

Minutes of a Meeting of  
Recreation and Parks Improvements Committee  
Held Wednesday, October 24, 2016  
6:30 p.m.

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

Also Present: Recreation Director Enovitch.  
Mr. Carl Frey, Bay Soccer Club  
Mr. Doug Gambrell  
Margaret (Peggy) Drumm  
Warren Remein  
Lydia DeGeorge

Mr. Mace called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. He thanked everyone for their attendance and welcomed Mr. Carl Frey from the Bay Soccer Club who addressed the committee about renovations they are seeking to do at the soccer fields at Cahoon Memorial Park. At 7 p.m. the Finance Committee will address the budget portion of recreation and parks in the City of Bay Village.

**Mr. Carl Frey, Bay Soccer Club**

Mr. Frey stated that he met with Mayor Sutherland before she retired, and has also met with Mayor Ebert regarding the goals and direction of the Bay Soccer Club. They are here this evening to take the next step in the process of exploring the possibility of renovations to the southwest corner of the Soccer Field in Cahoon Memorial Park.

There are two main components of what they would like to do. One is to build a new shed for storage needs of the Soccer Club in the southwest corner of the park. There are three auxiliary sheds in the area now with Bay Soccer Club equipment in all those sheds. They would like to have all that consolidated into one facility closer to the fields, but out of the way of the rest of the park activities. The new shed would not relocate the restrooms or the concession stand. The existing structure would remain for those purposes but they would clean up the auxiliary sheds and have something that would be out of the way for the Soccer Club's storage needs.

The other thing they struggle with during the season is that the existing fields do not drain well. When the snow melts and the spring rains come they find themselves challenged and having to close the fields. They have well over 1000 kids who participate in the recreational soccer programs. In the spring they added the fall program which serves over 400 kids. There are over 400 players in the travel programs and they bring in as many kids from out of town to play on City fields. Another level was added with teams now coming from Toledo to play on Bay fields.

Mr. Frey noted that the fields have served the club for many years and they appreciate being able to use them. But, when you get out on to the fields, the puddles and the soft areas become

apparent. A mower got stuck this fall out there just trying to cut the grass. The Soccer Club would like to reshape the fields and add drainage. This is the second main component they are asking. Mr. Mace displayed a print out of the proposal of the club.

Mr. Mace stated that he wants to confirm with Mr. Frey that the area he is discussing is the area north of the main parking lot to that area. Those fields have a mound in front of them to distinguish the parking lot from the fields. He asked if this proposal keeps those mounds in place.

Mr. Frey stated that what they have laid out as far as grading would tie into those mounds. Those mounds tend to hold a little water up against them, so they are proposing to contour with a little more fill to keep water shedding away. It is a broad area, nearly 600 feet, and they are trying to push water across the turf over that kind of distance. They looked at how they could get water off the surface a little better in spring. Right now they are waiting for the evaporation cycle to catch up in spring and sometimes that is June or July when they are nearing the completion of their programs. They are also very sensitive to the open look of the park. They do not want anything they do with the soccer activities to interrupt that vista that the people are used to. They are studying the lay of the land and what they have come up with is crowning it in two halves which would require a little drainage up the middle. It works pretty well with what is there and the changes are subtle. It does take out some of the irregularities and adds drainage in the middle. The general lay of the land is that the water is all trying to shed towards Lake Erie and they are working with that.

The small field south of the drive is pitched a little more than they would like but it works well. There is not as much drainage issue with that because it was regraded. Dave Barker of the Bay Soccer Club stated that the south end of the field was built in 1997. There is some fall towards the driveway. If you are on the driveway you actually have to walk up to the top of the fields. There are low spots that they fill infrequently. The main goal is to make it safe for the kids.

On the north side of the park along Cahoon Road in the sidewalk there is a watering station that the City hooks into and a water cannon that distributes water. The other one on the south end of the field is where they tried and were unsuccessful in putting in a water cannon. Mr. Frey noted that for the Bay Soccer Club tournament over Labor Day Weekend they have over 1500 players from Michigan and West Virginia to play on the fields. They always hear what a great opportunity it is to sit there and watch the soccer games with Lake Erie as the backdrop. They really want to be able to present the best possible fields for these visitors to keep them coming back to Bay Village.

