



Park & Rec Committee
Thursday, March 11, 2021 - 10:00 AM
MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Committee Chair Carol Van Deest called the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting for March 11, 2021 to order at 10:00 am.

Members Present - Carol Van Deest, Mayor Chip Dutcher, Sharon Hendren
Absent - None

Staff present - Jim Lenner, Jack Liggett, Bailey Klimchak, Jim Blair, Ben Lee, Marvin Block, Teresa Monroe.

Public present - Richard Waugh, Dick Mosley

2. Action on Minutes - February 11, 2021

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

AYES: Carol Van Deest, Chip Dutcher, Sharon Hendren

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Passed 3 - 0

3. Joint Recreation District Update

Jim Lenner said legislation will be in front of Council on Tuesday; to authorize him to enter into an agreement with the School District and to partner with the School District to get the District formed. Once formed, appointments will be made by the Village and School

2021 Committee Goals

1. Apply for the 2020 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant through ODOT for Raccoon Creek Park Trail Phase I - Grant application submitted
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 62

Board. There was one dissenting vote from the School Board, Anne Thomas, Mr. Lenner said as he understood, her concern was that the Park District may compete or confuse folks during a time when levies are being requested.

4. JYAA discussion update

Jim Lenner said he has been told that JYAA will request some sort of purchase price for the Dick Hill property, said they are acting in their best interest by not just giving an asset away. Mr. Lenner said that asset is in a flood plain and is useless but they will try. Added that JYAA is also starting the process of annexation through the County. Mayor Dutcher asked what annexation type they would use; Mr. Lenner said he assumes expedited. Jack Liggett added that JYAA leased the Dick Hill property for \$1.00; he understands not wanting to give away an asset but the asset was given to them for the children of the Village of Johnstown; they did not purchase it or upgrade it in any way and it sits in a flood plain so we shouldn't pay too much for it.

Mr. Lenner provided an update to committee on the Energy Cooperative's expansion plan off of Mink Road; the village owns nine acres between the sewer plant and the coop's substation, they will cross Mink Road and clear-cut the one hundred foot easement for their new transmission line, they are requesting to purchase two acres from the village to upgrade their substation. Mr. Lenner said he has not evaluated yet but wanted to put in front of the committee because this is a piece of the Raccoon Creek Park area. Mr. Liggett noted that the sewer plant will be in need of expansion in the near future and once that is done there is no more room on the current site for wastewater expansion. Mayor Dutcher asked if the Dick Hill property was contiguous to us and the sewer plant; Mr. Liggett said that it was but it sits in a flood plain. Mayor Dutcher asked if the property could be used some day if something like a flood wall were to be put in; Mr. Liggett said he did not know, the reason he commented was because he always figured we might expand; he did not like where that one hundred foot easement was sitting and we might want to think of that as area for additional sewage treatment facility, it would be a good neighbor to the electric substation. Ms. Van Deest asked if the Energy Coop could possibly go higher up on the hill with their transmission line, could we have discussion with them and tell them our situation with the sewer plant and expansion some day; Mr. Lenner said yes.

5. NatureWorks Grant

Bailey Klimchak said she spoke with a representative from ODNR who said we do have the ability to apply for multiple funds for multiple projects but the first project that we submit an application for will get a certain amount of points and then any application after that will not get those points so projects should be prioritized. The two she has focused on are paving the new Trailhead parking lot and the Hannahs Park dry restroom; Bailey mentioned applying for Nature Works funds for paving the parking lot and said she is curious if some of the COVID funds the village will receive could be used to pay for Hannahs Park dry restroom. Mayor Dutcher asked if there was an estimate for the dry restroom; Richard Waugh said \$31,000 for one seater and add \$10,000 for installation.

Licking County has \$59,000 to award for the Nature Works Grant, Ms. VanDeest said she would like to see the village application come in around \$45,000, Ms. Klimchak said the last estimate on the Trailhead parking lot paving was \$25-30,000; Jack Liggett said he

should have an estimate back soon from the same company paving the water and sewer plant lots.

Ms. Hendren asked about basketball courts; Ms. Van Deest said focus now is on the Dog Park; Ms. Hendren said Downtown Johnstown Inc. would pay for the basketball hoops and poles but not the concrete. Committee to keep this on the back burner for now.

Mayor Dutcher asked if the Trailhead parking lot paving was able to be looped in with the E. Jersey Street project, would it make any difference if we have separately bid the parking lot; Jack Liggett said as long as the project has not been awarded.

ACTION:	Chip Dutcher moved to apply for the Nature Works Grant in the amount of \$40,000 - \$50,000 to use for the Trailhead parking lot; Carol Van Deest seconded and the vote was as follows:
AYES:	Carol Van Deest, Chip Dutcher, Sharon Hendren
NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

Passed 3 - 0

Bailey said the Nature Works Grant is due June 1st, she will get started on it and will get the estimate for the dry restroom to Jim Lenner and Finance Committee and will add to the CARES fund "wish list".

