

# MIDDLETOWN RECREATION COMMISSION

**Wednesday, September 12, 2018**

The Middletown Recreation Commission held their monthly meeting on Wednesday, September 12, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. in the Recreation & Parks Department office.

**ATTENDANCE:** Chairman Dave Bechtle, Vice-Chairwoman Shawna Strenfel, Wayne Hawkins, Daniel Higbie, Alderman Jerry Kleiner and Supt. Chris Brinckerhoff.

Absent: Rollin Lybolt and Michael Torres

**GUESTS:** Barbara Bonham & Ellen O'Neil, Shade Tree Committee

## **CORRESPONDENCE:**

\*Invitation to the School District's Grand Opening Celebration of the Tennis Courts on 9/7/18

\*Email from Alderman Sparrow Tobin from Highrose Ridge Development inviting the Superintendent to speak at the October 22, 2018 Homeowners Meeting informing their residents of recreational activities offered by the City.

\* A letter from the Little League Board regarding their \$5,000 donation for park improvements at Watts Park and what they would like the funds to go towards.

\*An email from Barbara Bonham, Shade Tree Committee, informing the commission of plans they will be submitting to the Recreation Commission for tree plantings in the Dog Park and creating a tree grove sitting area with-in the Dog Park and the possible donation of aquatic artistic tiles for the War Memorial Pool.

\*A letter from Mr. Lowell Joerg, from Stockton, CA, enclosed with a 1912 postcard of Thrall Park.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** The minutes of the June 13, 2018 meeting were unanimously approved on a MOTION by Wayne Hawkins; seconded by Dan Higbie.

**AUDIT:** June program revenues were \$40,144.00, July program revenues were \$79,672.33 and August program revenues were \$12,679.50 totaling \$132,495.83. Summer donations and grant funding totaled \$24,031.50 Bringing year-to-date revenue total to \$270,626.33

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Personnel – Summer staff totaling 133 did a great job this summer in all our programs. The only remaining summer employee is a laborer in the parks department. After School programming staff has been hired for the new school year and fall seasonal programming staff. Pre-School teachers returned to work on August 27<sup>th</sup> to prepare for their school year.

Activities – All summer programs ran smooth this year. The department offered a free lacrosse clinic that was well attended. There were (3) successful sessions of Junior Police Academy. Pop-Up BBQs were popular again this summer in conjunction with the police and fire departments. Sports Camp had lower than usual attendance, probably due to there being no camp last year. Swim lessons were held at Sproat St. Pool due to construction of the high school pool. Weather canceled the Community Campout, Troll and Fairy House Building and (2) outdoor movies. After School Recreation Academy started the first day of school in (3) elementary buildings. Kids Day Off is a new program held 8:00am – 5:00pm in our gym for grades K-8<sup>th</sup> on days there is no school that are not national holidays.

Maintenance – Fields are still being lined and prepared during the fall for Football, Soccer (2), Fall Little League and Fall Men's Softball League. A lawn tractor was purchased and the cost was shared between the Fire Department (\$5,000) and Parks Dept.(\$1,600). The resurfacing of the Tennis Courts was completed in July. Two pickleball courts were added to the far two tennis courts. The company has been contacted due to brown spots appearing on the surface

of the courts. The tennis shack has a new roof and exterior walls. Summer kept the entire staff busy with mowing, garbage pick-up, park maintenance, pool maintenance and program support.

**RECREATION & PARKS COMMITTEE:** No Report. The Recreation Commission would like to have a meeting soon to discuss the planning of the Davidge Park Expansion. This was also requested by the Commission at the June Meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS:** The National Recreation & Parks Association (NRPA) Out-of-School Time Grant's remaining funds will replace the roof on the Lions Shelter and enable us to build single picnic shelters in Maple Hill, Thrall, Beattie and Bennett Hill Parks. Working Supervisor, John Bianchi and Superintendent Brinckerhoff have been in meetings concerning the Davidge Park Expansion. They also met with the proposed architect for the project. The City is planning to have a multi-purpose field (football, soccer and lacrosse) with a five lane walking track around it. They will be looking to include at the facility bleachers, scoreboard, restrooms/concession building and parking. The water issue at the Dog Park has been temporarily fixed with scraping and stone. In the near future a trench and piping will be a permanent repair for water run-off. Members of the Shade Tree Committee shared their idea of tree plantings and creating a sitting area in the dog park. Users of the Dog Park are requesting more benches.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Upcoming park improvement projects will include a small pavilion being built in the back area of Sproat St. Park. The replacement of the Lions Shelter roof. An accessible walking path to the back fields of Watts Park and the replacement and repairs of safety nets and upgrading infield mix on three fields. Completion of the Maple Hill Playground Equipment once the water retention project is complete. The Disc Golf Course being complete with the installation of signage. Playground equipment will be replaced in Jerome Neil, Sproat St. and Bennett Hill Parks. The City is working with a consultant to plan for the implementation of walking and biking trails on the Reservoir Property. Lowe's Home Improvement Store has a community service program called Hero's Project and they are making improvements to our Maple Hill Pool House with paint, floor application and new doors. The City approved a serial bond for the parks department to purchase a Massey Ferguson Tractor, a tractor snow blower with cab and a Ferris boom mower. Wayne Hawkins mentioned he would like contact information for CPV and Legoland to check into donation possibilities. Chariman, Dave Bechtle would like to include commission members in giving presentations at the Annual Recreation Commission Meeting. All agree.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Forms to participate in the Trunk or Treat event on October 27<sup>th</sup> was handed out.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The May meeting was adjourned at 8:55p.m. on a MOTION by Shawna Strenfel and seconded by Dan Higbie

**NEXT MEETING:** The October meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 10, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. in the Recreation & Parks Department office.

Respectfully submitted,

*Christine Brinckerhoff, Superintendent*