

# RECREATION BOARD MINUTES

Minutes of the Recreation Board Meeting held on February 7th, 2011 from 4:15 p.m. to 5:00p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Present: Tim Bickel-Secretary, Jerry Knoop, Mary Jannides, Katie McMillan-Council and Tom Barnett with Sidney Daily News

Also Present: Duane Gaier- Parks Director, Jennie Rogers-Recreation Specialist

Guest: Rob & Beth Thorne

Absent: Jeff Courter-Chairman

Bickel called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m. Jannides made a motion to except the minutes and Knoop seconded the motion. Motion passed.

## NEW BUSINESS:

**Introduction of two Chamber leadership members:** Roger Gibson and Lana Patch both are from Plasti-Pak Manufacturing in Jackson Center, Ohio. Both were not able to attend this meeting.

**Motion to accept the resignation of board member Greg Jones:** Jones has served on the board for 20 years, but has decided to step down from the board at this time. Jannides made a motion to accept the resignation of board member Greg Jones. Knoop seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**Club Soccer team in Sidney U-15 to U-19:** Gaier informed the board that he has been approached by Jeremy Lorenzo about starting a boys and girls U-15 to U-19 club soccer team in Sidney, Ohio. This would require one field usage in the spring. Lorenzo has been working with Shelby County Youth Soccer to alleviate any conflict in schedules with this new club soccer and the current league that has been ran down there for the last few years. The new team would draw players from Shelby, Miami and Auglaize Counties. This new team would alleviate players from having to drive to other counties so far away to enjoy the game of soccer. Lorenzo's team will be run as a LLC for profit organization. This would offer players uniforms, paid trainer, in-door soccer training, coach, ONU coaching, and also Jeremy Lorenzo is an Olympic development coach and has played soccer at the college level. His league MVYSA needs to verify from our board that we support Lorenzo in using one of our fields for his spring club league. Jannides made a motion to support Lorenzo's club soccer team to use one of our fields in the spring. Knoop seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**MS Walk, Tawawa Park open time on first Day:** Gaier informed the board that the annual MS walk is scheduled for April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011. This is the opening day to vehicles in Tawawa Park. The MS walking committee has approached Gaier about setting back the opening time from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. to help with the walkers meeting up with passing traffic in Tawawa Park. Jannides made a motion to set the opening to 12:00 p.m. on April 16<sup>th</sup> instead of the original time of 10:00 a.m. Bickel seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**Memorial Rock:** Rob and Beth Thorne approached the board about putting a memorial rock along the walkway by the soccer fields, but before the St. Rt. 47 Bridge. This would be in memory of Beth's father Charlie Bridges that worked for the City of Sidney for 33 years. Charlie passed away in the fall of 2010. The rock would be engraved, "Charlie's Patch." The Thorne's informed the board that Charlie spends a lot of time in Tawawa Park and even installed a couple of bird feeders in that area so he could watch the birds. Gaier informed the Thorne's that we have a Policy and Procedure in place that needs to be followed before any thing could be done about the rock. Gaier gave the paperwork to the Thorne's to look over, read and fill out and submit the proper paperwork back to the board for the consideration.

**Pool Rates:** Gaier informed the board that a 5% pool rate increase is being proposed to stay in line with the 5-year city plan. Also we are proposing that military personnel on leave with the proper paper work be admitted to the pool for free and also we are proposing that the pool hours be changed to 1:00 to 7:00 p.m. to help accommodate those individual that may work until 5:00. Jannides made a motion to accept the 5% pool rate increase, accept the free admission for active military personnel on leave and also the change in the pool hours. Knoop seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**MEECA recognition:** Gaier informed the board that the Miami & Erie Canal Corridor Association's winter publication featured a photo and story on the October dedication of Phase II of the Sidney Feeder Canal Walk path.

**Brooklyn Ave. Property:** The city is making an effort to acquire the former Eagle-Picher property to establish a Brooklyn Avenue Park. The will be an 11.7 acre property, now held in a trust, has been reduced from the original asking price of \$125,000.00 to \$25,000.00. Grant application to Nature Works and Clean Ohio has been prepared and were submitted on January 31, 2011. The property has 950 feet of frontage along the Great Miami River and would include a planned .5 mile asphalted trail, Little league baseball field, basketball court, play equipment, shelter house and parking lot. The City's match to the grant would be the construction of the shelter house, construction of the play fields, and the construction of the play equipment. The Brooklyn Avenue area does not currently have a neighborhood park so with the purchase of this property we would stay within the guidelines of our current Parks and Recreation Master Plan with neighborhood parks.

**Old Business:** There is no old business at this time.

**Comments:** Bickel thanked Greg Jones for his years of service to the board.

Jannides motioned to adjourn and Bickel seconded the motion. Motion passed.

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Jeff Courter, Chairman

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Tim Bickel, Secretary