

Hiram Recreation & Park Board
Meeting Minutes via Video Conferencing
Rosser Municipal Building
11617 Garfield Road, Hiram OH 44234

February 2, 2021

Park Board Members:

Chris Szell, Chairperson
Mayor Lou Bertrand
Jo Walsh-Cobb, signed on at 5:00 pm
Steve Zabor
James McGee, Village Administrator

Absent:

Suzann Bennett

Official Recorder:

Wendelin Taylor, Asst. Fiscal Officer

Others Present:

General: Chris Szell called the meeting to order at 4:34 pm. The minutes for December's meeting were read. Chris motioned to approve the minutes. Steve Zabor seconded. All voted aye. There was no quorum in January. Chris mentioned that he has been Chair for eight (8) years and that he has just been named to the Finance Committee. He would like to step down as the Park Board chair. He would also like to invite Chris McCreight to join the Board. Chris will wait till March to approach Mr. McCreight.

Public Comment:

Old Business:

A. Speed Limits and Engine Brake Signs: Chris wants to approach Council concerning the Village speed limits and engine brake signs. James has contact information for the ODOT Safety Engineer. He will forward that to Chris' attention.

B. Hiram Community Trust Grants: Chris will reach out to Ed Frato-Sweeney regarding the opening date for the grant process. To date no one present has heard anything.

C. Park Projects:

- Reign Hadsell Park – extending the fencing may need to be tabled until next year due to funding. The bench and bike rack are ready to be installed when the weather permits. Steve Zabor has several bike racks courtesy of the Kiwanis that he can donate to both parks. James would like the Street Department to install the sidewalk to the gazebo. He asked if the Board wanted cement or gravel. He stated that having a contractor do the work would be cost prohibitive due to funding and the fact that material prices are still going up.
- Reign Hadsell Park water fountain installation – The Street Department has the fountain. A water line will need to be run. A short discussion followed regarding location. It was decided a location near the portable toilet area would be best.
- Hike and Bike Trail – James did not have the latest surfacing quote available. He will investigate the possibility of the Street Department doing the work and perhaps finding volunteers to help.
- Basketball Court Resurfacing – The last quote to resurface the court was approximately \$10,000. The Village does not have the funds to proceed at this time. Perhaps it would be best to table this project until the future.

- Signage – Chris has not had the opportunity to approach Sign Stormers regarding park signage. He will try to have that information by the next meeting.
- Dog Park – The question of a dog park at Reign Hadsell came up at the latest Finance Meeting. Chris will look into anything the Nature Works grant may have to offer, also there may be grant money through the Hiram Community Trust Fund.

D. Memorial Trees: James contacted his source for trees. Caliper, height and species will dictate the cost per tree. Chris mentioned that the cost per tree for a current Conservancy project was \$500 per tree (larger than 5 gallon container size) including a maintenance service for the first year. Steve Zabor will pass along the cost estimate being compiled by Davey Tree for the Rotary Club when it is available. James stated the Park Board needs to decide where the Memorial Trees will be planted. That will dictate how many trees and what species can be offered.

New Business:

A. Fund Appropriations: Finance has added an additional \$2700 to the Parks appropriations bringing the total to approximately \$7700.

B. Ballfield: Mr. Sommers has requested the use of the ballfield this summer. James mentioned the Village may not be able to dress the field this year due to the cost. Mr. Sommers will call Brugmann's to request a materials donation. He will get back to James when he has any news.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 2, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom.com Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Approved:

Wendelin Taylor, Asst. Fiscal Officer

Chris Szell, Chairperson