

CITY OF TWINSBURG, OHIO
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES
April 26, 2018

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by David Kleinman. A moment of silence was taken.

ROLL CALL/INVOCATION

Present: Deborah Peltz, Chris Schaffer, Sue Vasiliauskas, David Kleinman, Grant Boyes, Halle Davis

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

ABSENT MEMBERS: John Blust, Rich Swerbinsky, and Gabriella Santacesaria

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Chris Schaffer made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 22nd meeting. Debbie Peltz seconded the motion.

RE-SWEARING IN OF COMMISSION MEMBERS

- David Kleinman and Sue Vasiliauskas were sworn in.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Jo-Ann McFearin discussed the white building that is at the corner of 91 and Post Road. Brought it up to Planning Commission to have it taken down, because it is not serving a purpose and is rundown. There are monies available from the National Association of Realtors for placemaking and parks, so a grant could be submitted for possibly parking or a trailhead access, picnic tables, rain garden, etc. for Hickory Trail if Friends of Twinsburg Parks would be interested in assisting with that. Derek Schroeder mentioned that this was on their capital request last year, engineering drawings were created for a parking lot, and then the project was dismissed because of the cost. They are hoping to get a new sign for the actual trailhead outside of the Community Gardens that will be for more trailhead parking. When Jo-Ann McFearin finds out when it is going to be presented to the Planning Commission for the okay to get that taken down, she will let everyone know and is requesting support to be at that meeting. There are some people trying to save the building due to historical significance. David Kleinman confirmed that the Parks and Rec Commission can be at that meeting when it takes place to support this project. Deborah Peltz made a motion to support this project to move forward with the raising of the white house and turning it into trailhead access for Old Hickory Trail and Sue Vasiliauskas seconded the motion. This motion passed unanimously 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS

- Deborah Peltz gave an update for Friends of Twinsburg Parks. They just received final approval on the 501c3. They have had their 4th meeting. Meeting the 3rd Monday of each month at Brewster's as well as Rush Hour. May meeting will be at Brewster's. Needs to focus on three items -- continuing to raise awareness and memberships, social media presence, as well as community volunteering. So far they have sponsored a tent at the Earth Day Event. There was a lot of interest. Other events lined up are "Gardening with a Purpose" with a table at that event. They are also making preparations for the Reggae Fest on May 26th. Details are being finalized. Nora Studer Riley's birthday is coming up and in lieu of gifts she wanted to have three charities at her party for people to donate to. One of the charities that she chose was "Friends of Twinsburg Parks." Deborah Peltz will be working a table at her party to raise awareness for the organization. They have also partnered with the Environmental Commission and will be working on a cleanup effort sometime during the summer that is going to be geared toward the parks. They will also be

helping with the “Cleanup Twinsburg” day which will be in October. Some students from Twinsburg High School have reached out to join Friends of Twinsburg Parks in a junior board member type of position. That is being looked into. The idea of T-shirts was approached. They had discussed the five-year plan and about “Friends of Twinsburg Parks” taking an item off of that list. They had decided to revisit that list and start from scratch and have them focus on projects that they need to get involved in and to market the projects to the community to show what the group is doing and to give people a specific project to get behind. Stanley Stine mentioned that they should visit the Friends of Summit Metro Parks and see some of the things that they do. They basically do fundraising. Brought up a concern regarding having volunteers outside of fundraising. Friends of Hudson Parks did mention about having an attorney on the board who could handle any issues they might have and to have some type of waiver when there is a project that involves volunteering, taking pictures, etc. and making sure you have permissions before using them, etc. One of the major goals of this group is fundraising to provide funding for projects. Everyone is excited about the new Friends of Twinsburg Parks group and what they could do for the City.

