

CITY OF TWINSBURG, OHIO
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES
February 22, 2018

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by David Kleinman. A moment of silence was taken.

ROLL CALL/INVOCATION

Present: John Blust, Deborah Peltz, Chris Schaffer, Sue Vasiliauskas, David Kleinman, Rich Swerbinsky, Grant Boyes, Halle Davis, Gabriella Santacesaria

Also Present: Parks & Recreation Director Derek Schroeder, Athletic & Fitness Center Manager T.L. Thogmartin, Naturalist Stanley Stine, and Councilperson Jo-Ann McFearin

ABSENT MEMBERS

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Sue Vasiliauskas made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 30, 2017 meeting. John Blust seconded the motion.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

OLD BUSINESS

- Deborah Peltz provided an update regarding Friends of Twinsburg Parks. The bank account is open and the P.O. Box has been set up. There have been a couple of memberships that have come through. They have been actively engaging with residents through additional press releases through the Twinsburg media and social media sites to raise awareness and to get information out as to when meetings are. They did have a distribution list set up so they can reach out to people who have become members to send out updates. They now have a number of volunteers. There have been four active board members that have reached out and have committed to that level of engagement. There are two people who have volunteered to do the newsletter. That will probably be launched in the next month or so. They did have their first open meeting with the public on February 19th, 2018. A lot of ideas and a lot of energy and questions. Meetings will be scheduled on the third Monday of every month from 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Right now they are having them at Brewsters. Two big initiatives that the group is working on are the Celebrity Bartending fundraising event at Rush Hour on February 24th, 2018. They are also sponsoring the Earth Day event that is on April 20th and 21st 2018. They will have a table set up with information about Friends of Twinsburg Parks and registration forms. They are also hoping to have t-shirts ready for this event as well. The next step is to define the subcommittees. Will be starting to work on items on the five-year plan. Lots of really good help from this commission as well as people who have already signed up.
- Stanley mentioned that there will be a hike at 8:00 a.m. at Pond Brook at Rt. 82 at Buttonbush trail on April 21st for Earth Day.
- Derek mentioned that the Environmental Commission has asked Metro Parks to be involved in Earth Day since the facility is available. They were a little hesitant, but, having this event at their facility creates more exposure for them. The Environmental Commission just has to follow the guidelines that Metro Parks set for the event. Stanley Stine mentioned that the parking lot is not designed for events such as Earth Day.
- T.L. Thogmartin also suggested that Deborah Peltz should bring up brochures, registration forms, etc. to be displayed at the Fitness Center as well. They could also set up a table on a Saturday for a couple of hours to create exposure for Friends of Twinsburg Parks.
- Derek Schroeder also mentioned about Rock the Park possibly partnering with Friends of Twinsburg Parks to do a non-profit ad. Just need to provide volunteers.

REPORTS

Jo-Ann McFearin

- Nothing to report

John Blust

- Nothing to report

David Kleinman

- He had a chance to go to the planning meeting that was a couple of weeks ago and they talked about the grant that they received to connect neighborhoods in the city to downtown. It was a great meeting and some really good ideas came out of it. Was thinking of trying to repurpose Ravenna Road in some type of way to slow down traffic. One gentleman at the meeting said that it would be great to find a way to get a pathway for the people living in Twinsburg Heights down to the library. He made a mention of possibly using the railroad tracks to create a trail. They found out that there are only two trains that use these tracks so that is a possibility. Thanked Derek Schroeder for walking them through the different areas at the initial meeting and felt that that walk through helped prepare everyone for this meeting.

Debbie Peltz

- Nothing more to report

Chris Schaffer

- Was also at the “connectivity presentation” meeting. Hoping to stay involved and informed about that project. In regards to the five year plan, He thinks it is important to start throwing out ideas to take to the Friends of Twinsburg Parks and come up with a list of ideas that they can accomplish with the fundraising that the group is doing. Debbie Peltz agreed that it was a good idea. Might be a good idea to put this out on social media as well. Derek Schroeder mentioned that it would be a good idea to create a list from the five year plan on items that are lower budget items that the Friends of Twinburg Parks might be able to assist with.