6. Johnstown Trailhead Park

a. Wheelchair access at Shelter House

Bailey Klimchak received a call that there is a wheelchair accessible picnic table in the shelter house but presently there is no way for someone in a wheelchair to access it because the concrete pad that the table sits on is four or five inches off of the ground so they could not wheel themselves in, they would need help getting up onto the concrete pad. Putting in a path that could get people from the parking lot or the trail to the shelter house was discussed last year, just need to get it back on the radar. Mr. Liggett said he is waiting for weather to dry out enough to put top soil and drain tile in then he intends to get the estimate for a sidewalk. Mayor Dutcher said we should get the message out that the shelter house is open but not finished yet. It was noted that it would be best have the sidewalk come off of the trailhead because it would be a much more level grade; Mr. Liggett added that no engineering is needed; it will be a five foot wide, ADA slope to the shelter house. Bailey to follow up with the person who called to let them know of the plans to complete; Mr. Lenner said he would put the word out on social media that work there is not complete yet.

b. Pedestrian Counter - Update

The purchase was approved by Finance Committee and is in the budget. Bailey said she has two recommendations, one from LCATS and one from MORPC; said LCATS installed

the one recommended and they were having some issues with it, she would call LCATS to see if the one they use is functioning well, if not she also has the recommendation from MORPC.

c. Eagle Scout Projects - Update

Jim Blair said the scouts plan to build a bench and about three bat houses to hang in the trees along the Mastodon Trail, specific trees have been discussed and the bench will be secured. Mr. Blair said if the Dog Park gets up and running, the bench may be relocated to the entrance. The scouts name is Alex Rush and he is working with three other scouts on the project. Bailey Klimchak said if other scouts contact us looking for projects we can always use benches and shade structures for the Dog Park.

d. Dog Park - Update

Bailey Klimchak said they have received drawings from the engineer and Finance Committee has approved funding for the village's half of the Dog Park. Next steps are to get contacts for local contractors from Jim Blair, he will forward to staff. Richard Waugh asked for that contact as well so he could get concurrence that the plan is good.

e. Thank you to Mike Gutridge & staff for work at the Trailhead

Ms. Van Deest gave a special thank you for the work they have been doing moving the concrete; discussed an extra way to thank them, maybe lunch.

7. Active Transportation Plan - Update

a. [ATP Plan Draft](#)

Bailey Klimchak said the information in the draft is pretty much good to go, will continue adding pictures and making it look nice; she welcomes comments on any edits needed. Ms. Klimchak said the document contains maps of existing gaps and barriers in the system as well as a map of suggested projects to make the system complete and efficient as well as funding options; she thanked LCATS for all of their work and assistance on this. Would like to have the final document by May 11th so would like to have any comments for edits by April 11th. Ms. Van Deest asked if there was anything glaring that came out of doing this that the village needs. Ms. Klimchak said the connections along Mink Road and US 62 with the high amounts of traffic and the big growth in homes to the south, it is really important to have those connections to the downtown area. She added that the public survey backed up the discussions about the gaps in sidewalks and extending the trail and crosswalks; Mr. Lenner noted the great response rate to the survey. Mayor Dutcher said Bailey did a great job and this gives us a good view of what the village needs to do, some items like bike racks can be taken care of quickly to show we are actively addressing these issues. Discussion on the plan to continue at the April committee meeting.

8. Hannahs Park Walkway

This is one of the committee goals for this year; putting in a walkway from US 62 back to Hannahs Park parking lot. Jack Liggett to get an estimate for the pathway. Ms. Van Deest said if it is feasible, the Tree Commission could study putting in trees along the pathway. Further discussion on execution.

9. Licking Park District - Richard Waugh

Mr. Waugh said they are looking forward to the Dog Park project; he did receive the fence contractor contact from Mr. Blair and will be talking with him.

Has been in contact with Concord Road property owner Charles Parker; he has made good progress and they are in the middle of negotiating a ten or twelve space parking lot for the bike trail, he is optimistic there will be a parking lot this year. Mr. Lenner added that Chief Haroon has expressed concern regarding the cars that park along Concord Road and the safety of those using the bike trail.

10. Downtown Johnstown, Inc. updates - Sharon Hendren

Ms. Hendren said Springfest is being planned, event dates discussed, tentative date June 19th; going to have "Johnstown's Got Talent". Plan to hold another Spring Cleanup, Jim Lenner asked that if the village needs to provide anything such as the street sweeper or dump trucks to haul mulch to let him know as soon as possible. Car show also being planned, tentative date September 12th.

11. Other Business

1. Mr. Lee suggestion to add additional ADA accessible playground equipment either at Rolling Meadows Park or Hannahs Park. Ms. Van Deest noted that the Babcock Foundation was looking for projects; could apply to the foundation for some of the equipment.

2. Mr. Lenner provided an update to the committee on potential Site Ohio property.

3. Ms. Van Deest to send application for the Babcock Foundation to Ms. Klimchak so when there are qualified projects she can apply.

12. Adjourn

Next meeting is April 8, 2021. There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 11:07 a.m.