

Connellsville Parks and Recreation Board Minutes
Thursday, May 2, 2024

The meeting was called to order by President James Flynn at 6:30 sharp. Members in attendance were Flynn, Jacobyansky, Bell, Tzan, Renzi, and Driscoll

Public comment

1. Dan Porterfield of the men's softball league, along with 3 others, asked the Board's blessing to start their league in two weeks, on Sundays at Woodruff. They will provide insurance. There was an aborted attempt at starting a league several weeks ago by someone not affiliated with Mr. Porterfield's group, without the city's permission. Bob Topper will look into this. The rec board gave tacit approval to this group but no motion was made
2. Jason Bandemer gave an update on his PE in the Park program. The Rec Board is subsidizing this event to the tune of \$30.00 per registered attendee

Student volunteers Whitney Bobish and Maddie Gratchic were introduced by Bob Renzi

The Rec Board received word that Mike Parlak has resigned his position. The general consensus is that he will be missed; he did a lot of good for the city. He is still heavily involved with the General Braddock's Fish Club and will continue to do good for the city. As a corollary to this, Councilman Topper noted that the city received a letter on interest from Farren Rice expressing her interest in becoming a board member

City Council report from Councilman Topper

1. The city received an estimate for placing waterlines at East Park for approximately \$3700.00 A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept this estimate and move forward with the project
2. Tangled Up in Vines was a success in that \$7000 to \$9000 was raised.
3. The Garden Club would like to partner with the Rec Board concerning the \$25K Impact grant that they recently received. Mr. Topper will give more info on this as it becomes available.
4. West Newton Parks and Rec Board has expressed an interest in partnering with us whenever possible. It was mentioned that Latrobe's Rec Board has expressed a similar desire. This is a testament to our current board and its hard work.

Treasurer's report: Not available as Janine Brooks is on a well-deserved vacation

Further agenda items:

1. 6 tents have been purchased for use by the board and are currently stored at the East Side Fire Station
2. The new parks at the signs are almost done. Jimmy Bigam and his crew have been doing some landscaping around them, and shoring them up to make them more resistant to damage.
3. Additional power to East Park is on hold due to some difficulties

4. President Flynn suggested that each member should take a particular event/location and keep the board involved. Frank Jacobyansky said he would continue to monitor and suggest improvements to all the parks. Kerry Bell will keep the board apprised on the projects at 12th Street and hopefully Woodruff Park
5. Frank Jacobyansky, organizer of the city-wide cleanup, commented that the recent clean-up was a success, with approximately 80 volunteers. Groups involved were the NHS, football team, girls' basketball team, Walmart, Connellsville Township VFD, Alternative Yes, and many individuals
6. Frank Jacobyansky presented bids for two projects
 - a. Seal coating of the basketball court at Washington by Blaine Brooks for \$400.00, with the city painting the lines. A motion was made, seconded, and approved, with the following stipulation suggested by Melissa Tzan: that this project is to be done before Memorial Day, May 27th (Secretary's note – Mr. Brooks was contacted afterwards concerning this matter and agreed to this. He implied that he would start on this very soon)
 - b. A bid of \$2100.00 by AK Painting of Connellsville to paint the Pickleball courts. The consensus of the board is that this is too high. Dr. Jacobyansky will get several more bids and present them to the board at the next meeting
7. A new bench was placed at the Pickleball court, donated by Bandon MacPherson
8. Becky Ambrosini contacted Frank Jacobyansky expressing her disappointment that the park sign at Cameron did not mention the Garden Club. Mr. Flynn and Mr. Topper stated that this will be taken care of
9. Kerry Bell gave an update on the continued progress of the 12th Street project
10. The River Rally plans are progressing nicely
11. Councilman Topper reported that the Barstool Open stop will be at the Senior Citizen's Center on June 15th. Plans for the hole are being finalized
12. Kickball on May 25: Plans are also progressing nicely.
13. Red White and Boom will be held on July 6th

James Flynn has a goal of getting more people into our parks and would like to have a think-tank concerning this matter. Bus trips to a Pirates game or to a casino were mentioned as possible events.

A second goal is to have merchandise available for sale at the Visitor's Center highlighting our city

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 P.M.