Rich Swerbinsky

- Thanked Debbie Peltz for all of her hard work in creating the Friends of Twinsburg Parks group.
- He met with Kathi Powers and Chad Walker regarding the high school baseball fields. This meeting was to set up Twinsburg Youth Baseball for the future. There is a need for one smaller field and one larger field to take care of the needs of the community and the program. Kathi Powers was very receptive. The meeting went very well. The need isn't until June and July, maybe a little bit of August. Kathi Powers followed up with Rich Swerbinsky to let him know that the school board is going to work toward a solution. Kathi Powers met with the labor director as well on the legality of the TBL field crew working on fixing up the high school fields. She also needs to speak with Coach Don Jones as well to make sure he is on board with this idea. It is looking like they will be able to come to a rental agreement or something to that affect to use the high school baseball fields for the summer season.
- With regards to the smaller field, that they would like to put in a smaller field at Liberty. They had a meeting and went over finances and TBL is in a position to fund 50%, up to \$100,000, of a new youth baseball field at Liberty Park. Can be a showcase field used for T-Ball and Coach Pitch, etc. They would love to proceed and bring this to City Council. Derek Schroeder said that Capital Improvements and Finance would have to approve this as well. Would need Engineering drawings also. The first request would be that the City funds, investigates and gets the Engineering drawings and specs put together for this project this year. The second request would be that the Parks and Recreation Commission supports the moving forward of this project and includes this in their Capital Improvements request for 2019.
- David Kleinman made a motion for the Park and Recreation Commission to have Jo-Ann McFearin to bring this request to Council for them to fund the study of adding a new baseball field to Liberty Park. Debbie Peltz seconded the motion. This motion passed unanimously.

Sue Vasiliauskas

- Had a request to see if there would be more opportunities for team events such as the Adult Egg Hunt. She thought that maybe a team event should be organized for teenagers. Possibly a scavenger hunt or sporting event. Derek Schroeder mentioned that events like this have been planned in the past and they have not been successful, but he is open for suggestions. Very expensive. Made a suggestion that the teen representatives could possibly see if there would be any interest in an event geared toward teens.

Grant Boyes

- Nothing to report

Halle Davis

- Nothing to report

Gabriella Santacesaria

- Nothing to report. Does not know if there will be a Relay for Life event this year.

Branden Burns

- Not present

Stanley Stine

- The Garden Club will be hosting their annual Native Plants workshop on April 28, 2018. They will have vendors with native plants for sale. This is the fourth year for this event. Will be at the Community Center. The time has not yet been determined.
- The annual salamander and frog festival will be on March 3, 2018 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at the Community Center. This is basically for children up to fourth grade. Young adults have as much fun as the little kids.
- He has been receiving quite a number of inquiries from the Girl Scouts attempting to get their Gold Award and Boy Scouts attempting to get their Eagle Scout looking for projects. Twinsburg produces some of the very best young men in their teens.
- Spring has arrived according to the wildlife. The eastern bluebirds have been spotted and have been paired off and looking for housing. Crows are also paired off as well.
- Last Saturday, February 17th, they had a native plant nursery from Richfield at the Twinsburg library. About 70 people attended.
- Mentioned that The Friends of the Twinsburg Parks Group should meet Kate Chapel who is the Watershed Coordinator for the Tinkers Creek Watershed. Stanley gave a brief description of what a watershed is.

