

City of Bellefontaine Neighbors

Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board

Tuesday August 18, 2020

Members Present: Dave Cross, Judy Mantych, Tina Fichter Kathy Endorf, Alderwoman Barbara West

Members Absent:

Staff Member(s): Martha Snead, Amy Mulholland

Guests: Alderman James Carroll

The meeting convened at 7:00 p.m. in the Gazebo behind 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 Recreation Center:

Brochures have been mailed to residents. We have added Renew Active as a benefit for seniors through their individual Medicare plans which has given us an increase in participation. We have limited swimming lessons to the more advanced levels where direct contact with the children is not necessary. We hope to add the beginner levels as restrictions loosen. Our adult programs are continuing as before as we have had relatively good attendance from adult participants during the summer.

The BOA has approved the distribution of masks donated by St. Louis County. It was advertised on the "Next Door" site that the hours would be Wednesdays 4:00-8:00 p.m. and Saturdays 9:00-10:30 a.m. We have also been giving them out during our normal hours of operation to the residents and patrons who are using the facility. Several Park Board members had offered to help with distribution-it would be a nice way to greet the residents, but our employees are enjoying that task as well so extra volunteers aren't necessary. The city has been given approximately 8000 masks and they are given out in packages of 25.

The Transportation surveys requested by the Board of Aldermen have been given out to patrons and so far we have had about 30 responses. We agreed to delay the report until at least the end of September to give the youth that use the gymnasium and pool on the weekends a chance to respond. A conversation began with concern that there are so many residents that are not aware of our van service. Judy Mantych mentioned that she informs residents of the service as they come into the building department to update occupancies. It was mentioned that the application could be included in the welcome packet for new residents which already includes our most recent brochure.

A discussion was held concerning the MODOT Van Audit that was conducted on Friday August 14th. Our paperwork was complete, but we are working on ways for better communication between drivers, supervisors and mechanics to assure that routine maintenance is done in a timely manner. We will also be updating our drug and alcohol policy to meet the DOT requirements.

A discussion was held about the upcoming renovations to the outdoor pool. Bids will be coming in soon. Barbara West mentioned that she has contacted the City Engineer to meet and discuss the options for either an addition to the Recreation Center or a suitable place on the grounds for new construction that would allow for a larger rental facility for residents. Judy Mantych mentioned that Pat Barrett had scanned the original plans for the outdoor pool so they will be saved and available on the city's computer files. He plans to eventually add all of the original plans for the Recreation Center as well to make them more easily accessible and preserve the originals from additional wear.

Alderwoman West requested that the members consider serving as Chair of the Parks & Recreation Board. Dave Cross mentioned that he had reservations as there was confusion over the Board's responsibility as opposed to the Department's responsibility. With the previous Parks and Recreation Director being a full time employee and a resident of Bellefontaine, he was able to serve in both positions. This is not a typical circumstance with most boards and commissions.

Alderman Carroll explained the "Passport to the Arts Program" thru the University of Missouri as a pilot program used to develop art based programs which would be integrated throughout a community. The program begins with an assessment to see if our city has the interest and resources to proceed, followed by a multi-step process of community planning and organizing. An application and community readiness survey will be submitted.

Amy Mulholland joined the meeting after her event in time to speak about the Wine & Beer Garden that is sponsored by the Parks & Recreation Board. She addressed some questions concerning the necessity of a liquor license and the other options that we could consider. Tina Fichter provided information as to how the churches are allowed to host events and sell wine and beer. There is no date set yet for the event so a discussion was held regarding the advantages of holding it on a Friday evening rather than a Saturday. This choice was agreed by the board with the suggestion that members submit dates that they are available.

A question was raised by Dave Cross to the attending Alderpersons as to why barricades had been placed at the Cabot entrance to the Bissell Hills Shopping Center. Information was given as to the process and it was suggested that anyone concerned would be welcome at the Public Safety Commission Meeting which meets on the 4th Thursday of the month. Martha offered to send the link to the Board of Aldermen Zoom Meetings and Kathy Endorf requested that the link be sent to all Park Board Members.

Martha agreed to send the "Passport to the Arts" assessment via email to the Park Board members as a portion of it was left out of their packet.

---The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.-----

The Parks & Recreation Board will have our next scheduled meeting on Tuesday Sept. 15, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Snead, Aquatics Director