

Village of Sunbury
Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting
Minutes May 6, 2020 - DRAFT

I. Call To Order- Councilman Tim Gose opened the Sunbury Parks and Recreation Commission virtual meeting at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday May 6, 2020.

II. Roll Call-Those answering roll call: Tim Gose, Cindi Cooper, and David Martin. Also, in attendance were Tommy Hatfield, Administrator Allen Rothermel, David Parkinson Engineer and Chris Hopkins, CT Consultants.

III. Visitors

IV. Open Issues

a. Master Plan Status and Open Discussion- Chris Hopkins was the lead author of the Village of Sunbury Park Master Plan for CT Consultants. It is now time to determine “what to do with the plan”.

The first step is to, “**Identify a park**”. It is important to select a park or project with wide community support and appeal. (Potential candidate parks are 1. The Up-ground Reservoirs and 2. J R Smith Park). Chris Hopkins indicated both projects rated a priority score of 27.

The second step is “**Procuring financing ahead of time**” for maintenance and up-keep. The current Fund Balance in the Rec Budget is \$43,907.00. It was further added that residual Water Fund monies could be used for the Up-ground Reservoir project.

Third, “**Recurring maintenance Items**”. Park amenities were identified and rated in the Master Plan including J R Smith Asphalt Parking lot.

A discussion ensued with respect to which Project was a better project to start with. The Up-ground Reservoir Park may prove to be a better first project over J R Smith Park due to the time needed to transition J R Smith from its current use and programming as active BWYSAA playing fields.

It was mentioned in the Park Master Plan that J R Smith Park has great potential as a bike centric Park (given its proximity to the Ohio To Erie Trail).

David Parkinson cautioned that the items stated in the Master Plan are not set in stone. There was some thought by participants in the Plan that J R Smith may not be a football field in the future.

Tommy Hatfield added that new fields being added by the schools to relieve the use

of current playing fields is at least 5 years or more out in the future.

V. New Business

a. **Trail Expansion and Grant Seeking-** David Parkinson reviewed pathway project options under the new County Grant program that was recently announced. Most of the interest of the Committee centered around a potential new trail from the Fallen Heroes Memorial to the new High School (by way of the land between Prairie Run Dr, in Sunbury Estates, and the creek). Dave Parkinson showed the possible route on screen using the County Auditor’s GIS site.

Tim Gose inquired about possible funding sources for such a project in addition to the new County grant. Dave Parkinson provided the name of a resource in Marion who could offer assistance—Dan Sheridan.

The Parks and Recreation Committee indicated their intent to move forward with possible future action steps. Dave Parkinson stated a motion from Council to proceed with a grant submittal would be a possible next step.

Tommy Hatfield asked about other trail project options for the Ohio To Erie Trail (OTET) to be included for future grant submittals.

No formal actions were taken by the Committee

VI. Adjournment 7:28 pm

Respectfully submitted by Allen Rothermel