Mr. Henderson asked Mr. Frey if the Soccer Club has any preliminary thoughts on the scale of the project in terms of budgetary goals. Mr. Frey stated that they did do a conceptual budget for the work and they presented that initially to Mayor Ebert and Recreation Director Enovitch. The numbers are probably retail numbers, and as a club they will look to see what they can accomplish with donations and services. The project is in phases with the shed broken out as a component. They will probably try to tackle the regrading in two halves so they are not out of space for an entire season. The club has some reserve funds to get started on the project. They will be looking for some help, potentially from donations and would be happy to have help from

the City. The proposed shed is about the scale of the existing shed minus the open area, and will have an overhead door for ease in getting the equipment in and out of the shed.

Mr. Mace asked if labor costs are included to build the shed. The estimate on the shed was just a simple \$50.00 per square feet number for the structure. They will need to get into what the expectations are and what they are trying to accomplish for a better estimate of the cost. They are also seeking permission before getting too far along.

Across the street, along the sledding hall, is what used to be the soccer shed. There is an electric meter on the shed and it is locked up. It is what they used to use taking the goals all the way across and bringing them back over every week. They have evolved to the existing shed now where several different groups store their equipment. There are four different sheds on the field now and they are looking to consolidate. In the future if there ever is an opportunity that the shed is redone they are trying to separate themselves so the City can make that a showcase.

Mr. Mace noted that the timing for the presentation is good since the budgetary process for the City is underway. Knowing the Bay Soccer Club needs as a major player in the park gives them some idea of their needs going forward and helps the Council see what they can do to help out the fantastic opportunity for the City to showcase what they have. Mr. Barker stated that they are mindful of the Fourth of July and other events and would not work when those things are going on.

Mr. Mace thanked the representatives of the Bay Soccer Club for attending the meeting this evening and presenting their proposal. The committee will ask Recreation Director Enovitch to coordinate further and hopefully the goals of the club will be realized.

### **Bradley Park**

Mr. Mace stated that he and Recreation Director Enovitch met with Mr. and Mrs. Drumm who are present this evening. Mrs. Drumm asked the Recreation and Parks Improvement Committee to look into relocating and improving the playground facilities at Bradley Road Park. The playground equipment for smaller children at Bradley Road Park is very worn and in a state of disrepair. The location of it is in a drainage area for the rest of the park, which means that it is wet a lot of the time, and for a long period of time. The Drumms approached the Council Committee and asked if they might be able to give some assistance with moving the playground and possibly getting some new equipment. Recreation Director Enovitch has been in contact with the Drumms and has also done some research on some playground equipment.

Recreation Director Enovitch stated that after meeting with the Drumms he reached out to five vendors. They received multiple proposals, ranging anywhere from \$70,000 to over \$90,000 for a new state-of-the-art playground for Bradley Road Park, which is very much needed. It would be the third park of the three playgrounds in the City to refurbish the playground equipment. With the assistance of a grant, a new playground at Reese Park on Clague Road was constructed. Refurbishing of Play-in-Bay in Cahoon Memorial Park will take place this November, and now the need is to address Bradley Road Park. The Drumms came to Mr. Enovitch and they

discussed doing some type of partnership with the residents of the Bradley Road Park area, and possibly with some donations from companies in the area.

Mrs. Lieske asked Mr. Enovitch where he envisions the location of the playground equipment. Mr. Enovitch stated that he thinks it can be kept where it is, and in talking to the professionals as long as proper drainage is installed it would alleviate the drainage issues that are currently there. There is a drain just south of the walking path. Mr. Drumm stated that part of that effort would just require some new grading.

Mr. Enovitch noted that the existing playground was piecemealed together. It is not a play area that was professionally developed, such as Reese and Play-in-Bay. That adds to the issues with drainage. When the companies come in they put in drainage, and re-set the area. Mrs. Drumm noted that with the addition of the Lacrosse Fields they had to take one of the pieces of equipment down, so it was even less than what they had before. Mr. Drumm stated it basically has been cannibalized and there is equipment there that was there when he was a child growing up.

Mr. Enovitch stated that it is a park that is widely used by the residents at the west end of Bay Village, and from other communities because of the existing tennis courts. Mrs. Drumm noted that they used to live in the center of Bay Village and relocated to the west area last year. They had seen all the fund raising that was done for Play-in-Bay. They spoke to some of their new neighbors and the residents around are interested in supporting it as well. They are interested in seeing what the City is willing to contribute so it doesn't fall entirely on them.

Mr. Henderson stated that the refurbishments to Play-in-Bay are the result of a partnership between the City and the fund raising efforts of the Bay Village Foundation. He asked the Drumms if they would be interested in working with them for this project. Mrs. Drumm stated that she reached out to Al Paulus of the Bay Village Foundation. The Bay Village Foundation wanted to finish and complete what they are doing at Play-in-Bay, but they indicated they would be more than willing to assist with the Bradley Road Park Playground.