T.L. Thogmartin

- Wrapping up the Sunday High School basketball league. They have one more week of regular season and then the playoffs. Will finish off with the Championship game down at Quickens Loan Arena on April 5, 2018.
- Taylor Burns has put together a new volleyball league. Starts February 23, 2018. They were hoping to get 6 teams. They have 12 teams. Very exciting. Will be on Thursday nights for the next 6-8 weeks.
- Candy Scramble coming up on March 31, 2018
- Wet Egg Hunt is on March 31, 2018 as well.
- The weight room has two new treadmills.
- They will be creating some new training areas in the field house.
- They are looking to initiate a computerized check-in for the kid park. The computerized check-in will allow parents to check-in on an Ipad. The parent can list where they will be at in the facility and then also list who else could pick up their child. There will be a small monthly fee for this service.
- Fitness Center facility meeting is February 28, 2018. Derek Schroeder mentioned that they are looking at different areas of the facility as well as creating training zone areas. Once the drawings are final they will be brought before the Parks and Recreation Commission. Changes might take place in phases. These changes will affect the people who use the track so they want to get people's feedback on the design. The

start of the training zones will more than likely happen this year, but the possible rebranding probably won't take place until 2019. They have reached out to a firm to possibly get sponsorships for the training zones. They want to try to get sponsorships on their own first. They are always trying to look for new ways to draw people to the Fitness Center and bring in revenue.

- T.L. Thogmartin has researched big fans in the past for the fitness center to cool the field house.

Derek Schroeder

- Just wrapped up the theatre production of Willie Wonka. He thought it was well done. Was an hour and forty-five minutes. High quality production for the amount of people that are involved.
- They will be doing another production the last two weekends in September. Will be doing the Wizard of Oz. They will be doing two shows on Saturday and one show on Sunday each weekend because of football. Auditions will be early August.
- Will be doing a kid's production this summer. The production will be Annie. Will probably be sometime mid-July.
- In the process of hiring. No longer taking applications for Day Camp. No longer taking applications for Day Camp volunteers. Still accepting applications for lifeguards, concession stand, and golf course.
- Camp is in full planning mode. Field trips are booked. T-shirts have been designed. The interview process will be starting.
- There will not be any busing to or from summer day camp. There will be busing for field trips.
- They will be increasing staff for the before and after day camp care this year.
- The Adult Egg Hunt is coming up on March 23rd. Registration for the egg hunt was on Saturday this year and they sold out the same day of registration. If anyone knows of any businesses, or anyone, who would like to donate prizes for the egg hunt, that would be helpful.
- Concerts for Rock The Park. There are ten events at the amphitheater this year. The schedule will be released in April 2018. A lot of the sponsors have returned. Multi-year deals have been secured. This will be their 11th year with Strachan Novak Insurance as a presenting sponsor. Reggae Fest is May 26, 2018. A Christian rock band is also scheduled on May 17, 2018.
- Duathlon will be the first Sunday in June. Partnering with NC Multisports for this event. Registration is open.
- Community Gardens are now open for residents to register. Non-residents can register in about three weeks.
- Working with the Golf Course and the banquet center. Helping with one of the bridal shows. Also helping them to open up in July 2018. The restaurant at the Golf Course will be called Aaron Moses. Will be open seven days a week. Very exciting.
- No upgrades have been made to the amphitheater as yet.

NEW BUSINESS

- Debbie Peltz was questioning the taking down of the white building by the water tower to possibly providing parking for the Old Hickory Trail and making it a trailhead. Derek Schroeder mentioned that this project is on the shelf (designed and everything) and that he will check with Amy Mohr regarding this project.
- Taste of Twinsburg will be coming back on June 9, 2018 from 2:00 – 7:00 p.m. They are teaming up with the Wild Roots Twinsburg (formerly Market on the Square). Going to be eating, music, and shopping.

SCHEDULE OF NEXT MEETING

- The schedule of the meetings for 2018 are as follows: April 26, June 28, August 23, October 25, and November 29th. 6:30 p.m. start time at Twinsburg City Hall. All approved.
- The next meeting is scheduled for April 26, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. at Twinsburg City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

- Grant Boyes made a motion to adjourn and Rich Swerbinsky seconded that motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Minutes prepared by Lisa Toth, Twinsburg City Hall