

The Minutes for the Park Board Meeting held on Tuesday, February 21, 2017 held at Bellefontaine Neighbors Recreation Center.

Mark Dickerson opened the Park Board Meeting at 7:02 p.m.

Present: Sally Wahlbrink, Tina Swindle, Jane Davis, Kathy Endorf, Dave Cross and Mark Dickerson;
Director of Parks & Recreation

Absent: Judy Mantych and Alderman Don Merz

Mark asked the Park Board members received the Minutes for the January Park Board Meeting and if anyone had any questions or comments and the Park Board Minutes were accepted as presented.

Mark asked Marquita Howell how their meetings are going and asked if they would like to report on their meetings? Marquita thanked the Park Board members for providing a meeting space and went on to introduce the other members of their group.

Miss Molly is a third grade teacher in the St. Louis School District who will be opening an early learning center in the fall. I will be working with children 0 to four years of age. My goal is to equip the kids with what they need to get into a public arena school or a private school.

Shenell Thomas who is a therapist at St. Vincent's Children's Home and has lived in the community since '97. My goal is to work with anyone ages 5 to adult on coping skills and strategies and mood builders as well as getting involved in the community. I want to be a positive Mentor for the kids and have group therapy to find out what their needs are.

Cynthia McGill reported I have been mentoring teenagers as well as people in their 30's to help them get their lives right. I love to help people get the lives together and they can call me anytime.

Angie Davis, Crisis Community Living, this is for ages 17 and a half to 25 years of age. Since they get dropped from foster care at 18 years of age I will be providing a place for them to stay. I will be working with them to find jobs and counseling them as needed.

Marquita stated our goal is to make the community better. Marquita mentioned adding to the garden between the Recreation Center and Forest Home Drive. A discussion followed.

Dave Cross asked with all the things you mentioned doing are you planning on doing each one on a different day or all at once?

Marquita mentioned a Peace of Mind Program where I would sit with your impaired family member while you go shopping. I get referrals. That's why I'm all over. We also go to the prison in Clayton and mentor the prisoners

Dave asked how many people will show up for your meetings at the Recreation Center. Will it just be your committee? Mark stated they are meeting to get their strategy together and to decide how they want to move forward with advertising or licensing. Like going out in the community and doing a lot of these things where needed. A discussion followed.

Tina Swindle asked about the example given where their 12 year old was dropped off for a four hour program. What would they be doing?

Marquita stated they wouldn't be able to just drop them off. They would have to be scheduled and certified through the State of Missouri and Medicaid. Each Saturday would be different. We only need to meet here. A discussion followed and they reported they have five different Ministries.

Mark reported they've had three of four meetings. They asked if they could stop by and tell me what they've put together so far. I told them that was fine.

Sally Wahlbrink stated I just wanted to ask because they were talking about Medicaid and billing. I thought this was non-profit at the beginning when she explained it and now it sounds like they all have their own little niche in their lives and what they are doing. A discussion followed. Mark mentioned we aren't opening anything up here at the Recreation Center we are giving them use of a meeting room. They meet here and discuss what they're going to do and go out into the community to do it. A discussion followed.

Mark mentioned a Ranger from the Conservation Department came to the Recreation Center and talked to me about a new program they are starting called "Urban Fishing". If we are interested they would like to run a Fishing Program for families. It could either be with dad and the kids or with mom and the kids. They will do four programs at the conservation lake near the Veteran's Home. We would set them up in our brochure. The first one would be fishing tackle safety and how to use your rod and reels. They will give us the four programs all the information for the 20 minute lesson and the participants will fish for the next hour or so. The next class will be two weeks or a month later. We would probably do some morning hours and some evening hours. The Conservation Department will give us 25 rods and reels, lures and everything we'd need including the teaching material. I've already talked to Rich Pflueger with the Youth commission and he's definitely in on it, he loves to fish. I've also told one of my employees and he's in on it. I'm trying to get three or four people to go to the workshop they are offering. It'll be about three or four hours and they'll explain exactly what to teach and what to do and give you all the materials you'll need for it. All we have to do is give them the registration forms to let them know how many people showed up for each session and give them feedback on how the sessions went. They are trying to get Urban people interested in fishing. A discussion followed including when the work shop will be held, how many instructors will be needed. Mark stated I think it will be a fun program with nothing out of the City's pocket except time. Mark said hopefully we'll have the information in the Summer Brochure and we'll pick the dates for that.

Mark mentioned the St. Patrick's Day Dinner is scheduled for Wednesday, March 15. Amy said if anyone is available to help it would be greatly appreciated. A discussion followed. It starts at 4:30 p.m. and is usually done by 7:00 p.m. A discussion followed.

Tina Swindle mentioned the electronic sign at the corner of Bellefontaine and Chambers Roads is good but could someone change the sign in front of City Hall? A discussion followed.

Mark mentioned we need to put Jean Garascias' stone in but I haven't been able to get a date set with Lefty. Mark said maybe we'll do it on March 18th since they'll be doing the Trash Bash or possibly at the Easter Egg Hunt/Arbor Day event on Saturday, April 15th. I'll let you know for sure. The Hoops event is scheduled for March 11th and so far the Youth Commission is getting decent registration. Mark also mentioned the Spring Golf Tournament is scheduled for April 12th. Dave volunteered to cook.

Mark stated that's pretty much all I have and asked the Park Board members if they had anything else.

The Park Board Meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

The next Park Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 21, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at Bellefontaine Neighbors Recreation Center. Please notify the Recreation Center by calling 867-0700 if you are unable to attend.