

MIDDLETOWN RECREATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, September 9, 2020

The Middletown Recreation Commission held their monthly meeting on Wednesday, September 9, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. in the Recreation & Parks Department office located at 393 County Route 78.

ATTENDANCE: Chairwoman Shawna Strenfel, Wayne Hawkins, Daniel Higbie, Anthony Williams, Alderman Tom Burr and Supt. Chris Brinckerhoff.

Absent: Michael Torres & Rollin Lybolt

GUESTS:

CORRESPONDENCE: 4 Thank notes for Care Packages delivered to families, and a thank you note for the new equipment and improvements to Amchir Park, Memo from Shade Tree Committee inquiring about purchase of water tank to water trees.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING Minutes from February 12, 2020 & July 8, 2020 accepted by Daniel Higbie; seconded by Wayne Hawkins

AUDIT: Program revenues for July totaled \$5,605.00, for August totaled \$4,025.00 \$1,350.00 in grant money came in from 1st quarter to refund boxing from Orange County Solutions Funding. Bringing revenue for 2020 to \$57,232.00.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Personnel – We have three (3) seasonal employees continuing work in our parks department. We have a part-time worker at the reservoir maintaining trails. Our pre-school teachers remain employed and are implementing the care packages program for families in need. (over 300 families) Two employees are working in the Employee Academic Assistance Program. We have some Rec. Specialist working tennis, basketball, yoga, flag football, fitness and various small programs. We have two employees doing custodial work. We continue to use a talented employee to deliver virtual programming to the public.

Activities – Activities during COVID are limited, outdoors and in small numbers. We are doing family walks at the reservoir, KO Cardio fitness, yoga, flag football, Employee Academic Assistance Program, adult tennis, basketball skills clinic, MVP and Me (mommy and me program) and storytime. We will be trying to figure out some special programming for the fall while keeping the public socially distant. Going to have a Disc Golf Clinic and looking to plan a Train Parade for City Police to do something small for Halloween with residents.

Maintenance – Parks Department Crew continues to do daily work of mowing, weed wacking, garbage pick-up, pavilion rentals and lining fields. They are working on adding another parking lot entrance to the reservoir off Mapes Rd. and putting in the orange trail to add another trail to the trail system. They continue to do work at our new facility. They have put in new benches at Academy Ave. park and have assisted volunteers in adding more baskets to the Disc Golf Course. They are steam cleaning playground equipment seven (7) days a week and downtown sidewalks and benches two days a week. They are assisting community development in improving the entrances to the city. They continue to remove dead and weak trees from our park system.

RECREATION & PARKS COMMITTEE: Alderman Tom Burr reported that the Michael G. Perkins building has been sold by the City for \$500,000. Alderman Burr welcomed new Commission Member Anthony Williams and looks forward to working with him and knows he will be a great asset to our board. Alderman Burr also gave a report on the City's Sanitation plan.

OLD BUSINESS: A bid was awarded for the drainage and crowning of the athletic field at the Davdige Park Expansion. The project will be done in stages with City workers completing what they can and bids going out for when work must be contracted out. The new facility on county route 78 is up and running. Little bit of work still needs to be completed. The Lions Club ran their fishing derby virtually this year. It went well for being a first time experiment. They continue to improve the trails and parking at the reservoir. We are hoping to have a new tree planted by early October at the Recreation Campus honoring Dave Bechtle. Once the tree is planted and bench is purchased we will organize a small ceremony to honor Dave.

NEW BUSINESS: As we begin to implement small programming we have done safety plans required by the state to meet COVID guidelines. We have plans for all programs, pavilion rentals and Employee Academic Assistance Program. We are all excited to welcome Mr. Anthony Williams to the Recreation Commission. Anthony will be completing our beloved Dave Bechtle's term. Mr. Williams is an administrator at Middletown High School and involved in the community and our youth. He will be a wonderful asset to our already great team! Our department is running an Employee Academic Assistance Program for school aged children of City employees. We currently have 10 children in the program. In March our Chair and Vice Chair for the Recreation Commission should of changed. Due to COVID and the lack of regular meetings we will keep the same officers until March of 2021.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 8:45 with a motion from Wayne Hawkins and Seconded by Anthony Williams.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, October 14, 2020** at 7:30 p.m. in the Recreation & Parks Department office located at 393 County Route 78.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Brinckerhoff, Superintendent