

**CITY OF WARREN PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
April 5, 2022**



CALL TO ORDER

- The meeting was called to order by Chair Mike Suppa at 4:33 pm.

ROLL CALL

- Members present were Mike Suppa, Kirk Johnson, Kristine Whitaker, Jackie Angove, Mark Zavinski and Judi Wilson. Also attending from City Staff were Michael Holtz, DPW Director, Nancy Freenock, City Manager, Kassie Damcott, Recording Secretary. All attendees participated via a Zoom meeting or in person, due to personal preference.

AGENDA APPROVAL

- Mrs. Wilson made a motion to approve the agenda and Mr. Zavinski seconded. All those present were in favor.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

- Warren City/County Citizens & Business Owners (In Person):
 - Josh Cotton (Times Observer)
 - Brian Hagbert (Your Local Daily)
 - Phil Gilbert (Council Member)
 - Bill Thompson (Music in the Park organizer)
 - Joel Davidson (disc golf presenter)
 - Cyril Jedor (disc golf presenter)

MINUTES APPROVAL

- Mrs. Angove made a motion to approve the minutes, with the requested corrections, from the February 1st, 2022, meeting and Mr. Zavinski seconded.

DISC GOLF PRESENTATION

- Cyril Jedor, with support from Joel Davidson, presented to the Parks & Recreation Commission a PowerPoint presentation, with supporting documentation, in favor of a disc golf course located in Betts Park. Mr. Jedor stated there are over 6,000 disc golf courses in the United States, with the closest ones to Warren located in Erie and Kane, PA. He suggested Betts Park be the most opportune location given the wide-open spaces in the park, the ADA accessibility and the availability of restrooms and plenty of parking. The sport can be played year-round and by people of all ages and capabilities. Mr. Jedor has inquired to several companies who build courses to see what the approximate cost would be to build a course, with the median cost being \$15,000 for a course built by a professional company. He estimates that a course built in-house, not including labor, would be approximately \$12,000. Mr. Jedor also said that based on his own opinion, Washington Park would be a great alternative location for the disc golf course given its open spaces and its unique terrain.

PLAYGROUND & POOL REPORTS

- Playground Program - Mr. Holtz reported the 2022 playground program will take place at Lacy and Beaty playgrounds this year, with Crescent Park as an alternate. The playground supervisor from 2021 will be returning this year and will help the program run as smoothly as possible, given his history with program as a supervisor and park lead. Mr. Holtz stated the playground program will be open to City-residents only for the 2022

season and expects roughly the same number of registrations as 2021 – around 100 children.

- Pool – Mr. Holtz reported the CAR Pool will open for the season on June 6th and passes will go on sale the beginning of May. For the month of May, as in previous years, the passes will be available at a discounted rate until May 31st. Mr. Holtz stated Dani Mumford, of the YMCA, is currently hiring and training lifeguards to staff the CAR Pool for the summer.

GEORGE WASHINGTON STATUE

- Parks & Recreation Commission member, Kirk Johnson, read correspondence to those present in relation to erecting a statue of George Washington to commemorate the Park being named after him. Mr Johnson also suggested statues of Leif Eriksson and Christopher Columbus shaking hands. Mr. Johnson states the importance of the statue(s) to symbolize their importance in creating America. Mr. Johnson also proposed a location of Celeron Park, Wetmore Park or Clemons Park. While no action was taken by the Commission, other Commission members were hesitant to go forth with a recommendation to put a statue in Washington Park due to the lack of security in the Park and the nationwide movement of tearing down statues. The presentation was for informational purposes only.

CRESCENT PARK

- Grand Opening Ceremony – Mr. Holtz noted the grand re-opening of Crescent Park will coincide with the Healing Garden dedication and the Street Landscape Committee's 100-year anniversary. The ceremonies will take place on Friday, May 13, 2022, at 6:30 pm. Refreshments will be provided, and the ceremony is expected to take approximately 30 minutes. Speakers include State Senator Hutchinson, Parks & Recreation chair Mike Suppa and Warren General Hospital CEO Rick Allen, among others.

JAZZ AMPHITHEATER DEDICATION

- Mr. Holtz reports that on opening night of Music in the Park, Friday June 3rd, 2022, the amphitheater at Soldiers and Sailors Park will be dedicated to James Zavinski, long-time Council Member and early supporter and driving force behind Music in the Park.

ADJOURNMENT

- There being no further business to come before the Commission, Mike Suppa asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by Mrs. Angove and seconded by Mrs. Whitaker.

NEXT MEETING

- The next regular scheduled meeting will be June 7th, 2022, at 4:30 pm.

Submitted by:

Kassie Damcott, Recording Secretary