

Minutes of a Meeting of  
Recreation and Parks Improvements Committee  
Held Wednesday, May 4, 2016  
6:30 p.m.

Members Present: Councilman Marty Mace, Chair  
Councilman Tom Henderson  
Councilwoman Karen Lieske

Also Present: Recreation Director Enovitch.

Mr. Mace called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. He thanked everyone for their attendance and advised that the primary topics for discussion this evening are the review of the City recreation programs, parks, and future planning. Mr. Mace stated he wanted to come together as a committee this evening to get an idea of where we are presently, and where we see the future for a park system. He noted that as Mr. Henderson pointed out in his Public Improvements Committee presentation on May 3, 2016, the City will be going through some costly public improvement projects. Mr. Mace stated that he does not want to see the Parks and Recreation Programs sidelined. The survey sent out for the new Master Plan includes answers from our residents that parks and recreation are important to our residents and part of the reason why they are here in Bay Village. With that in mind, he would like to maintain the parks as a focal point in the City and the recreation programs as a valuable asset to the community

**Bay Village Recreation Department Report of Enrollment**

Recreation Director Dan Enovitch distributed copies of a report concerning the Recreation Department enrollment in programs and activities for 2015 and 2016, to date. (Exhibit A attached). The Committee reviewed the report with an opportunity for questions and comments.

Mr. Enovitch gave an overview of the programs and enrollment, highlighting the procedure for obtaining a pool pass for summer membership. The Recreation Department is considering options for on-line purchase of pool passes, which is difficult at this time due to the need to prove residency. More work will continue in this regard. The basketball, baseball, and girls softball programs continue to grow with the basketball teams given the opportunity to play against other west shore teams. The lighting for Hartman Field is an asset to all of the sports teams. The lighting is efficient, bright, and has eliminated the complaints received over the old lighting at the field. The Bay High School is following suit with new lighting for the high school stadium.

Mr. Mace asked if there is any way to determine the cost savings that should now be reflected with the new lights. Mr. Enovitch stated that he may be able to provide that information in the future, since the lighting company can provide statistics as to how often and for how long the lights are used.

The youth tennis programs continue to thrive; the United States Tennis Association (USTA) team play balances their play between the Dover Courts and the Bradley Courts, following

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concern expressed in the past by Mrs. Lieske to have the courts open for free play by residents. Mrs. Lieske expressed appreciation to Mr. Enovitch, noting that this is a more favorable distribution of court time throughout the community. Mr. Enovitch noted that the schedule is posted on line for the residents' convenience.

Spring flag football has six teams in grades one through six, playing games on Saturday afternoons in Fairview Park. Mr. Henderson asked if there is any concern expressed by parents in regard to concussions. Mr. Enovitch stated that the third grade is the earliest the children can play tackle football. The USA Football program is having all coaches certified in concussion awareness. If there are signs of concussion in any sport, this proactive approach will avoid the issues that have occurred with concussions and injuries. The Bay Recreation Department pride themselves in fitting the kids with the best, latest, and safest equipment. Any major head injuries have been avoided, but the league is always discussing and staying aware of the risk. The approach for youth sports overall is making those volunteer coaches aware of the symptoms that would be shown if there is an injury.

The Lacrosse Program is growing rapidly. A new program offers skateboarding lessons offered by the company that designed the skate park, who sends representatives out to teach the participants how to safely skateboard. Cheerleading has expanded to the basketball season as well as the football season.

The adult programs continue to thrive as well. The boating education program includes sail boating out of the Bay Boat Club. It is hoped that the classes will continue when the current volunteer teacher leaves the program this year.

Mrs. Lieske asked Mr. Enovitch if he can expand his report to show additional previous years in order to see the patterns and trends of program enrollment. The revenue for the programs can be seen in the monthly financial reports provided by the Finance Director, as well as the yearly budget reports.

Silver Sneakers which provides free programs for seniors and is funded by the Federal Government through Medicare, is run through the Community Services Department. Mr. Mace asked if expanding programs for healthy life styles for seniors is best left at the senior center, or would the Recreation Department consider an expansion of their programs in the senior area. Mr. Enovitch noted that he is open to filling the needs of any requests of seniors for programs. As an example, he was recently approached to establish a ladies' softball league for ages 55 and over. They would like to play in the Metroparks, and Mr. Enovitch has begun the work necessary to make this league a possibility.