REPORTS

Stanley Stine

- Salamander Crossing is an event that everyone looks forward to. Was very successful. Saw some rare amphibians on the bike path. Native plant workshop is this Saturday, April 28, 2018. In May he has two night hikes scheduled. Spring Colors will be May 13, 2018 @ 9:00 a.m. and Amphibian Walk on May 19, 2018 @ 9:00 p.m. There is another Amphibian Walk on May 26, 2018 @ 9:00 p.m. as well. Tree frogs should be out calling, young fireflies are in the grass glowing, etc. Cable 9 did a nice video on Earth Day.

Jo-Ann McFearin

- Provided update for the clubhouse. Is scheduled to open August 1, 2018. Has not really been a good season for the golf course since it has been so wet.

David Kleinman

- Duathlon is scheduled for June 2, 2018. Looking for volunteers and participants. They did a great job with Earth Day. Things going well with Friends of Twinsburg Parks and just need to get out there and bring awareness to this group. Fundraising ideas are welcome. Next Friends of Twinsburg Parks meeting is Wednesday, May 16, 2018 @ 7:30 p.m.

Debbie Peltz

- She has been approached by some people as to when the timing was this year for the guest passes when you purchase your pool pass. Brandon mentioned that it was always the first month that the waterpark passes were available. This year was the first 45 days. It was advertised in various forms. Brandon mentioned that the first week in July there is a food drive and that is how passholders can get guest passes at that time when they donate food. Also, you can get your 10 free guest passes if you bundle your fitness and pool memberships.

Chris Schaffer

- Nothing to report

Sue Vasiliauskas

- A person has approached her inquiring about possibly having built-in cornhole, horseshoes, Frisbee golf, etc. in the parks. Derek Schroeder mentioned that they do offer cornhole up at the pool and not a lot of people use them. This is possibly a five year plan idea the Friends of Twinsburg Parks would be able to help with. Mentioned that this would be a good idea at various locations (Liberty Park, Glenmeadow Park, etc.) This person was very motivated and was eager to help with fundraising for this idea. Placement is something to consider for this project. They can get some numbers together and then go from there. Sue did ask the person to write up his recommendation including all of the people who have agreed to help volunteer and/or donate, storage ideas, etc.

- David Kleinman asked Grant Boyes, Halle Davis, and Gabriella Santacesaria to check with their friends and get ideas from them regarding things that they have seen, things that they have done, events that they would like to possibly see in Twinsburg. Brainstorm ideas. Derek Schroeder mentioned about possibly doing a low-key “Teen Paint Rave.” Everyone agreed that this might be a possibility. He is going to look into what is involved.

Grant Boyes

- Brought up the question regarding the garbage cans up at Glenmeadow Park. There used to be one and now there are two. He was wondering if the green one was for recycling and the other brown one was for garbage.

Halle Davis

- Mentioned that it would be nice to be able to walk around the square and be outside like downtown Hudson. Derek Schroeder mentioned that that is the purpose of the walkable downtown project that Twinsburg is proposing. David Kleinman mentioned that these are the type of ideas to be brought up to the Mayor, Council, Planning Commission, etc.

Branden Burns

- Waterpark is scheduled to open May 26, 2018. Presale ends on May 25 at 8:00 p.m.
- Summer rec swim team registration is now and the presale for that ends on May 4, 2018. Different from TCAT.
- Spring swim lessons have started and the summer swim lessons are coming up. Registration will be May 14, 2018. For current swim lessons, there was a mistake on the flyer that said that there would be swim lessons on Memorial Day. There will not be swim lessons on Memorial Day since the fitness center is only open until 2:00 p.m. that day.
- They are currently doing lifeguard training. Training will go through mid-July.
- The Burg is doing well. They doing garden club lunches also. The Burg will be open up at the waterpark.

