

**CITY OF WARREN PARKS, RECREATION AND LANDSCAPE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 23, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Josie Gerardi at 10:00 AM.

ROLL CALL

Members present were Josie Gerardi, Mike Suppa, Mary Conarro, Jackie Angove and Paula Bogart. Advisory members present included Cecile Stelter. Excused members included Sherry Johnson, Mark Zavinski and Kris Whitaker. Also attending from City Staff were Michael Holtz, City Manager, Joe Reinke, City Arborist and Kassie Damcott, Recording Secretary.

AGENDA APPROVAL

A motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Mrs. Conarro, seconded by Mrs. Angove and passed unanimously by those present.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

- Josh Cotton - Times Observer
- Kirk Johnson
- Wendy McCain - City Council Member
- Ruby Stone - Rotary
- Adam Meneo - Rotary

MINUTES APPROVAL

A motion to approve the Parks, Recreation and Landscape Commission regular meeting minutes from April 25th, 2023 was made by Mrs. Conarro, seconded by Mrs. Bogart and passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

None at this time.

JOE REINKE, CITY ARBORIST, REPORT

Mr. Reinke states none of the Spring planting trees have died, which is quite a feat! DPW crews watered trees last week and with no rain in the foreseeable future, will continue to water them weekly until we get a good rain shower. Mr. Reinke reports the Betts Park water line job is finally complete.

MIKE HOLTZ, CITY MANAGER, REPORT

Mr. Holtz reports Music in the Park begins in a week and a half and that crews are readying the park for the first night. The pavilion at Beaty Park is moving forward and will hopefully be complete shortly before or after the playground program begins in June. Mr. Holtz reports Kassie submitted a grant application to the DeFrees Family Foundation to restore the bell tower in the front of the Municipal Building.

CECILE STELTER, DISTRICT FORESTER, REPORT

Ms. Stelter reports the spring season is well under way, with lots of new growth happening in the area. Ms. Stelter reminds homeowners to water their plants and trees in the evening, so that they may soak up the water overnight. She reports there have been no new sightings of the spongy moth and the spotted lanternfly has not been reported in our area yet either.

ARBOR DAY

The Arbor Day celebration was held at Crescent Park on Friday April 28th, 2023, at 12 pm. Ms Gerardi reports it was the best attended Arbor Day celebration she can recall. Staff from the ANF attended and celebrated in conjunction with the ANF's centennial this year.

BY-LAWS

PRLC members discussed the suggested changes for the by-laws. No actions taken.

LACY PARK PHASE III

Adam Meneo, from Warren Rotary, presented improvements that Rotary would like to complete at Lacy Park, as part of a third phase. These improvements would include shade sails, additional sensory equipment, and plantings. No costs were discussed, as this is in the beginning planning stages. A motion to approve Rotary working with the City on a Phase III and move the proposal onto Council at a later date was made by Mr. Suppa, seconded by Mrs. Bogart and unanimously passed by all present.

CIVIC BEAUTIFICATION

Ms. Gerardi spoke about the civic beautification awards and how they are determined each year. Ms. Gerardi assigned members to specific areas and wards, which they will bring their nominations to the June meeting.

PICKLEBALL

Mr. Holtz reports that the pickleball courts at Betts Park have received the first layer of blacktop. Fence poles, fencing and the last layers of blacktop will occur in the next few weeks.

CAR POOL

Mr. Holtz reports the YMCA has obtained and trained all the lifeguards needed for this summer. A new awning will be installed at the pool and new tables and umbrellas have been put out for the season. Kassie is looking into grants to replace the aging playground equipment at Point Park, across from the Pool.

SUMMER PLAYGROUND PROGRAM

Kassie will be director of the program this summer. She reports that we have hired three (3) leads for each of the Parks and will be operating three (3) Parks this year as well. Crescent, Beaty and Lacy Parks will be operating for eight (8) weeks, 10am - 4pm. Planned activities and field trips include the Audubon, Warren Public Library, Warren Garden Club and the Warren County Fair among many others. Lunches will be served, free of charge, to the program kids from Warren County School District.

HEALING GARDEN

Ms. Gerardi expressed her wishes to have volunteer groups weed and tend to the Healing Garden. She has talked to a few groups and hope they come to fruition.

MISCELLANEOUS UPDATES

Mr. Holtz reports the City has ordered and will purchase a plaque for a bench at Crescent Park, along the river, in memory of long-time City Planner David Hildebrand. The City has also received Sherry Johnson's acorn for recognition of her 30+ years of service.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 10:53 am. The next meeting is Tuesday June 27, 2023 at 10:00 AM.

Submitted by,
Kassie Damcott