February 7, 2014

Park Board Members: Susan Merrill, Chairperson
Sam Bixler
Chris Szell
Mayor Lou Bertrand

Beautification Commission Members: Ellen Dempsey, Athletic Director with Hiram College

Official Recorder: Susan Skrovan, Fiscal Officer

Others Present: Councilman Frank Hemphill, Doug McGee and Tim Bryan with Hiram College, VA Bob Wood, Police Chief Ed Samec, Alan Donley

General: Chairperson Susan Merrill called the meeting to order at 8:30 am. The board reviewed the minutes of 1/10/2014. A clarification was made to the meeting minutes; the Park Board has no “fiduciary responsibility”. A motion to accept the minutes with the noted clarification was made by Chris Szell and seconded by Susan Merrill. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business: With regard to the finances, it was noted that both grant checks have been received.

Hiram College was sent an invitation to be at today’s meeting. Mr. Tim Bryan, Chief of Staff for the College and Ellen Dempsey, Athletic Director with the College were present to address the board. Mr. Bryan said this property was always meant to be a community space. Ms. Dempsey and he wished to present the College’s “level of specificity”. Ellen went through the document that was presented to the Park Board. These are the minimums; these are the necessary items for a ball field. The College gets maybe two requests a year from others to play on their existing field; it is in bad shape.

Doug McGee addressed the layout of an NCAA ball field; the actual home plate being placed in the northwest corner of the property would be the best layout for a field. Chris Szell would like the Park Board to know more about what the College will require in the use of the space. Ellen said their use of a ball field would begin as soon as weather permits; from March through May and then in September. Chris asked about a “detailed” plan; a vision or a picture of what they envision for this space. Ellen said they want what their current field is with baseball field measurements. Chris would like to know more about the lease agreement; how it would work and when it would take effect. Chris received an email response from Doug McGee, he would like this email added to our minutes and then read Doug’s email and his response. The email is attached to the meeting minutes.

Chris Szell would like to review the grant agreement.

New Business: The March meeting is Wednesday, March 19th at 7:00 pm at the Village Hall. Susan will make the flyer up and contact the Weekly Villager. Sue will contact The Community Journal and email it to Chief Samec. Mayor Bertrand said it could be put into the Communicator as well. The Park Board wanted to make sure the flyer included; anyone with ideas should contact the Park Board prior to the public meeting.
The Park Board members discussed their next regular meeting date. It was decided to move the March meeting to Friday, March 21st at 8:30 am.

In other new business, Chris Szell met with the Ohio Prairie Nursery to obtain some costs associated with putting in a natural prairie. The following costs were presented:

- $820.00 Site preparation, kill grass, aeration of soil
- $2,800.00 Native seed
- $1,000.00 Installation of native seed
- $3,000.00 Ongoing annual site management/maintenance

The removal of the dirt pile from the site would also need to be done; this would not be spread out over the property.

Doug McGee did say that a ball field is much more complicated than a natural field; what about the play area?

Mayor Bertrand commented about all the other aspects that will tie into this park area; the new sidewalks and the hike and bike trail.

Frank Hemphill questioned comments made in the past about concerns over who would schedule the field and have control over it; the College or the Village.

The next regular meeting of the Recreation & Park Board will be on Friday, March 21, 2014 at 8:30 am.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Chris Szell and seconded by Sam Bixler. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:43 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Susan J. Skrovan, Fiscal Officer

Approved:

Susan Merrill, Chairperson