

## Hiram Recreation & Park Board

Meeting Minutes  
Rosser Municipal Building  
11617 Garfield Road, Hiram OH 44234

**February 6, 2015**

**Park Board Members:**

Susan Merrill, Chairperson  
Chris Szell  
Mayor Lou Bertrand

**Beautification Commission Members:**

**Official Recorder:**

Assistant Fiscal Officer Rosemary Yukich,

**Others Present:**

Police Chief Ed Samec  
Village Administrator Bob Wood  
Fiscal Officer Sue Skrovan

**General:** Susan Merrill called the meeting to order at 8:38 am. Chris Szell was in attendance via phone. Since Chris was not physically present, the minutes for the December 5 meeting cannot be approved until the March meeting at which time both December 5, 2014 and February 6, 2015 meeting minutes will be approved. There was no January 2015 Recreation and Park Board meeting.

**Old Business:**

- A. Beautification Funds: A copy of the College documents are to be added to the record. Chris Szell has not been in contact with Denny Taylor yet.
- B. Bio-swales: Chris Szell was to have explored other options since Riddicks was so slow to respond. Chris did reach out to Chagrin River Watershed Partners and was given six different options. He will get in touch with them in the course of the next month.
- C. Apartment dumpster: This is not an urgent issue will be discussed later.
- D. Portage Foundation Grant feedback: Another application is due on the 15<sup>th</sup> and will be sent. Chris is asking \$2,000.00 from this Grant.
- E. Girls softball: Susan Merrill received an e-mail from Matt Rini in which he reached out to the coaches explaining the ball field development in Hiram and if anyone is interested, to contact her. The e-mail went on further to consider House Bill 143 which concerns concussions and head injuries. The Department of Health is requiring certification for coaches and officials. This is a training course that can be taken on-line. The Village will have to look into complying with the requirements
- F. Clean Ohio Trails/Recreational Trails grant: Chris explained that just the Recreational Trails Grant was submitted. Clean Ohio Trails is more suited to linear trails that connect to other trails. It was felt the Recreational Trails Grant is more appropriate for Hiram. Chris has requested \$18,000.00 from this Grant. This

is an 80/20 cash or in-kind match. Funds are being requested from Portage Foundation and Hiram Community Trust to cover the Village's portion. It was noted that the Hiram Community Trust deadline is April 4, 2015.

Chris then thanked Susan Merrill for the letters of support she received. There were two monetary donations included. Susan then asked what to do with the money. Sue Skrovan explained the checks could be deposited in the Village's General Fund into a specific donation line item for the Park Board, with appropriations amended so they could then spend the money.

Sending a thank you to these contributors in a tax deductible manner was discussed. It was agreed that if Chris writes the thank you on Village letterhead, the mayor will sign them.

G. Jagow Play Park Audit: This will be brought up at the next meeting.

**New Business:**

A. NatureWorks Grant: Chris Szell said the next step is to wait for the Grant Agreement. He will follow up with the timing of this.

B. Budget Review: This will have to wait for the next meeting.

C. Other upcoming grants:

1. Land and Water. This would be due in May. Chris is not sure it is available. He will have to look into this. It would be appropriate for play structures if successful.
2. Hiram Community Trust: The requirements for this grant need to be updated. Susan has an old guidelines brochure from 2013.
3. Portage Foundation: This was already discussed.
4. RTP: It was asked what the RT and P stood for. Chris clarified, it is Recreational Trails Program.

Susan then brought up that she recommended Chris be named Chairperson. This will be voted on at the next meeting. Susan will also make up a list of all the upcoming meeting dates for the year.

Mayor Bertrand then suggested moving the meetings to Fridays at 4 pm. No one was agreeable to this change. After discussion, it was agreed to keep the meetings on the first Friday of the month at 9:00 am. The next meeting is set for Friday, March 6, 2015 at 9:00 am.

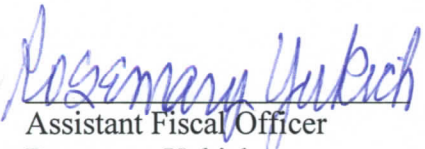
Mayor Bertrand mentioned the Beautification Ordinance. Chris Szell stated that it would put the Park Board in an awkward position to comment on something that involves the Beautification Commission.


The Annual Report was brought up. Susan has already sent a copy to Chris Szell.

Meeting adjourned at 9:08 am

Respectfully Submitted by:

Approved:

  
Assistant Fiscal Officer  
Rosemary Yukich

  
Susan Merrill, Chairperson