

HOWLAND COMMUNITY PARK MINUTES

The Howland Community Park Commissioners held a Regular Meeting on May 14, 2021 at 10:00 A.M. at the Rosegarden Park, Warren, Ohio.

Roll Call: Allen Seman - Present
Jessica Gault – Present
Shawn Pompelia– Present

A motion was made by Allen Seman and seconded by Shawn Pompelia to suspend the reading of the minutes from the April 16, 2021 meeting and accept as written.

Roll Call: Allen Seman - yea
Jessica Gault - yea
Shawn Pompelia– yea

A motion was made by Shawn Pompelia and seconded by Allen Seman to authorize the Deputy Clerk to pay all outstanding invoices incurred.

Roll Call: Allen Seman - yea
Jessica Gault – yea
Shawn Pompelia– yea

A motion was made by Shawn Pompelia and seconded by Allen Seman to pass Resolution 2021-16:

Approve contracted employee George Pahoulis, seasonal groundskeeper, increase hourly rate from \$12/hr to \$15 per hour due to additional responsibilities, effective May 11, 2021.

Roll Call: Allen Seman - yea
Jessica Gault – yea
Shawn Pompelia -yea

A motion was made by Shawn Pompelia and seconded by Jessica Gault to pass Resolution 2021-17:

Authorize the Deputy Clerk to request an advance for the 2020 Real Property Tax – 2nd Half Settlement from the Trumbull County Auditor.

Roll Call: Allen Seman - yea
Jessica Gault – yea
Shawn Pompelia– yea

A motion was made by Shawn Pompelia and seconded by Jessica Gault to pass Resolution 2021-18:

Approve to contract Lewis Construction to construct the entrance arch to Tiger Town at a total cost of \$2,088. The total cost of the project is \$14,446 and \$12,358 was donated by the following: Lewis Construction (\$10,708), Horvat Concrete (\$250) and Carter Lumber (\$1,400).

Roll Call: Allen Seman - yea
Jessica Gault – yea
Shawn Pompelia– yea

A motion was made by Shawn Pompelia and seconded by Allen Seman to adjourn the meeting at to adjourn the meeting at 11:30.

Roll Call: Allen Seman - yea
Jessica Gault – yea
Shawn Pompelia– yea

Summary of Meeting:

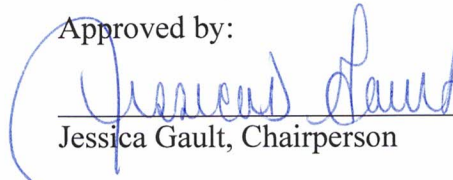
See attached.

Attested by:



Vivian McDowell, Deputy Clerk

Approved by:



Jessica Gault, Chairperson

Date: 6.7.21

Date: 6.7.21

Summary of meeting - May 14,2021

Commissioners requested thank you notes be sent to those noted below for donations and volunteer hours, and also e-mailed to Brandon Giovannone to place on the website.

Jack Hineman for preparing and overseeing the community garden and clean-up at Bolindale and providing direction to all residents.

Girl Scout Leader Barbara Rosenblum for volunteering 62 Girl Scouts clean the main park on Earth Day.

Boy Scout Mike McFadden for building a Gaga ball court as part of his Eagle Scout badge. Commissioner Gault would like to get a picture of the court for the website.

Howland High School Seniors for their anticipated "Clean-up Day" at the main park which is scheduled for May 26, 2021.

Carter Lewis, Denny Lewis and Kevin Wyndham of Lewis Construction, Horvat Concrete and Carter Lumber donated labor and/or material for the construction of the entrance arch to the Tiger Town Playground.

Music-in-The-Park will be held the 2nd and 4th Sunday of June, July and August starting at 6 PM. JFK High School donated a banner for the music. Below is the schedule for 2021

June 13th – Speed Limit

June 27th – Top Notes

(sponsored by Trustee Matthew Vansuch)

July 11th – Take II

July 25th – Erie Brass Ensemble

August 8th – Full Hours

(sponsored by Shepherd of the Valley)

August 15th – Howland Tiger Marching Band

Bricks - another order of bricks has arrived and will be installed as soon as possible.

Amphitheater – Commissioners will schedule a meeting with Andy Bednar of Baker, Bednar, Snyder & Associates to review ideas.

Bathrooms – Wright Building bathrooms are open and will be sanitized by ServiceMaster regularly. Lake Pavilion bathrooms are getting repaired and will reopen every day after sanitized. There was discussion of the destruction and damage that has occurred in the restrooms since they were opened. Bathrooms will be left open for now, but the Commissioners will reassess as needed if the destruction continues.