T.L. Thogmartin

- The Fitness Center is open on Memorial Day from 6 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- The big King James Basketball tournament is coming up. Fieldhouse is closed April 27, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. and closed all day Saturday and until about 1:00 p.m. on Sunday. Ninth year they have hosted this tournament.
- JumpStart Sports. The first session starts on May 29, 2018.
- Columbus Crew is doing a soccer camp at the Fitness Center this year the week of June 18, 2018. Will not coincide with the varsity soccer team’s camp.
- Cleveland Indian’s baseball camp at Liberty Park is the week of June 4, 2018. This is soldout.
- The fitness center is talking with a Cavs player to possibly have a basketball camp the week of June 25th, 2018.

Derek Schroeder

- The recommendation of creating a new baseball field at Liberty Park went to Council, but Council requested more information – more specific pricing. He does have some specific pricing and is waiting on other pricing from another vendor. They have met with the Engineer, and they would have to put in some type of parking lot for this field. Once you do that then you have to have a retention basin, etc. With everything, the price is increasing for this project. He hopes to get this to Council by May 8, 2018 with a ballpark price as to what it is going to cost. There are monies that the Twinsburg Baseball league has agreed to put towards this field and a NatureWorks grant is looking to be submitted for this as well, but in order for this grant to be submitted you must have legislation for a proposed project. Hoping to get approval from Council at their May 22, 2018 meeting. It is a process. Derek Schroeder is applying for a few other grants for this project as well.

- Taste of Twinsburg is June 9, 2018 from 2:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Bands are lined up. In conjunction with Wildroots. There will be food trucks as well as restaurants.
- Rock the Park concert schedule has been released. First concert is Sidewalk Prophets on May 17, 2018 and the Reggae Fest on May 26th, 2018. Looking for someone to drive a golf cart to transport people for Rock the Park. All other positions are filled.
- Annie will be the summer show for Twinsburg Community Theatre and it is sold out for people to be in the production. They will be doing Wizard of Oz in September (last two weekends). Since they are in the Fall there will not be any shows on Friday nights since there are football games. The schedule will be two shows on Saturday and one show on Sunday each weekend.
- Spring tennis lessons are currently going on. Two sessions will be held in the summer.
- There are still a few openings for Safety Town.
- Camp registration is going on.
- Working with the Golf Course a little bit on the banquet side. They are going to their third Wedding show at the Bertram. Just helping in getting the word out as well as assisting with the décor.
- Looking for some creative ways to create revenue for the fitness center.
- Paddleboarding class was addressed. They are looking at possibly offering this class.
- Yoga in the Park is starting at the amphitheater.

NEW BUSINESS

- Dave Kleinman gave kudos to Taylor at the Fitness Center for all of her work with the Volleyball league. Originally was created for one court and 6 teams. 12 teams signed up and they ended up using two courts. Volleyball league will be offered in the fall for sure. More than likely on a Sunday.
- They have previously discussed repurposing the facility at the fitness center without spending a lot of money. They are moving forward with the Training Zone in the fieldhouse. TL Thogmartin passed out a general map of what they were thinking. They are going to maintain the track rules and regulations as they stand today. The only difference is that walking lanes will be reduced to lanes 1 & 2 and running lanes will be 3, 4, 5, & 6. The goal is for everyone to do various levels of exercise, fitness, training, etc. They will be using barricades if classes are being held or if it is being heavily used. It's a great way to use the space for different programming. TL Thogmartin presented a picture of the University of Pittsburgh who is using the same concept and it has been successful for them. Will not just be for classes. Will be available at anytime for anyone. Hopefully will be in place within the next few months. They are working on sponsorship for the Training Zone. Hoping to go to Council sometime in May/beginning of June.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

- Sue Vasiliauskas a motion to excuse John Blust, Rich Swerbinsky and Gabriella Santacesaria. Halle Davis seconded the motion.

SCHEDULE OF NEXT MEETING

- The next meeting is scheduled for June 28, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. at Twinsburg City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

- Debbie Peltz made a motion to adjourn and David Kleinman seconded that motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:28 PM.

Minutes prepared by Lisa Toth, Twinsburg City Hall