

Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting
August 8, 2016

Present: Committee Members LeJeune, Buxton, and Fleck; Council Members Larmore, Sovinski 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 6:16 pm for review of parks rules and regulations and posting of parks signs. Discussion included:

505.01 Dogs and Other Animals Running At Large.

CM LeJeune suggests to add dogs must be leashed and in physical control by the owner or designee within the City parks system, along with specifying the fine or penalty. Westbank State Park has a dog park that can be used to allow dogs to run loose. Mayor Hazel reported the dog park has a lot of feces laying around, and he has had complaints from residents stating they will not use the state dog park. Discussion took place of restrictions for the entire City vs. in City parks. Director Hitchcock explained the only leash law the City currently has is for female dogs in heat. CM Sovinski stated if it is changed in this Codified Ordinance, a reference line also needs to be included in the parks rules.

505.15 Dog or Cat Owner Liable for Damage to Public Property

CM LeJeune suggests a specific fine or penalty needs to be posted for the owner of any dog or cat being liable for damages or defecates (fecal excrement not properly disposed in appropriate waste system). Law Director Moore reported it could be an unclassified misdemeanor which the owner can be given a \$0 to \$1,000 fine only, with no possibility jail time. This fine is non-remittable, and cannot be taken to court. CM LeJeune suggested a \$300.00 fine. CM Scott stated he believes \$300 is too high of a fine. CM Sovinski stated it sounds like the punishment does not fit the crime.

CM LeJeune reported there is a pickup truck that is bringing dogs to the park and letting them loose around the same time every day. The neighbors in the area are complaining about the dogs and their messes, and a fine needs to be established that will get the owner's their attention. Members stated at least \$100 per occurrence should get someone's attention. Discussion took place on the enforcement difficulty.

941.01 Hours

CM LeJeune suggested specific language be added that no fishing license is needed in the City park ponds and fishing is permitted during park hours 6 am to 11 pm.

941.02 Destruction of Property

CM LeJeune suggested this needs to state for all City owned property, including use of equipment in a dangerous or unintended manner. For example kids climbing on top of a tubular slide or climbing on top of a shelter house. Police need to be able to tell the violators that it is against the law. CM Sovinski stated the police can tell any kid to leave the park for doing unsafe activities.

941.03 Operation of Vehicles

CM LeJeune stated this needs include a statement to encourage people to keep vehicles off of the grass and include the speed limit in parks at 15 mph. Mayor Hazel stated with the tournaments in the park, there is not always enough parking available on the designated lots. This can be readdressed in the future if more parking lots are made available.

941.04 Disorderly conduct

CM LeJeune asked if there is any fine that can be encompassed to this section. Law Director Moore explained everything in the chapter is penalized as a minor misdemeanor (941.99 Penalty).

941.05 Littering Prohibited

CM LeJeune reported littering has been an issue with residents dropping their personal garbage in the parks. There should be a fine if they are caught in the act. Law Director Moore stated the code is up to 60 days jail and a \$250 fine. CM LeJeune would like the penalty to be included on the parks signs.

941.06 Swimming prohibited.

CM LeJeune stated Eastview Pond was reopened in June 2012 for swimming at your own risk.

Mayor Hazel stated it needs to be determined in writing if alcohol can be allowed in the City Parks. Council members stated it is to be allowed by legal adults in a designated area at City approved events only. These events must also be approved by the State Liquor Agency.

Administration will work on verbiage changes and bring it back to the Committee.

Chairman LeJeune adjourned the meeting at 6:58 pm.

Submitted by Joan S. Wurster, Clerk of Council