

CITY OF TWINSBURG, OHIO
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES
August 22, 2019

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, Paul Donahue, David Kleinman, Deborah Peltz, Sue Vasiliauskas

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

ABSENT MEMBERS: Rich Swerbinsky

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Deborah Peltz made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 27, 2019 meeting. Paul Donahue seconded the motion.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Chuck Bonacci – 11327 Heritage Drive, Twinsburg, OH
 - He wanted to thank this commission, as well as the staff associated with several recreation department events that were held throughout this summer.
 - Went to Father’s Day at the Senior Center with his Dad and it was awesome! The Senior Center is a great asset to the City of Twinsburg.
 - He enjoys relaxing at the outdoor pool.
 - He is very appreciative of Rock the Park. Is hoping that there is more diversity in the genres of the musical acts in the future and would like to challenge to see more Rock the Park events in 2019.
 - Would like the sign that states “Senior Citizens” removed for pickleball. Would not like to see this activity limited to a certain group of people.

OLD BUSINESS

- Deborah Peltz gave an update on Friends of Twinsburg Parks. She did make a note to take down the “Senior Citizen” sign.
 - They have recently completed their first annual renewal campaign.
 - They created a new sub-committee that will focus on pickleball and the partnership with some really strong voices within the community that have supported this effort. They have committed some funds that they have raised for pickleball. They are looking forward to working with the folks that are out there using the parks and getting their feedback and having ideas become reality.

REPORTS

John Blust

- Nothing to report. Questioned as to if the adult bingo is still a thought as a fundraiser for Friends of Twinsburg Parks. Debbie Peltz said that there are a lot of details that go into this and a lot of hard work. It is still an idea to be researched and discussed.

Paul Donahue

- Nothing to report

Debbie Peltz

- Nothing to report. Her son is interested in becoming a student representative for the Parks and Recreation Commission and will be submitting an application.

Sue Vasiliauskas

- She had some residents expressing interest as to if Pickleball will be coming to Twinsburg.
- She had a resident reach out to her regarding the safety town project that she is going to approach Council about. Two councilmembers have reached out to the resident already. Also, various businesses have reached out to her saying that they would like to help back this project. Would like the parks and recreation commission to back this project as well. Mr. Schroeder mentioned that they would back her from the marketing side. Enrollment of Safety Town has dropped significantly since it is no longer a requirement to get into kindergarten. Mayor Ted Yates thought that this might be a good idea for an Eagle Scout project.

David Kleinman

- Nothing to report.

Stanley Stine

- Flyers are available regarding April Dale finishing her gold award project. She renewed an observation deck that overlooks Tinkers Creek. Her father was a scout master and her brother was the scout that built the fencing around the native plant garden near the Glenwood access to the bike path. The Dale family has been an asset to the conservation community in Twinsburg.
- Introduction to Mushrooms and their Ecological Roles program is scheduled for August 27, 2019 at Twinsburg Public Library with Metro Parks naturalist Dave Brumfield.
- He also has two boy scouts that are looking for his guidance on conservation projects.
- Rainfall has been to the extreme this year. Watering has been at a minimum.
- August 4, 2019 Max Ligon died in an auto accident. Max was a boy scout, and Stanley Stine was given the good fortune of being his advisor. Max served the City in his own way, repairing two wooden foot bridges in Center Valley Park. He was a dedicated scout.

Jo-Ann McFearin

- Nothing to report. Council has been on recess.

Branden Burns

- Currently, the indoor pool is closed until September 2, 2019. They drain the pool, give it an acid wash, do maintenance on the pool that they generally can't get to otherwise. Members can use the outdoor pool. Hours are 7:00 a.m. – 7:30 p.m. M-Sat. and 8:00 a.m. – 7:30 on Sunday during the shutdown.
- Normal waterpark season ends on September 2, 2019. Splash In period starts September 3, 2019 through September 15, 2019. There is a drop in fee for this time period if you did not previously get the Splash In pass earlier in the year.
- Over the summer they did two dive-in movies. They teamed with the library and have been very successful.
- Doggy Paddle is September 28, 2019 from 11 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- Fall swim lessons are available for registration now.
- Swim team registration is available now as well.
- Five USA swim meets will take place at the Fitness Center.
- Outdoor Burg at the pool has been doing great. Box lunches and basic catering is available from the Burg.
- Hiring for lifeguards, swim instructors, as well as Burg attendants.
- Lifeguard training will take place in September.

T.L. Thogmartin

- Has been a terrific summer at the Fitness Center. Classes are very well attended. General use has been fantastic.

- Summer sports camps were well attended.
- Cavs Camp was sold out.
- Indians Camp was sold out.
- Have added a couple of full-time staff at the fitness center. Tyler Barney is the new fitness coordinator. Brittany Blevens will be at the front desk full-time.
- Youth flag football starts on Sunday September 8, 2019. Kindergarten through third grade.
- Pound Fitness has been well attended. They are trying to get more instructors.

Derek Schroeder

- Ballfield is on schedule. They should be pouring the pathway in the next couple of weeks. It is almost a complete project.
- They did receive a quote for Pickleball courts. This is for resurfacing, new nets and dividing fence, etc. They are trying to come up with an alternative solution to fund the renovation of the courts.
- They had a great summer camp this year (2019).
- Rock the Park Summer 2019 was the most attended/best revenue/best sponsorship campaign. They have already booked a few acts for next year and they have a new sponsorship campaign going out as well.
- Community Theater kids only show “Pan” went well. Beauty and Beast is in progress and show times will be on September 20, 21, 22, 27, and 28, 2019.
- They had an Eagle Scout request to build a “Gaga Pit,” which is a three foot high enclosure similar to a gentler version of dodge ball, combining the skills of dodging, striking, running, and jumping, while trying to hit opponents with a ball below the knees. Thought that something like this would be better to be at one of the schools for recess and redirected him to contact one of the school’s principals.
- Local girl scouts are launching a campaign to distribute inspirational positive messaging posters to be posted in public restrooms and buildings so people will start seeing these in the park’s restrooms and buildings.
- Art for All festival will be sometime in October 2019
- Have been helping out some of the residents of Hudson while their pool is being renovated. The City of Hudson is paying a rental fee.

NEW BUSINESS

- Jo-Ann McFearin inquired as to if the City could reach out to Reminderville and Twinsburg Township for financial support of the parks and programs such as pickleball. Derek Schroeder mentioned that they already do financially support events like LuminoCity, Rock the Park, etc. and that it might be better if Friends of Twinsburg Parks reaches out to those communities for financial assistance. Debbie Peltz mentioned that if there was contact information he could recommend, she would be happy to do the leg work for that. David Kleinman questioned if a gofundme ® account had been set up by Friends of Twinsburg Parks for help in funding the pickleball courts. Debbie Peltz mentioned that this was something that she was going to bring to the attention of the subcommittee. It is a good opportunity. Mentioned that Safety Town would be another good project for Friends of Twinsburg Parks to get behind.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

- John Blust made a motion to excuse Rich Swerbinsky. Deborah Peltz seconded the motion.

SCHEDULE OF NEXT MEETING

- The next meeting is scheduled for October 24, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at Twinsburg City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

- Sue Vasiliauskas made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Deborah Peltz seconded that motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM.

Minutes prepared by Lisa Toth, Twinsburg City Hall