Mr. Mace noted that he brought the idea forward because of the plans for providing meals at the Dwyer Memorial Center. Hopefully, we are going to encourage more activity in the community for senior socialization. Mr. Enovitch cited the existence of water aerobics at the pool and senior splash days. He noted that they encourage participation in all programs and facilities.

Mrs. Lieske noted that memberships for Bay residents can be purchased very reasonably at the Rocky River Recreation Center. Rocky River does participate in the Silver Sneakers program.

The Rocky River Recreation Center has two indoor pools, and is an excellent resource for the Bay Village residents of all ages.

Discussion followed concerning the recent municipal survey conducted in Bay Village that resulted in some expressions of hope for an indoor recreation center. Mr. Mace noted that the availability of nearby Rocky River facilities should be highlighted as a possible way to fill some of that need. Mr. Henderson commented that he made public records requests to five cities around the area asking for complete records of the financial history of their recreation centers, both capital expenditures and operating expenses. Most lost money on an operating basis, and when you incorporate capital expenditures they require significant taxpayer support. It is a wonderful idea, but the City of Bay Village has a debt load currently and we are looking at specific, absolutely necessary infrastructure improvements, and an indoor recreation center is not something we need to examine in great detail at this time. Mr. Mace noted that Brook Park had a state-of-the-art facility for years that is now closed because it cannot be kept open due to financial constraints.

Mr. Mace commended Mr. Enovitch on the use of the website for the Recreation Department. He commented that the Recreation Department does the best job of utilization of the website and modern technology of any of the other services in the City. Registration has been more streamlined with the use of the website and the internet.

#### Review of City Parks

Cahoon Park – The physical nature of Hartman Field has been shifted around for multipurpose use by many sports teams. The lighting of the field has proven to be a very positive asset for the teams and the community, especially in the fall and winter when daylight is at a premium. Mrs. Lieske asked about any possibility of improving the restrooms in Cahoon Memorial Park. Mr. Enovitch and Mr. Mace agreed that the condition of the restrooms does need to be addressed, with the goal of being more functional and indestructible to improve the park's appeal. Mr. Enovitch suggested that perhaps approaching the soccer club for the possibility of financial assistance in improving the restroom/storage area/concession area for their programs may help fund the rehabilitation of the restrooms. Mr. Mace added the possibility of asking the Bay Village Foundation for assistance when the Play-in-Bay project is completed. The Play-in-Bay improvements will begin this fall.

Aquatic Center – The main concern of residents is the aquatic center is not open on Sunday, which is in compliance with the stipulations of the Cahoon Will. It is unlikely that any changes will occur in these stipulations.

Fitness equipment installed on the walking trail of Cahoon Memorial Park have worked out perfectly, being installed in a sedate, out-of-sight manner. They have proven to be a great addition, and Mr. Henderson was thanked for his work in seeing this project to fruition. Mr. Mace suggested looking to install a dedicated cross-walk sometime in the future to provide more access to this northern area of Cahoon Memorial Park for the many people who use the walking trail. Mr. Henderson expressed appreciation to the leadership of Cleve Miller and Barry Tyo, as

well as the sponsorship of the various businesses in the community who have made the walking path a reality.

Mr. Mace noted that he would like to see more walking paths in Cahoon Park in the future and the connection of the east and west side of the park would be a welcome addition with more walking paths. A pathway in the Frisbee Golf Course is an idea worthy of consideration in the future to encourage more walking and biking through city parks. The Service Department will maintain the mulch around the Frisbee Golf stations.

Bradley Park – Coulton Courts in Bradley Park has been a major boost to the tennis program. Mr. Enovitch stated that Mr. Coulton, the recent benefactor of the parks, has asked that consideration be given to providing a shade structure for the courts. Mr. Enovitch is currently investigating shade structures. Information concerning these structures, including pricing is attached to these minutes as Exhibit B. Mr. Coulton is providing \$10,000 per year for a period of six years for improvement of the courts. Mrs. Lieske noted that at times the spectators welcome the sun for warmth. Mr. Enovitch stated that wind protection is certainly needed, and further investigation into options will continue. Mrs. Lieske suggested shading over the picnic tables be one of the options considered. Mrs. Lieske also asked for the opportunity to view similar shade structures in the area.

Mr. Mace stated that since the Coulton Courts are the home of the Bay High School Tennis Team, he spoke with School Board representative Steve Lee about the possibility of approaching the Bay High School Athletic Department about making this the home of the Bay Rockets and providing assistance with renovating the bathroom facility and providing a changing area for players. Mr. Lee understood that this is a reasonable request.

