

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

March 2, 2021

Park Board Members:

Chris Szell, Chairperson
Mayor Lou Bertrand
Jo Walsh-Cobb
Steve Zabor
Suzann Bennett (left meeting at approx. 4:45 pm)
James McGee, Village Administrator

Absent:

Official Recorder:

Wendelin Taylor, Asst. Fiscal Officer

Others Present:

Chris McCreight, resident

General: Chris Szell called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm. The minutes for February's meeting were read. Chris motioned to approve the minutes. Steve Zabor seconded. All voted aye.

Chris Szell is stepping down as Park Board member and Chair. He is asking Chris McCreight to fill his seat as member until the term is fulfilled in July 2022. Mr. McCreight stated he is willing to fill the position. Mr. Szell put forward Mr. McCreight as Park Board Chairperson until such time as the vacated term is fulfilled in July 2022. Mr. McCreight stated he is willing to fill the position of Chair. Mr. Szell motioned to accept Mr. McCreight as a member of the Park Board and that Mr. McCreight be nominated for the position of Chair. Steve Zabor seconded both motions. All voted aye. Chris McCreight will assume the position of Park Board Chair beginning April 6, 2021.

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: The grant process is open and applications are due by April 15, 2021. The following should be considered as grant projects:

- Village park signage. Quotes will be needed soon.
- Dog Park – question is where to locate a dog park and there are concerns that dogs in the dog park area may agitate dogs owned by residents neighboring the Reign Hadsell Park where the dog park is tentatively to be built. The Mantua DMRC has done research on creating a dog park for Mantua Village. Steve Zabor will reach out to the DMRC for any recommendations they may have. James suggested the dog park can be located on the west side of Jagow Park near the sewer plant. There is space available to the west of the baseball field.

C. Park Projects:

- Signage – James will contact Sign Stormers for quotes on park signage as well as signs for the Village four corners. Jo has information on message boards she will share at the next meeting.
- Baseball field – Chris Szell will try to contact Mr. Sommers regarding the dirt to prep the field for the coming season. Mr. Sommers has said he would approach Brugmann’s Sand & Gravel about donating the dirt needed.
- Basketball Court – James did not have the cost quote with him but stated that resurfacing the court would be approximately \$12,000. The surface needs to be ground off before any new material can be applied.

D. Memorial Trees: James and Chris Szell would like a cohesive plan be drawn up as to where and what type of trees to be offered as memorial trees. Jo stated the people that have approached her would prefer the trees be planted in the parks and not the cemetery.

E. Reign Hadsell Park: James has not priced the materials for creating a sidewalk to access the gazebo. He would like to do the work in house. He will price materials for a cement walkway and compacted gravel. He has not had a chance to price out fencing. The Board agreed to wait on these projects until the weather cooperated with an work done.

New Business:

A. Nature Works Grant: 2021 Nature Works Grant application period will be coming open soon. They have earmarked \$61,000.00 for Portage County projects. The monies can be used for infrastructure as well as acquisition, etc. However the park must be open to the public.

B. Compost Bins at the College: The student senate has begun a sustainability project with the installation large compost bins located in what is actually the Hike & Bike Trial parking lot owned by the Village. Chris McCreight will have a discussion with the instructor leading this project. He will inform the instructor the bins are on the property line and may need to be moved back off the property line. The bins will also need to be shielded from view per the Village’s zoning code and that any signage will need a permit. The Village does not want to discourage the project, just to make certain it is in compliance with zoning.

C. Bike Racks: Steve Zabor has 3 or 4 bike racks that were made available through the Rotary Club. Installation would require the pouring of a small cement pad to bolt the racks into. The Board agreed the placement of the racks would depend on Zoning approval and possible approval of the Hiram Post Office property owner. The Board may need to go to Planning and Zoning for permits. Chris Szell suggested a definite location plan be put together before approaching P&Z or property owners.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 6, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom.com Meeting adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Approved:

Wendelin Taylor, Asst. Fiscal Officer

Chris McCreight, Chairperson