

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

May 31, 2022

Park Board Members: Chris McCreight, Chairperson
Isabel Kopp
James McGee, Village Administrator

Absent: Mayor Lou Bertrand
Mike Greenwood

Official Recorder: Wendelin Taylor, Asst. Fiscal Officer

Others Present: Chris Szell

General: Chris McCreight called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm. James McGee motioned to accept November 2021 minutes with a correction for Chris Szell as guest. Isabel Kopp seconded. Motion passed. Chris McCreight welcomed everyone to the first meeting of 2022. Mike Greenwood will be joining the park board. He could not attend today's meeting.

Public Comment:

Century House: James reported that over the last year or so there has been a problem with water discharge coming from the Century House. Apparently the sump pump is discharging directly into the yard making it difficult to mow and rendered the basketball court unusable. The discharge line has been moved, slightly, and now the water discharges near the woods making the grass in that area very difficult to mow. The Township Historical Society is blaming global warming and impervious surfaces for the problem. James explained drawings show the basement drained into a gravity line ran out the west side of the building and has either been clogged over the years or has collapsed. At some point a line was run from the building in the direction of the basketball court and the pavilion and has made the basketball court unusable. James has had discussion with the Denny Taylor, the Historical Society's Chair, he has suggested the Historical Society connect a line to the storm drain. He has not heard anything from the Historical Society. James' concern is that the water is damaging the garden area to the south of the Century House and that the grass behind the house and between the garden and the woods is too wet to mow.

Bike Racks: Chris McCreight will touch base with Steve Zabor for an update on the progress of this project.

Hiram Trust Grant: Grant request have been submitted to the Hiram Community Trust requesting monies for park signage and park equipment. The Park Board plans to purchase moveable soccer goals and a youth sized basketball hoop. James mentioned he is not convinced the Village received monies from the last grant rounds. He will contact Ed Frato-Sweeney at the college.

Park Regulations: Chief Gregory has presented several regulations he would like to implement for the Village parks. Among them a dawn to dusk policy and no alcohol. A short discussion followed. It was decided to discuss this further at another meeting. It has been requested by baseball league parents that a no smoking policy be implemented or a smoking area be established. The Board does not know if that a smoking prohibition can be established for the parks, they will discuss this further at a later date.

General Park Report: James gave his report on the parks. The tornado siren has not been functioning. The pole has a breaker box that is totally accessible by anyone. At some point someone has turned off the breaker for the siren. The box is also at a height that is accessible to children. He has contacted an electrician to update the breaker box and make it secure. The Mormon Church youth group will be returning this year. They conduct a "camp" at Hiram College and are looking for volunteer opportunities. Chris Szell volunteered to try to contact them. James would like to utilize the group to paint the Hike and Bike Trail railing. He asked to group to come up with other project suggestions

Other Business: Isabel has been contacted by Bob Faber, a resident on Kenyon, requesting the area around the cul-du-sac be made into some kind of park for the kids on the street. James state technically the Village does not own the property. It is owned by various residents and the college. Chris McCreight asked Isabel to talk to Mr. Faber again to get a better idea of what he has in mind. The Board discussed to possibility of adding another baseball field at Reign Hadsell Park. The conditions in the area where the field could be constructed are wet. It would take fill material and drainage to be able to add a baseball field in the section of the park. It would be better suited to a soccer field. Chris McCreight would like to schedule a park walking tour with the Board. He will contact everyone this coming month with possible dates. Isabel has requested a Memorial Tree be planted in memory of M.J. The Board agreed that is possible and they will meet to discuss a suitable location.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 28, 2022 at 8:00 a.m. Meeting adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:


Wendelin Taylor, Asst. Fiscal Officer

Approved:


Chris McCreight, Chairperson