Park Road: Commissioner Pompelia had received quotes from CM Paving (\$12,000) and Carl's Paving (\$8,500) to repair potholes and skim pave areas of the park road. One more quote will be needed. A suggestion was made that Commissioner Pompelia reach out to the Township Trustees to ask if the Public Works Dept. could repair the potholes and skim pave areas at a later date. The Trustees are going to have the Public Works Dept. repair the potholes next week at no cost to the park and in the summer will skim pave areas, and will discuss the cost at that time. A quote will also be given by the Township to repair back end drainage issue.

The road between Rosegarden and Clifton is going to be part of the Township Paving Program and the cost will be split between the Township and Park (\$6,000 for the park).

Morgandale Park: Will repair fence, put pea gravel around playground equipment and rubber. Repairs will be donated.

Howland "Day of Champions" will be June 26, 2021. Will honor the boy's soccer team and swimmer Jared Minek. A flatbed truck will be used and the liability insurance will be paid by Shawn Pompelia.

Tiger Town Playground: Friday, May 14, 2021 parts of the new playground to be repaired and or replaced. ParkPlay is fixing the car and a new design for the helicopter.

Pergola: Bob Meinke of Creekside Garden will be freshening the mulch at the pergola area. Commissioner Pompelia will reach out to Bob Meinke for ideas on the front entrance. A suggestion also was made to put picnic tables (concrete style).

Phase II of Tiger Town: Commissioners have not received a date of the installation for Phase II. Should be this month.

Website: Brandon Giovannone of MDI Studios will be making changes recommended by Commissioners and residents Matthew Litke and Jennifer Beach of 9086 E Market St. Giovannone stated that it is a new website and always looking for ways to improve.

Ideas for improvement:

- a. Volunteer page for persons interested in volunteering their time and skill to help the park. Form would be available to complete and review by the Commissioners.
- b. Volunteer page for businesses interested in donating labor, materials, money, etc.
- c. Volunteer Gallery that would recognize and acknowledge them with photos and a brief description of donation.
- d. Thank you page.

Questions & Concerns Page: Commissioner Gault will work with Giovannone

Commissioners acknowledged complaints made by resident Matthew Litke regarding meeting minutes needed more details. Commissioner Gault stated that meetings will not be posted until approved at a meeting.

Comprehensive Plan:

Commissioner Pompelia advised Andy Bednar to “think big. Want to envision something that is “grand”. Commissioner Gault explained that we needed to rebuild Tiger Town and knew that it could not be built on the original site and had to decide on a plan on where to place the new Tiger Town.

Resident Beach stated that it is not really a plan but more of an idea, but acknowledged that Giovannone’s idea regarding getting help via the website is a good idea. Would like the Commissioners to “lay out a plan” for Phase III.

Facebook: The Commissioners discussed the remarks made on Facebook that not a lot has been accomplished. The rubber alone at Tiger Town was very expensive, but is

a safety feature that is required for liability. Playground equipment is not cheap. The Park does not have a 501C3 (non-profit) because it is a governmental entity. Grants through the ODNR are not available to us because we do not own the property. We lease the property from the school. Most grants require a 501C3. The Park is part of co-operative purchasing program that provides the best and lowest price to governmental entities. Additionally, remarks on Facebook about the splash pad is incorrect. The price discussed on Facebook is nowhere near the actual cost of a splash pad. Regular, daily operation is very costly and the communities that do have splash pads have been able to get grants and have their own water department.

Commissioner Pompelia read a statement with personal remarks that are thoughts of the Commissioners (copy attached).

The Howland Park commissioners are dedicated public servants and have been chosen to be leaders in our community, volunteering our time to the Howland Park system. I speak as one commissioner and in this statement is my opinion. I hope my fellow commissioners share my thoughts.

Jessica, Al, and I all are raising or have raised our families in Howland Township. We volunteer our time, talents, and financial resources to have a park system we all can be proud of, now and in the future. Can we improve in areas? Absolutely! We have always been open to listen to our neighbors when they have questions or share their concerns. We do our best to obtain facts so that we can make the best decisions for our park system. We are volunteers, because we believe in what we are doing to benefit the community.

Being a commissioner can be a thankless job at times. However, when negativity surfaces, that's when leaders rise. Over the past two weeks, we have read the remarks addressed to us on social media. Valid points where we can improve have been raised and we have taken note to these remarks.

The commissioners have always met with or answered our phones when our neighbors have had concerns regarding our park system. We have and will continue to have an open-door policy. Attacking me and my fellow commissioners on social media is not a useful way to effect change and it's not what our community represents. We have always been neighbors to one another and supported each other through good and bad times.

We as commissioners have always maintained a good relationship with the township Trustees and our school system. We are all partners for the citizens in our community. That does not mean we always agree with each other, but out of mutual respect, we can have a professional conversation with each other and work out our concerns. That is the community I believe in.

We are all neighbors and when concerns arise, we are here to listen and act when possible. Attacks on social media is not a useful way to bring our community together and only serves to divide us. We as neighbors are better than that. Our school system has a simple motto "All One". This is a motto I would like to see our entire community embrace.