

Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting
March 28, 2016

Present: Committee Members LeJeune, Buxton, and Fleck; Council President King; Council Members Larmore and Scott; Mayor Hazel; Safety-Service Director Hitchcock; Auditor Strawn; Assistant Police Chief Harting; Public Works Supt. Joe Wolfe; Parks & Recreation Director Angela Kaiser; Kevin Sandler, WCSM; Bill Kincaid, The Daily Standard; and citizens.

Committee Chairman LeJeune called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. The new Parks & Recreation Director, Angel Kaiser, gave a brief introduction of her background.

Director Hitchcock reported Westview Park quad is almost complete. Games will be played on two of the three fields this spring. The riprap around the pond is being completed and a stone path to reconnect the walking trail around the pond will be put in this year.

Director Hitchcock further reported on projects at Eastview Park. The state grant was submitted and approved for paving a walking path around pond, shelter house construction and paving a parking lot at the restrooms by the pond. Work needs to be completed by June 30th to get reimbursement.

Mayor Hazel stated the pads at the Lakeshore Park have been removed. The City has been in discussion with the Bryson Trustees regarding a layout of the new park. The new parkland should be paid off by the Bryson Trust within five years. Additional state capital line item money has also been applied for. The Bryson Trustees has put restrictions on the property that it not be sold and no commercial business is allowed to operate on the land. CM Sovinski asked if there has ever been restrictions put on purchases by the Bryson Trust in the past. Mayor Hazel replied he is not aware of any. He explained there are two Trustees and an advisory board of bank members. The City is just a recipient of the funds and have no control over the trust.

CM LeJeune suggested updating the parks regulations Ordinance and putting up consistent park rules signs at each park. Signage he suggested includes:

1. Park opens at Sunrise and closes at 11 pm.
2. Pets must be on a leash, physically controlled, and fecal excrement removed from grounds.
3. No unauthorized vehicles on grass or utility paths.
4. No glass containers or *Alcohol.
5. No Firearms, Bows & Arrows, BB Guns or Fireworks.
6. No loud music (audible outside your vehicle).
7. Park equipment used for intended age groups and for intended purposes only.
8. Persons littering (including failure to remove pet excrement), home garbage dumping into park receptacles, gambling, or vandalizing will be subject to prosecution.

*Allowed by legal adults 21 and older at approved City festivals and events only!

CM LeJeune also recommended pet wasted bag dispenser units and recyclable units for paper, glass, water bottles and cans be added at each park. He would also like to see an annual community clean-up day be held. Family, friends and various community and church groups should be invited to participate.

Public Works Director Wolfe stated he has signs that will be put up by trash cans that states dumping of household trash is prohibited. They have been dealing with the issue of residents not picking up dog waste. Director Hitchcock stated trash cans are left at the parks year around and suggested they

be removed when there is no activity at the parks. CM LeJeune suggested at least one be left in a high visibility area.

President King asked if a continual fund for capital improvements in the parks has been considered. He suggested \$10,000 to \$50,000 be set aside yearly, depending on how well the year went. Mayor Hazel stated Montgomery Field is the biggest expense coming up for the parks system. The schools have stated their intention to assist with the upgrades of the field. Administration is not opposed, but the capital funds need to be spent within five years of deposit into the fund.

CM Scott stated years ago a park board dealt with these smaller items. Mayor Hazel explained the Parks & Recreation Board was disband in 2009. The board never did their own funding elements, but dealt with a lot of the citizen complaints.

CM Sovinski reported that Ordinance 20-80-O has been on the books addressing park behavior (Codified Ord 928). This should be brought up for review. He asked if the rules will be enforced if language to create misdemeanors are added.

CM Buxton stated he has had complaints that the City's diamonds need to be drug more often and are afraid a kid will break an ankle the way they are now. He suggested volunteers be recruited to help drag the diamonds. Joe Wolfe responded the diamonds are drug at least two to three times per week during the season. They have not been drug this year yet, because the City's programs do not start until April 11th. CM Buxton stated he also received complaints that not enough communication went out regarding the programs sign up. Director Hitchcock replied it was advertised just much as previous years. Announcements were made at the schools, in the City newsletter and Facebook. The deadline for signup was even extended. CM Buxton reported the last complaint he had is that parks and recreation is an afterthought of the City. Mayor Hazel stated it depends on where resident's priorities are. An incredible amount of man hours are spent in the parks. CM LeJeune explained parks money comes from income tax and a lot is being done on a shoe-string budget. The City does the best they can with what is available.

Director Hitchcock explained there was discussion of flip-flopping the spring and fall seasons for softball and girls soccer leagues to help get high school girls to assist with the teams and refereeing. This was not implemented, however.

Chairman LeJeune adjourned the meeting at 6:53 pm.

Submitted by Joan S. Wurster, Clerk of Council