently working on answering those questions and will try to have them done by next Thursday to get them to Carol and Jim Lenner for review and edits; letters are due by October 31, 2020. If approved and invited to apply, the official application would be submitted in December.

4. Joint Recreation District

No updates provided.

5. Mastodon Preserve

Jim Blair said the preserve has been mowed and the path sprayed for weeds. Updated last time on the new trail sign that was installed.

6. Johnstown Trailhead Park

Chip Dutcher asked about the removal of some railroad ties at the corner of East Jersey and the Trailhead parking lot; Jack Liggett has put in the request to the Service Director and will remind him.

The shelter house is complete and looks great; Jack Liggett said quotes for picnic tables have been forwarded to Bailey, his goal is to add seven six foot tables and one Handicap table. Bailey Klimchak said that Angel's Persist has said they are interested in donating some money toward the tables, only request is a plaque recognizing the donation; amount unknown at this time but she will be touching base with the quote. Mr. Lenner noted the donation is appreciated; also wants to make sure the grant from Energy Cooperative for the shelter house is prominently recognized, discussion on what plaques/signs would look like.

Concrete pad will be removed. Jack Liggett said Finance Committee approved \$17,000 to get the parking lot leveled out and stone in and grading and reshaping where trees removed; contract has been given and will start by next week. \$2,000 was approved for the picnic tables.

No estimate provided by the Licking Park District yet on the dog park; Bailey said Richard Waugh suggested a place holder in the CIP budget for \$50,000 but she did not think it would cost that much and the hope is Licking Park District will help contribute. Mr. Lenner noted this is competing with other projects for CIP funds in the budget but it can be put on the list. Ms. Robertson said it is a wanted project, just depends on funds available. Ms. Van Deest noted her concern again, that this Trailhead is for all of Central Ohio and suggested seeking other funding sources such as the T.J. Evans Foundation and/or others.

Ms. Van Deest asked for an update on utilities: Jack Liggett said water for the dog park will be simple, there is a main that runs down Douglas; also that drainage will be improved by our service department putting in a short run of storm sewer to dry up where the parking area will be; he has not checked on how the solar lights are performing at the shelter house. Mr. Blair added he had been up there and only one light was working so he let Jeff Holbrook know.

7. Downtown Johnstown, Inc. - Craig Bohning

No updates from Mr. Bohning.

8. Licking County Parks - Richard Waugh

Mr. Waugh unable to make the meeting but spoke with Bailey on the update for dog park provided earlier.

9. Mowing Contract Update

Mr. Lenner previously mentioned contracting out mowing; Jack Liggett said this year was tough due to COVID and being short staffed and thinks next spring staff should be full and able to handle the work, we have the equipment and it is always cheaper to keep in-house.

10. Other Business

1. Mr. Lenner and Bailey Klimchak said they will be working on an Active Transportation Plan over the next few months; this will analyze current infrastructure, complete an inventory and work with all the ideas for Raccoon Creek Trail, trail extensions on street infrastructure like bicycle lanes etc. to be making a plan for active transportation in Johnstown, the County and Central Ohio as a whole and how to connect active transportation users in Johnstown to those systems. The cost is free, L-Cats will be helping us, costs are covered under our membership fee; project completion goal is around March 2021 and will be sent to Council for review. Ms. Van Deest encouraged committee to review the Newark-Heath plan and said it is a great opportunity. Mayor Dutcher said the route of the federal bike system runs down Edwards Road and we should keep that in mind for the future Edwards Road project; Ms. Van Deest agreed that the national route should be promoted.

2. Mr. Dutcher would like to add park map locations to the village website.

3. Mr. Dutcher inquired on the Energy Coop lot on Mink Road discussed as potential parking for parks; Mr. Lenner said he talked to Gary Baker, he will be checking on potential.

4. Mr. Blair said he gets complaints about dead trees along the bike trail and has met with the Service Director to mark, large trees would need to be contracted out, estimate would need to come to Council.

5. Bailey asked Council members online to make decision on what type of tree they would like to plant in Rolling Meadows Park for Cletus Beam; choices are found on the Memorial Tree Fund application.

Other action items noted not related to Park and Rec; passed along to appropriate department director.

11. Adjourn

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

AYES: Carol Van Deest, Chip Dutcher

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Passed 2 - 0

Meeting adjourned approximately 11:00 am

