

MIDDLETOWN RECREATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, September 8, 2021

The Middletown Recreation Commission held their monthly meeting on Wednesday, September 8, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. in the Recreation & Parks Department office located at 393 County Route 78.

ATTENDANCE: Chairwoman Shawna Strenfel, Daniel Higbie, Wayne Hawkins, Anthony Williams, Alderman Jerry Kleiner, Asst. Supt. Raelynn Bertholf and Supt. Chris Brinckerhoff.
Absent: Rollin Lybolt

GUESTS: None

CORRESPONDENCE: Thank letters from Garden Lovers Club, folks that received Care Packages and Eloise Hickman, thanking us for tour a new facility. Lions Club shared their newsletter with pictures of fishing derby. A letter asking to make a donation to dedicate two benches, to be put at the reservoir

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING Minutes from the June 9, 2021 meeting were accepted by Dan Higbie; seconded by Wayne Hawkins.

AUDIT: Program Revenues for:

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| June 2021 totaled: | \$28,049.50 |
| July 2021 totaled: | \$46,851.00 |
| August totaled: | \$15,885.00 |
| '21 Grant and Donations Received | \$5,405.00 |
| '21 Year-to-Date Revenues | \$138,458.50 |

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Personnel – Two seasonal employees remain in the Parks Dept. and we continue to have a part-timer working at the reservoir. Pre-School Teachers only have a morning class and hours have been reduced. We will use them in other programs when needed. Summer programming staff did a wonderful job. All positions are full for our fall programming. Superintendent Brinckerhoff's last day is October 1, 2021 after 39 years working in the Recreation Dept. Asst. Superintendent Raelynn Bertholf will be named Superintendent and Program Coordinator Nicole Psarakis will be named Asst. Superintendent. The City will wait to hire a full-time Program Coordinator after the results of a Civil Service test in February.

Activities – Program flyers of all summer and fall programs were shown to the commission members totaling 16 programs for the fall and two family movie nights. Three Little Library boxes were installed as an Eagle Scout project in Davidge, Maple and Amchir Parks. Summer camps went well and were at capacity, which was lowered due to COVID. Playground programs had very low attendance this summer.

Maintenance – Parks Department staff stayed busy with all their summer responsibilities. Many dangerous trees were removed throughout the park system this summer. Many improvements have been made at the Reservoir Trails and the men installed the two new signs welcoming people to the City of Middletown by Tall Oaks and Maddy's Diner.

RECREATION & PARKS COMMITTEE: Nothing this evening

OLD BUSINESS: Reported out how all summer programs and pools went for the summer after planning for implementation during COVID. Gave an update on progress with the Davidge Park Expansion.

NEW BUSINESS: The Maple Hill Pool will need major renovations, due to broken pipes located under the cement pool. Estimated over \$1,000,000 for repairs. The City and the department will be discussing future plans for the pool. We will be receiving \$15,000 from the State under a Safe Summer Youth Engagement Funding to reduce gun violence in teens. This funding allowed us to start a Fitness and Leadership program between police and teens. The first program was a huge success with member the high school football team competing in fitness against police officers and teens having the opportunity to learn about police encounters during traffic stops and acting as an officer using a reality interactive simulator. Our department has submitted our proposed 2022 operating budget to the City Treasurer. Two capital project were approved for 2021-2022. Additional playground equipment will be put in Fancher Davidge Park and public restrooms will be installed at the VanDuzer Parking lot of the Reservoir.

Commission Members approved our department proposing a \$20 increase in camp fees due to increasing in minimum wage and salaries for counselors. We are requesting resident fee of \$110 per week and \$130 for non-residents. (Motion made by Dan Higbie, Seconded by Wayne Hawkins; vote was approved by all members)

ANNOUNCEMENTS Jerry Kleiner thanked Superintendent Brinckerhoff for her years of service to the Middletown Community. Chairwoman Strenfel brought a beautiful cake that will be shared with the recreation staff. Thank you Shawna!

ADJOURNMENT: 8:45pm Motion made by Wayne Hawkins, Seconded by Anthony Williams

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, October 13, 2021** at 7:30 p.m. in the Recreation & Parks Department office located at 393 County Route 78.

My Parting Note: It has been a pleasure to serve the residents of the City of Middletown for so many years. I have been honored to work with incredible people, with incredible talents and met so many amazing youth and families throughout our City. I treasure the relationships and friendships I have made along the way. I am confident and proud to know the new Leadership will make the department even bigger and better. I will see you out in the community... I'm only retiring from the desk, not our young people. It has been a great, long chapter in my book called life. On to the next Chapter! God Bless and Thank you for all your support in making Middletown a better place to live, work and play!

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Brinckerhoff, Superintendent