

# FENTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

## Minutes City Hall

Monday May 2, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

### **Parks and Recreation Committee:**

Gary Johnson, Chairperson, Ward 1 (Jan 2024)

Open, Vice-Chairperson, Ward 4 (Jan 2024)

Deb Rogers, Secretary, Ward 3 (Jan 2024)

Christine Simino, Ward 1 (Jan 2023)

Mary Heinemann, Ward 2 (Jan 2023)

Lynn Hughes, Ward 2 (Jan 2024)

Cyndy Paul, Ward 3 (Jan 2023)

Mike Abbott, Ward 4 (Jan 2023)

Sonia Palmisano, Ward 4 (May 2024)

Alderman Robin Huels, Liaison

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### **CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairperson Johnson called the Parks & Recreation committee meeting to order on Monday, May 2, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

All attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **ROLL CALL:**

Chairperson Johnson: Present

Secretary Rogers: Present

Member Simino: Present

Member Heinemann: Present

Member Hughes: Present

Member Paul: Present

Member Abbott: Present

Member Palmisano: Not Present

Alderman Robin Huels, Liaison: Present

### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Nikki Finkbiner, City Administrator

Dan Howard, Public Works Director

Tina Sullivan, Admin | Bookkeeper | Memberships

Joe Maurath, Mayor

Deb Abbot, Planning & Zoning  
Ron Herrell, Alderman

## **OATH OF OFFICE:**

Nikki Finkbiner, City Administrator administered the Oath of Office to Christine Simino for the member term expiring January 2023.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** March 7, 2022, meeting minutes

Motion made to approve minutes as written. – **Mary Heinemann**

2nd – **Deb Rogers**

(Approved Unanimously)

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Scott George thanked Public Works department for removing materials volunteers gathered during the cleanup at Bud Weil Park. He thanked all the volunteers including Boy Scout Troop 778 this past weekend. Updated the progress made so far at Bud Weil Park with the volunteer efforts and mentioned additional areas for proposed seed/plant and no mow areas. Wetland areas look good and plantings from last year are coming back. Would like to plant some natives in the “prairie patch” area. Volunteers would like to kill off snakeroot and plant natives in the rock garden area on the map shown. Map shown for proposed Westside Lake seed, plantings, and no mow areas. Would like to plant some natives in the area identified as Sun Garden on the map shown. Changes that need approval are the sun garden and weed strip at Westside Lake and prairie patch in Bud Weil Park. Volunteer efforts are scheduled to end in May.

Joe Maurath mentioned Christine has been on park board previously and thanked her for her service. We have a need for concession stand employees. We should be proud of our staff for working concessions: Nikki Finkbiner, Dan Howard, the board of alderman, Robin Huels, Brian Wisbrock, Chris Clauss, Angie Shoemate, Michelle LeBaume worked shifts up to 13 hours and brought in \$9000. revenue over the weekend. They are working 40+ hours every week and wants to acknowledge them and appreciate their efforts. Moving forward we almost have a full house and exciting things happening and with Mr. George. We’re where we need to be. He’s talked to Nikki about things he’d like to do. Cleanup I-44, meet with MODOT to see what the cost would be, park improvements, tree removal, bring the park system back to where it was. We have 9/16 public works employees. Grewe is having the same problem. We’re all in this together and he thanked everyone. As long as he’s in this position we will try to make as many strides as we can but just don’t have the staff. Thanks to Ron Herrell, planning and zoning and Deb Abbot. Ron volunteered to take his place on the board. If you know anyone willing to work concessions, they can name their hours. It’s fun and time moves quickly.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Discussion regarding the donation of three benches through the Winter Brothers Charitable Foundation.** They are composite benches. A decision needs to be made for locations to place the benches. Mike Abbott asked who provided the benches along the river. They are provided by City of Fenton. It may also be a good time to relocate the benches at Riverside Park. The southside of the main entrance at RiverChase was suggested as a location.

Motion made to accept the donation of benches with specific locations to be determined at a later date. –

**Cyndy Paul**

2nd – **Mike Abbott**

(Approved Unanimously)

**Update regarding the YMCA/City of Fenton partnership for the management of RiverChase and other parks projects.**

Thursday evening the contract was signed with the YMCA. They will be taking over RiverChase on July 1<sup>st</sup>. We don't have staff to work on additional park projects at this time. Events will no longer be managed by staff at RiverChase once the YMCA takes over on July 1<sup>st</sup>. The name will be RiverChase YMCA.

We're getting ready to put the bid out for the pavilion kit installation that will be delivered early summer down where the former UAW pavilion was located.

Donation for a Hydration station by a grant program. Application due by May 13, asking board for permission to apply, application is due May 13. Identified the need to replace one that previously existed at Fenton City Park pavilion.

**Discussion regarding estimates for an ADA compliant walkway in Bud Weil Park.**

Estimate was higher than expected. Dan Howard met with Cochran Engineering and discussed both locations in the parking lot. The upper end had a lot of challenges. One was a drainage ditch from Fabick to Bud Weil that had to be bridged and retaining walls would have been required.

**Request for native plantings near the pavilion and landscaping around the entrance to Bud Weil Park.** Scott and Deb discussed removing the white snakeroot next week from the rock garden area in front of pavilion and gradually start placing the natives that Scott has and some seed. May not see it until winter.

Area near entrance under sign looks good. The plants are well placed and will fill out and look better each year. She'd like to add mulch to maintain and some rocks from another area.

Motion made to request City of Fenton pay for further improvements to the signage area at Bud Weil Park not to exceed \$150. – **Deb Rogers**

2nd – **Cyndy Paul**

(Approved unanimously)

**Request for improvements to Bud Weil Park building/pavilion.** Deb suggested updating the one end of pavilion with boarded up window and door to be more attractive like on the lavatory building at Bud Weil Park.

Motion made to ask the board to ask Dan Howard when he's not busy to look at the window and door coverings. – **Deb Rogers**

2nd – **Mike Abbott**

(Approved unanimously)

## **PARK REPORTS:**

### **Presented by Parks and Recreation Committee Members:**

- **Bud Weil: *Rogers*** – glade area is beautiful, and you can see the rock formations and top of the hill from the honeysuckle removal.
- **Bud Weil Annex: *Rogers*** – nothing new to report.
- **Meramec Greenway: *Johnson*** – thanked the public works department for cleaning the area from brush and vines on the roadside. Riverside has vines that need to be removed.
- **Riverside Park: *Johnson*** – big tree was removed, and the benches may be better served relocated to the Fenton City Park.
- **RiverChase: *Paul*** – no report
- **Westside Park: *Abbott*** – some natives were planted in the designated areas last week
- **Fabick: *Abbott*** – nothing new to report
- **Fenton City Park: *Lynn Hughes*** – will put a list together to add trees in the fall
- **Heroes Memorial: *Heinemann*** – nothing new to report
- **Olde Towne Plaza Park: nothing new to report.**
- **Valiant Park: *Heinemann*** – bathrooms are open; ball field removed

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

### **Updates from the Parks and Recreation Department Staff:**

Email Nikki by next month to let her know which member will report on each park.

Board approved geocaching in the park. There is an app on your phone to find geocache locations like a treasure hunt. The containers need to be in good condition and if not, you may contact the group and they will replace it.

### **Updates from the Parks and Recreation Committee Liaison: no updates**

Motion made to adjourn meeting – **Cyndy Paul**

2nd – **Mary Heinemann**

(Approved unanimously)

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 6, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Tina Sullivan

Admin | Bookkeeper | Memberships  
City of Fenton