

MIDDLETOWN RECREATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, December 11, 2019

The Middletown Recreation Commission held their monthly meeting on Wednesday, December 11, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. in the Recreation & Parks Department office.

ATTENDANCE: Chairman Shawna Strenfel, Wayne Hawkins, Daniel Higbie, Alderman Jerry Kleiner and Supt. Chris Brinckerhoff.

Absent: Michael Torres, Rollin Lybolt and Dave Bechtie

GUESTS: Antinea Sanchez, MHS Student from Public Policy Class

CORRESPONDENCE: Letter from North Congregational Church thanking the Mayor's Youth Council for assisting them in wrapping gifts for 40 Head Start Children

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: The minutes of the November 13, 2019 meeting were unanimously approved on a MOTION by Wayne Hawkins; seconded by Dan Higbie

AUDIT: Program revenues for November totaled \$14,506.35. Donations and grants for October equaled \$1,750. Bringing yearly revenue total to \$351,973.57

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Personnel – The Parks Department has a new full-time laborer, who will be replacing a retiring skilled laborer. We welcome Mr. Mark Sherman to our staff. He comes with a CDL and skills in fabrication, electric and carpentry. We are looking to fill two more laborer positions, as one more worker is retiring and one has been transferred to DPW.

Activities – Holiday special events are keeping the staff busy. Cops and Cookies was well attended and all enjoyed the movie and decorating cookies. Gingerbread House building has 10 families participating. Polar Express will draw a huge crowd and many letters are coming in for Letters to the North Pole. Our elves, both paid and volunteer, are enjoying implementing these programs and providing nice holiday programming for our residents.

Maintenance – The crew has continued to mulch and remove leaves from various city properties. They are assisting with snow removal and salting and sanding around the city. The new parking lot at War Memorial Pool has been compacted and guardrails will be put up in the spring. Repairs and maintenance to equipment to have everything ready for the spring. When weather allows they continue to work at the reservoir and doing various park improvements.

RECREATION & PARKS COMMITTEE: Nothing to report

OLD BUSINESS: The field dedication for the Fancher Davidge Park Expansion was held at Kuhl's Highland House on November 30th. Two hundred people came to honor and congratulate Richard P. Wolslayer, long time high school football coach and Sports Camp Director. The new facility will be named the Richard P. Wolslayer Athletic Field and be the new home of Middletown Youth Football.

NEW BUSINESS: The department will be receiving \$50,155.00 in 2020 Orange County Solution Funding for positive youth development. \$15,000 will be for the Summer Feeding Program; \$8,354 for Summer Leadership Academy; \$21,801 for Teen Center Programming and \$5,000 for our boxing program.

Superintendent Brinckerhoff is working on the 2019 Annual Report. Commission members gave input on 2020 department goals and three year goals. Suggestions included: Disc Golf Clinics; City bringing back First Night; adding fishing and watercraft rentals to the reservoir; expanding cooking and nutritional classes to more age groups; event or clinics at Skatepark; bringing back idea of a 911 playground to include firetruck, police car, ambulance, etc.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: A thank you to the City for a great tree lighting parade. It gets better every year.

ADJOURNMENT: The December meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. on a MOTION by Daniel Higbie and seconded by Wayne Hawkins

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, January 8, 2020** at 7:30 p.m. in the Recreation & Parks Department office.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Brinckerhoff, Superintendent