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

July 10, 2015

Park Board Members: Chris Szell, Chairperson
Sam Bixler
James McGee, Asst. Village Administrator

Beautification Commission Members:

Official Recorder: Wendelin Taylor, Asst. Fiscal Officer

Others Present: Stacy Turner, reporter for the Villager Newspaper

arrived at 8:37 a.m.

General: Chris Szell called the meeting to order at 8:32 am. Members reviewed the previous
month’s minutes. Sam Bixler made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 6, 2015 meeting.
Minutes were accepted as submitted.

Old Business:
A. Update on NatureWorks Grant: As of today we have not received the grant agreement back
from the state. Chris will follow up.

B. Land and Water Conservation Grant: Chris received notice the Environmental Review
Process needed to be completed. Funding has not officially been awarded, but this review
request may indicate that we are being considered for funding. Our request is for approximately
$108,000.00.

C. Recreational Trails Grant: Chris resubmitted at $11,650.00 and does not expect to hear
anything before October.

D. Fund Raising – “sponsor a paver” sale: Sam did follow-up with Ken Pike regarding the
paver fundraiser held for the play park. Sam distributed information provided by Ken. Sam
mentioned that there may be some codes that will need to be followed regarding paver
installation and mulch fill required for the area of installation. Stacy Turner suggested that the
support your local business fund raiser be held in conjunction with the Hiram Farm sale. She
also suggested that Chris contact Missy Bookbinder. Missy is a coordinator at the Farm.
Chris submitted the following grant requests: Walmart $2000.00, Home Depot $500.00 and Harley Davidson $10,000.00 (technically we’re not qualified for this grant). We are ineligible for the Wells Fargo grant.

E. Jagow Park Maintenance: Nets for basketball hoops have been installed by Bob Wood. The holes on the outside of the fence line have been filled. Chris along with volunteers Jim Kercher and Tim Kasper installed a new bench. It took approximately 10 man hours to construct and install. The remaining park benches have been modified in hopes that they will last the rest of the summer. Volunteer Tom Khoenle helped to repair and reinstall one of the grills that had rusted off its stand. Chris will be tracking the names of the volunteers and hours worked.

**New Business:**

A. Fund Raising

   i. Chris will be investigating the Fiskars grant and contacting Linda Fergason to schedule a meeting regarding other funding available.

   ii. Approach the Beautification Committee regarding funds for the bench replacement.

B. Communicator: Chris will compose a piece on the park to be included in the July Communicator.

C. Jagow park improvements: The pavilion down spouts need repair. The mulch needs to be replenished.

D. Village website: The Beautification and Park Board minutes are mixed up on the website.

E. Chris will invite Tim Kasper to the next Park Board meeting. Tim represents the Hiram Township Community and Accomplishments Committee.

F. New park site preparation: The pile of Bancroft asphalt grindings has been removed from the park site. The mound of top soil needs to be utilized in some way. The catch basins on the new park property need cleaned out. An additional catch basin may need to be constructed. Sam related that at the time of the old school demolition, the rubble was back filled into the basement. James suggested the drainage pipe for the catch basins may not be accessible if the building debris was buried on site.

   Chris stated that the Village Solicitor is concerned that the park installation is one large project and not separate small projects. James stated a general contractor may need to oversee any park projects. If the Solicitor is viewing the scope of the park installation as a “project”, a general contractor will be needed. Regardless, a time line needs to be developed.
Chris asked Sam if he thought the Park Board needed to hold a public meeting to keep residents informed as to the progress of the park installation. Sam prefers to wait until there was actually something to relate to the community. Currently, they could only report on what is planned.

The next meeting of the Park Board is set for Friday, August 7, 2015 at 8:30 a.m. Sam motioned to adjourn. Chris seconded. The meeting adjourned 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Wendelin Taylor
Assistant Fiscal Officer

Approved:

Chris Szell, Chairperson