

**CITY OF WARREN PARKS, RECREATION AND LANDSCAPE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 25, 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, Mark Zavinski, Kris Whitaker, Mike Suppa, and Paula Bogart. Advisory members present included Cecile Stelter. Excused members included Sherry Johnson and Jackie Angove. 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. Bogart, seconded by Mrs. Whitaker and passed unanimously by those present.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

- Josh Cotton - Times Observer
- Kirk Johnson
- Jon Ferrie - City of Warren Firefighter
- Andy Moore - City of Warren Firefighter

MINUTES APPROVAL

A motion to approve the Parks, Recreation and Landscape Commission regular meeting minutes, with corrections, from March 28, 2023 was made by Mrs. Bogart, seconded by Mr. Zavinski and passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

None at this time.

JOE REINKE, CITY ARBORIST, REPORT

Mr. Reinke states he planted a tree in front of the Blair Corporation parking lot's Third Avenue side with a class from Jefferson DeFrees for Earth Day. Mr. Reinke reported that spring planting went well and was completed in one day. The Arbor Day tree, a black cherry, was planted at Crescent Park, near the pavilion. The Beaty Pavilion will be constructed this year, with the old one coming down after construction of the new structure.

MIKE HOLTZ, CITY MANAGER, REPORT

Mr. Holtz reports the historical kiosks, in the works for years, will be complete soon. Installation will take place once the weather is nice for a few days and will take place in the following locations: Wetmore Park, Art Kelsey Pavilion/Park, Clemons Park and near the Blair Corporation wall at Third Avenue and Hickory Street.

CECILE STELTER, DISTRICT FORESTER, REPORT

Ms. Stelter reports the area is particularly susceptible to wildfires until the greenery is fully bloomed and grown. There have been some large wildfires in the area during a week of dry weather recently. Ms. Stelter reminded residents to place mulch in a donut, rather than a volcano around their trees' bases.

CLEMONS PARK MEMORIAL

Mr. Moore and Mr. Ferrie, both full time firefighters with the City of Warren, came before the PRLC to proposed a memorial, funded by the firefighters union, to be placed in Clemons Park. The memorial would be in honor of City of Warren firefighters lost in the line of duty. To date, there is one line of

duty death from the 1900's. There would be no cost to the City and the gentlemen will work with the City for installation of the proposed memorial, should it come to fruition. A motion to approve the concept of the proposed memorial to be installed in Clemons Park, in accordance with deed restrictions, was made by Mr. Suppa and seconded by Mrs. Bogart. All those present were in favor.

ARBOR DAY

The Arbor Day celebration will be held at Crescent Park on Friday April 28th, 2023, at 12 pm. Members of the PRLC confirmed the program contents, with an amendment to the speaker. Phil Gilbert, City Councilmember will be the speaker for the event, replacing Mayor Wortman.

BY-LAWS

Mr. Suppa provided a rough draft of proposed by-laws. After discussion, PRLC members tabled the by-laws and were asked to bring recommendations to the May meeting.

DISC GOLF

Ms. Gerardi voiced concerns of where the responsibilities would lie for the cost and upkeep of a disc golf course. Mr. Suppa stated the Parks and Recreation Commission had several visitors over the years come before them to present disc golf courses in various parks throughout the City, but without the initial funding and a large enough park eligible to host the course, it was suggested the presenters look outside of the City for a location.

PICKLEBALL

Mr. Holtz reports that Warren Pickleball has begun construction of the courts at Betts Park. The courts will be ready to be paved shortly and a grand opening is planned for June 24th.

GRANT UPDATES

Mr. Holtz reports the City states the City has submitted a DCNR grant application for the purpose of rehabilitating the DeFrees pavilion restroom at Betts Park and will receive notification if awarded, later this summer.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 11:06 am. The next meeting is Tuesday May 23, 2023 at 10:00 AM.

Submitted by,
Kassie Damcott