

CITY OF WARREN PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

August 2, 2016



The meeting was called to order at 4:40 PM, August 2, 2016. Members present were Dennis Crandall, Todd Ristau, Jackie Angove, Mark Zavinski, Judi Wilson & Mike Suppa. Kirk Johnson and Elyssa Davis absent. Also attending: Mary Ann Nau, David Hildebrand, Mike Holtz & Ellen Nelson.

VISITORS

Rob Anderson, Times Observer.

MINUTES

Upon a motion by Judi Wilson and a second by Jackie Angove to accept the minutes of the June 7, 2016 regular meeting, the minutes were unanimously approved with corrections. Plaque will be corrected to plaque in the June minutes.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter regarding the proposed Dog Park was shared with the Commission members.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

No report.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

No report.

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Healing Garden – Ms. Wilson reported that a grant was submitted. This was confirmed by Mr. Hildebrand. It will be late fall until we will be notified. This will be to upgrade and extend the trail at Crescent Park. He was asked to adjust the budget by the grant committee.

CITY STAFF REPORTS

Lacy Park - David Hildebrand

- An application for a grant was submitted to DCNR in mid-April. It will be late fall before we are notified. Mr. Hildebrand reiterated the projects that will be done. Two handicap spots will be installed, trail will be extended, replace playground equipment, add lights to basketball courts and restroom improvements to make them accessible.

Betts Park – Mike Holtz

- Grant application submitted 5 weeks ago to the state. Specs & plans were resubmitted Friday. Concession Stand/Restroom building will be renovated to be Accessible restrooms and storage only. A memorial park with a monument at Creola Field will be created.

DeFrees Park

- Ms. Wilson asked about upkeep at DeFrees Playground. Mr. Holtz replied that the soft surface under the equipment is in good condition. Planning to put the same soft surface material as that at Crescent Park.

OLD BUSINESS

Proposed Dog Park

- Ms. Nau asked for volunteers to serve on the Dog Park Committee. We currently have 5 folks from the community and Leadership Warren members willing to serve. Todd Ristau volunteered and Judi Wilson said she could help if needed. Ms. Nau thanked them.

NEW BUSINESS

Mission Statement

- Ms. Nau presented a draft of a Mission Statement for review

- Mr. Suppa suggested we add Parks & Rec Commission to the statement
- Ms. Angove thought this was a good starting point. Suggestions/changes could be emailed
- Ms. Nau added that when revised, this could be formally adopted at the next meeting.

Naming of “Liberty Park”

- Ms. Freenock and Mayor Cashman suggested that the Rec Commission rename the park which is between Liberty Street and the Midtown Lot (former site of Santa House)
- Mr. Holtz added that the Santa House has been returned to Warren Career Center as requested. It survived the move fairly well. He went on to say that a black iron arch is planned to be erected in this area and there has been some discussion of what to put on the arch.
- The committee discussed several names for the park and also whether they should vote on a name or put it out for a contest. It was decided to have the Rec Commission make the decision. Mr. Zavinski made a motion to name the area “Art Kelsey Park” and it was seconded by Mr. Suppa. It was approved by a unanimous vote. Art Kelsey retired in 2015 after 50 years with the City of Warren DPW.
- Mr. Holtz stated that the 5 statues from Liberty Park and 2 from Breezewood Park will be put in the Healing Gardens with plaques that tell the story of their origin as well as information on the artist.

Historical Walking Tour/Pocket Parks

- Ms. Nau presented a definition of a Pocket Park for the Committee. This would be a starting point for an historical walking tour where you could pick up brochures related to other locations.
- Ms. Nau asked Ms. Wilson if she would be interested in working on this project with her DAR involvement. Would also like to get the Warren Garden Club on board. She asked for suggestions to get the project started. Some suggestions were to find an Eagle Scout looking for a project and fundraisers.
- Ms. Wilson, Mr. Suppa and Ms. Angove all expressed an interested in helping with this project. It was suggested to invite Dan Glotz, County Planning, to be a part of this as he has done similar projects in the past.
- Mr. Hildebrand said we could check with the Heritage Group regarding signs. We have a grant with them for signs at the Trail Overlook.
- Ms. Nau said we could put park brochures in plastic holders at the parks; on the web site and add to the bulletin boards.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Ms. Nau said that a person has been giving fly fishing lessons in the Allegheny River near the DeFrees pavilion at Betts Park. As a result there are parking issues. Mr. Holtz will look into it.
- Smoking at Crescent Park continues to be a problem. Employees from Warren General Hospital go to the pavilion to smoke. It is an issue with the playground program and lunch program.
- Ms. Wilson said the DAR is working on a brochure for the DAR monuments in Crescent Park.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Mr. Crandall asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Suppa made the motion and it was seconded by Mr. Zavinski. Mr. Crandall declared the meeting adjourned.

NEXT MONTH’S MEETING

Next meeting will be Tuesday, October 4, 2016 at 4:35 PM.