

**CITY OF WARREN PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
December 6, 2016**



The meeting was called to order at 4:35 PM, October 4, 2016. Members present were Dennis Crandall, Todd Ristau, Kirk Johnson, Mark Zavinski and Mike Suppa. Jackie Angove and Judi Wilson were absent. Also attending: Mary Ann Nau, David Hildebrand, Mike Holtz & Ellen Nelson.

VISITORS

Stacy Gross, Times Observer.

John Page, Boy Scout Troop 13, North Warren Presbyterian Church

MINUTES

Upon a motion by Mark Zavinski and a second by Todd Ristau to accept the minutes of the October 4, 2016 regular meeting, the minutes were unanimously approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR). Information on grants available for 2017.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

John Page, Boy Scout Troop 13, presented a proposal to install a soccer field at Mulberry Park for his Eagle Scout Project. The field would be adjacent to the baseball field. He is planning a 210' field (regulation field is 300') due to lack of space. The field would be used for pickup games and not for competitions. Mulberry was chosen because it is close to the High School and Beaty so kids could access it. The committee thanked John for his proposal and agreed to discuss the project and get back to him. He will not be doing anything until at least the spring of 2017. Mr. Holtz will contact John to invite him and his father to attend a meeting in January with Mary Ann Nau and himself to go over details.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

No report.

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Healing Garden – Ms. Wilson Ms. Wilson was unable to attend so there was no report. Ms. Nau did say that the grant they applied for had been denied.

Dog Park – Mary Ann Nau. The committee is looking outside the City Parks for a location for the Dog Park. Further information will be presented to the top 4 choices of the Committee to see if there is any interest in installing the park. The next meeting is January 10 at 4:00 pm. Ms. Nau contacted Josh Cotton, Times Observer, to have information provided about the Dog Park Survey and a link for folks to access it for completion. So far there has been 341 responses and we can get 1000.

Historical Walking Tour – Mary Ann Nau. Ms. Nau distributed information on a seminar she attended regarding Walkable Warren. The Committee had their first meeting in November.

CITY STAFF REPORTS

PA Avenue Parkway – Mike Holtz

- Sidewalk is done along Pennsylvania Avenue West. A ramp was installed near the Episcopal Church to provide a crosswalk to the pathway. Bids will be received in 2017 for the Bird Watch Platform.

Betts Park – Mike Holtz

- Restroom project is about 70% complete. The block walls dividing mens/womens restrooms are up. Rough plumbing is in.

DeFrees Park – Mike Holtz

- Draining is installed. Area will be seeded in April, 2017. Would like to plant trees in 2017. Mr. Holtz noted that within 10 minutes of the new playground equipment being installed, there were kids playing on it.

Walkable Warren Kiosks – David Hildebrand

- Mr. Hildebrand created 8 kiosks through a grant by DCNR. Four are to be installed along the new walkway along Pennsylvania Avenue and the other 4 in various points inside the City of Warren – Glade Bridge, Point Park, Celoron Park and Soldiers and Sailors Park. These were presented on a power point with a history given by Mr. Hildebrand.

NEW BUSINESS

Report on Summit/Allegheny National Forest – Mary Ann Nau

- Ms. Nau attended this summit. They have an Ambassador Program where they teach folks and businesses how to be ambassadors of the forest and tourism.

Highlights of Ped/Bike Training – Mary Ann Nau

- Ms. Nau stated that there are plans to include a touring bike path along Route 6 corridor.

OLD BUSINESS

Ordinance 1837 – areas where smoking is restricted

- Ms. Nau stated that City Council had amended Ordinance 1837 to include the pavilions and also the other changes requested.

MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Zavinski asked about the Bird Stone Monument. Mr. Holtz replied that there had been a meeting 2 months ago with Leadership Warren. There is still interest in redoing the monument. It was placed in 1987 so the 30-year anniversary will be 2017.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Mr. Crandall declared the meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.

NEXT MONTH'S MEETING February 7, 2016 at 4:35 PM.