

City of Bellefontaine Neighbors

Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board

Tuesday September 15, 2020

Members Present: Judy Mantych, Kathy Endorf

Members Absent: Dave Cross, Tina Fichter

Staff Member(s): Martha Snead

Guests:

The meeting convened at 7:04 p.m. in Room 109 at the Recreation Center.

Martha Snead opened the meeting and confirmed that all members had received the minutes and reports from the previous month.

The following information was shared by Martha concerning the Parks and Recreation Department:

The Fall Session of classes began this week. Many exercise classes are filling up due to the limited numbers allowed by COVID-19 guidelines. We anticipate more registration in the next few weeks.

Due to several issues: COVID-19, liquor licensing, staff availability and logistics, the Beer and Wine Garden Event has been cancelled. Kathy Endorf suggested waiting until next fall but it was also discussed that we could offer this event in late summer depending on staff availability.

The *Passport to the Arts* Online Survey was filled out on August 27th to begin the assessment process. Martha is scheduled for a conference call via Zoom on September 17th to find out more information and to find out if Bellefontaine Neighbors is a good candidate for this program. A discussion was held concerning the resources that Bellefontaine already has in place. Judy and Kathy mentioned the Riverview School District, local churches and The Bissell House through St. Louis County as possible groups that could contribute. The Transportation Survey was mentioned and it was discussed as to the need to offer events throughout the community parks rather than just the at the Recreation Center.

The Halloween Dinner is scheduled for Wednesday October 21st. Amy Mulholland will make a determination of whether to hold the event by Oct. 7th. Judy and Kathy will both check their availability.

A copy of the revised *Rules for Picnic Shelters* was shared with the group. It had been updated with larger print and included more details concerning trash disposal. It was shared that the maintenance staff has experienced a greater volume of trash and that some is left piled next to the trash cans but not contained which causes it to be blown throughout the park. Kathy Endorf asked if it would be necessary to purchase additional trash containers or if requesting that additional bags be supplied by the party would be adequate. Judy Mantych suggested that *fireworks* be added to the list of prohibited activities. Discussion was held concerning the need for a deposit on the rentals in addition to the fee, but it would be impractical as staff is

not available to check out the condition of the park when the group leaves. Further discussion was held as to the signage indicating that the shelter has been rented. It could be confusing if different groups arrive and use the facility before or after the approved rental.

A list that Amy Mulholland had made regarding the approximate revenue lost by the Recreation Department due to COVID-19 was shared with the group. The majority of the loss was in the Aquatics Program due to the pools not being open and also our inability to have swim team and swim lessons during what would normally be our busiest season. We also had substantial loss in revenue from room rentals, ID cards and passes, basketball fees and special events.

The board was updated on the progress at the parks. We are caught up with the grass cutting at this time. We are trying to get additional pruning and grounds maintenance done before the season changes. An acknowledgement was given to Michael Wiese's volunteer work at Belgrove Park. He had been helping with grass cutting and trimming and with laying the mulch under the playground equipment. He also was responsible for cleaning up the area at the entrance to the city at Highway 270.

The board was updated on the plan to host the Town Hall Meeting on Thursday September 17th via zoom. Sign on information was given and they were encouraged to attend.

---The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.-----

The Parks & Recreation Board will have our next scheduled meeting on Tuesday October 20, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Please contact Martha if you are unable to attend at msnead@cityofbn.com or 867-0700.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Snead, Aquatics Director