

City of Bellefontaine Neighbors

Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board

Tuesday January 21, 2020

Members Present: Judy Mantych, Tina Fichter

Members Absent: LaDeidra Burgess, Dave Cross, Kathy Endorf

Staff Member(s): Martha Snead

The meeting convened at 7:05 p.m.

We began with a discussion of the importance of filling the position of Chairman of the Parks & Recreation Board. It was agreed upon that the role of the Board could be very important to the department as we welcome new staff, and could be a valuable resource to a new Director. Questions were raised as to the official duties of the position and whether it would require monthly reporting at the Board of Aldermen Meetings. It was agreed that new members are needed.

Martha made the following announcements on behalf of Recreation Supervisor Amy Mulholland:

There is a roof leak in the corner of the gymnasium. A few companies have been consulted for repairs and we hope to have the work completed as soon as possible.

Amy is working on a job announcement and confirmed salary range for the Park Maintenance position vacated by Kris Boston in December. A discussion followed concerning the need to fill the position in a timely manner as the spring weather will be here very soon bringing additional park maintenance and swimming pool preparation.

The Silver Sneakers program is doing very well and we continue to get new participants enrolled.

Martha shared the following information about recent and upcoming events at the Recreation Center:

*The Kwanzaa Celebration on December 28 was successful and well attended.

*We have been taking appointments for the Free Income Tax service since December 1 and most appointments have been filled. Participants will be able to walk in and be served if time allows.

*The Black History Celebration will be held on February 8th with a rain-out date of June 20th. Information was shared about the speakers and the participation of the Riverview High School volunteers.

*The department's co-sponsorship of the *Just Lose It* weight loss program through Christian Hospital has their kick-off on Saturday Jan. 25th. We anticipate approximately 70 participants choosing our facility as their weigh in site.

*The upcoming 2020 Census. A discussion followed concerning the Census and what the City is doing to inform residents of the importance of their participation as well as the Census job opportunities that are available.

*The Bellefontaine Family Fest scheduled for June 27th in cooperation with the Great Rivers Greenway's Maline Greenway Event in Bellefontaine Park.

Martha shared the following thoughts on the Aquatics program:

We had a very successful in-service training session with the Lifeguards over the holiday break.

The schedule for the swim league is finished and ready to be shared with the other municipalities by the end of the month. We avoided scheduling any meets on the dates of Board of Alderman meetings, Family Fest and the make-up day for the Black History Celebration due to parking availability.

We are taking a break in swimming lessons due to lower enrollment in the winter and will resume Feb. 19th. The session of Swim Clinics and water exercise classes started last week and enrollment is higher than expected for this time of year!

We plan to meet with Westport Pools to discuss the possible need to adjust our contract with them for a portion of our pool management, staffing and/or maintenance. A discussion was held concerning the pros and cons of that option. Pros included less responsibility for the department and guarantee of staff; and cons included the cost and possible limit of control. We will need to check to see if a change in contract would impact our insurance coverage.

The final discussion centered on the activities of the Parks and Recreation Board moving forward. Both Judy and Tina expressed their desire to continue sponsoring events along with the Recreation Department. The golf tournament and wine & beer garden were mentioned as well as other possible activities including an event during the summer for city employees, participation in the Family Fest/Maline Greenway Event and expanding on our already established programs. Martha mentioned that combining their efforts with other groups such as the Youth Commission or Image & Beautification might be appreciated as well. We discussed the need for positive promotion of the city and the benefit of having residents who serve the community.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

The Parks and Recreation Board will have their next scheduled meeting on Tuesday Feb. 18, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Snead, Aquatics Director