Mr. Enovitch was approached by a resident in the Bradley Park area about possible improvements to the playground area and equipment. The playground for small children is at a low point, the area is often very muddy and not conducive to play. It is also away from the baseball fields and if an older sibling is playing on the fields it is hard for a parent to watch a smaller child at the playground while watching a baseball game. The resident and her husband are willing to launch a fund-raising campaign to have the playground addressed. Mr. Enovitch met with the couple and Mr. Mace and suggested waiting until the Play-in-Bay fundraising campaign is completed. Mr. Enovitch presented quotations for new equipment which are attached to these minutes as Exhibit C. The Bradley Park families are willing to be of assistance to replace this 25-year old equipment.

Reese Park – Mr. Mace stated that the restroom facilities at Reese Park are probably the worst throughout the City. The park is the home of the busiest basketball court use in the City. The tennis courts are probably in need of the next upgrade of tennis facilities which may come from a grant from the Coulton Family. It may also be advantageous to upgrade the lighting at Reese Park to more energy efficient lighting to keep the basketball and tennis courts lighted at night to make the area more attractive to residents. The playground is up-to-date due to the grant received within the recent past for new equipment.

Columbia Park – This park site was also mentioned in the municipal resident survey. The stairs to access the beach have been inspected by the City Service Department for repairs. The stairs are made of concrete, and are beginning to chip out where repairs were done a couple of years prior. The stairs are disproportional, are chipping away with some sharp edges. Service Director Thomas will have his concrete crew shave off the sharp edges of the stairs, but they felt that the width and breadth of the stairs are adequate. The area will also be cleaned up and there is some erosion due to water. Mr. Mace stated that his main concern is a liability issue with the stairs being uneven and not easy to ascend or descend. Mrs. Lieske questioned whether the Service Department has a check list showing the frequency of inspections for safety, similar to the fire inspections that are done for commercial areas to insure safety measures are met.

Mr. Mace noted that Columbia Park, with its waterfall, is a wonderful park that is under-utilized. Folks bring their dogs for water training, and it has been used for kayaking and windsailing. He would encourage upkeep to continue access to this area. The City did provide an observation deck and a concrete pad with picnic tables, both appearing to be in good condition. It would be favorable to look to stair improvement in the future. The Sunset Area neighborhood association has put in new steps in their area which are ideal and could be used as a model for the improvement needed at Columbia Park in the future.

The City parking lot on the south side of Lake Road across from Columbia Park is in need of repair. It is a nice area for parking with access for about 30 cars. A dedicated cross walk would be very helpful, with flashing signs due to the hill on Lake Road adjacent to the area. There is also an abandoned pump house which could be considered for a small restroom facility.

Huntington Park – This park belongs to Metroparks and was the top vote getter for Bay parks in the municipal survey. The residents love the park and consider it theirs. Mr. Mace would like to note that it is a wonderful possibility for collaboration between the City and the Metroparks Board. The recent library idea would be a fantastic addition to the Metroparks, but it is unknown if that will become a reality. The beach brings a million visitors per year to the City and the City could better utilize that visitation to assist businesses. He encouraged keeping that in mind when we look at the Master Plan to possibly capture that revenue stream during the summer and during soccer tournaments. We could also possibly extend bike and walking trails into the Huntington Park with collaboration endeavors, increasing the health awareness in our community. He noted that biking and walking are important activities for Bay residents. The Bicycle Cooperative may also be a welcome partner in this endeavor, more than willing to assist with bike paths throughout the City. The Bicycle Cooperative does have a bike route mapped out throughout the City, which is part of the Coastal Trail that comes through the City.

Walker Road Park – This park is a cooperative effort between Bay Village and Avon Lake, which makes it challenging to do anything specific for Bay residents. The pond is used for fishing, there are soccer fields in the park that are used for the Bay Challenge Cup, and there are some walking paths. Utilization could certainly be increased. Mr. Henderson added that it is a very nice park and he is happy that we have the cooperation with Avon Lake. The park was used last year in deer culling operations to help maintain the deer population. Some of the residents in Bay Village who live around the border of Walker Road Park have expressed concern that trees are being cut down along the back of their property abutting the park. It is unclear who is

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responsible, city-wise or utility-wise, for removing these trees. This is another issue we should not forget about. Mr. Enovitch noted that the City fought for that buffer, and it is surprising that they cleared any trees. He will check with the parks crew for any information in this regard.

There being no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m. Mr. Mace thanked everyone for their participation.

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Marty Mace, Chairman

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Joan Kemper, Clerk of Council