Mr. Drumm stated that they questioned whether they should be looking at a larger project scope since everything takes so long to accomplish. Recreation Director Enovitch stated that he has asked each vendor for a proposal for a larger project, and a proposal for a smaller project. If we do go with a larger project, can it be done in phases as funds are raised and appropriated, and be the outstanding park we all want. Or, do we set the goal a little lower and work with the funds that we have.

Mrs. Drumm noted that one of the vendors said that they can provide parks that are very autistic friendly and special education friendly. That could be something they could include, which would make it different than some of the other parks. Mr. Enovitch noted that the playground at Reese Park is rated for special needs as well.

Mr. Mace stated that this goal can be placed on the path of working with the Bay Village Foundation and the Drumms to create some kind of fundraising effort to bring this to fruition for the Bradley Road Park.

Mrs. Lieske noted that this should also be brought before the Council of the Whole. Mr. Vincent asked the cost of the Play-in-Bay improvements. The effort at Play-in-Bay reached the \$100,000 level, comprised of \$10,000 of City funding and \$90,000 of donations.

Mr. Drumm asked the process of what happens next. Mr. Mace stated that the project will be brought before the Council of the Whole for permission to seek out this initiative. If we want to put it toward the budget process, Director Enovitch could put that on the agenda towards getting some money from the public part and go through Mayor Ebert and to contact the Bay Village Foundation to make sure it is okay to set up the fundraising through their non-profit organization.

Mrs. Lieske questioned whether there might be grants available. Mr. Enovitch stated that the Nature Works grants through the Ohio Recreation and Parks Association won't be available until later this summer. He has been watching that to see what might be available through those grants, which is what was received for Reese Park.

Mr. Henderson noted that the fund raising effort for the Play-in-Bay renovations took over two years before they got to the point where they had the capital for the renovations. There is a Finance Committee meeting this evening at 7 p.m. and one of the agenda items is the Recreation Department Capital Budget where this Bradley Road project will be noted. Mr. Henderson expressed his support as the Ward 4 Council representative.

### **Reese Park**

A resident has an idea of repurposing tennis and basketball courts in Reese Park for pickle ball and platform tennis courts. Pickle ball is done on a half of a tennis court, using a ball that is like a wiffle ball and a paddle instead of a racket with strings. Mr. Mace and Mr. Enovitch will meet with the resident to hear his ideas, but there is nothing intended for repurposing the tennis and basketball courts that exist at this time.

Mrs. Lieske asked if this is because of concerns of the number of people outside Bay Village using the park. Mrs. Lieske asked if the courts at Reese Park are used for the United States Tennis Association play. Mr. Enovitch stated that they do use them as back up courts. There are some integrity issues as far as the playing surface goes. Most of the programming is done in the center of town and at Bradley Park.

Mr. Remein noted that there are many people who use that park. Mrs. Lieske stated that she would be concerned about total refiguring of that park. Amy Corson, resident of Bay Village, noted that she has four sons and they all use the courts at Bradley Park.

Mr. Mace assured everyone that a resident came up with an idea and they are just giving him an opportunity to be heard.

Mr. Remein stated that he has expressed to Council previously the hours that the tennis court lights are lit. The lights are immensely bright and if you are walking down some of the side streets you literally can't see to walk there, the lights are so bright. They need to go off at 9:30

Recreation and Parks Improvement Committee  
October 24, 2016

p.m. He welcomes public from other communities, and so do others in the neighborhood, but with the lights you cannot see the night sky.

Mrs. Lieske noted that she would be interested to hear what size would be needed for platform tennis and pickle ball. We just recently received a donation for tennis court maintenance at Bradley Road Park, and looking at that park is there any place there where platform tennis and pickle ball would work in that park since we have received that contribution. Mrs. Lieske stated she would be curious to scan that possibility with the residents in the Bradley Park area. Mrs. Lieske stated it might fit in nicely with the efforts for Bradley Road Park that the Drumms presented this evening.

Mr. Mace noted that he just wanted to mention the topic and it is in the very early stages of conversation with the resident who proposed the idea.

Mr. Vincent asked the time when the lights at Reese Park go off. Mr. Enovitch stated that he believes they are set to turn off at 11 p.m. when the park officially closes. Mr. Vincent stated that he thought it was an hour after sunset. He suggested looking into this further because he had someone complain about the tennis court lights in the past.

There being no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m. Mr. Mace thanked everyone for their participation.

---

Marty Mace, Chairman

---

Joan Kemper, Clerk of Council