

Minutes of the Munson Township Park & Recreation Board Meeting Monday, November 12, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 6:16pm by Chair Bert Diehl. Joe Herczak and Jim O'Neill and John McCreery were present. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Minutes

Bert Diehl moved and Jim O'Neill seconded to approve the minutes of October 8, 2018 as written. Motion carried.

New Business

Rain Garden – Green Storm water Projects

Trustee Irene McMullen attended the meeting as a Munson Township resident who wanted to share grant information with the Park Board that calls for projects from Central Lake Erie Basin Collaborative which is targeting green storm water infrastructure projects in Ohio's central Lake Erie basin watersheds. The group is looking for a project in a public area and the Chagrin River Watershed Partners thought that a rain garden would work well in Munson Township Park. If the grant is awarded for this purpose, Munson Elementary School students can get involved with it as a school project which is also a requirement of this grant. The Trustees will discuss this grant at their scheduled meeting Tuesday, November 13th. There is no money matched on this grant with a deadline for submission at the end of this month and the project must be completed by August 15, 2019. The Chagrin River Watershed Partners offered to review our proposal before submission. Joe Herczak was concerned about the location of the rain garden and thought that it would be more beneficial to choose an area with more water for the rain garden. Trustee Andy Bushman feels that the area chosen is in need of a rain garden since water flows over the parking lot moving gravel. Mrs. McMullen would like to talk to a few contractors to see how much it would cost for a project like this. Bert Diehl made a motion which was seconded by Jim O'Neill to support a grant submission for the rain garden at Munson Township Park. Members voted as follows: Bert Diehl, yes; Jim O'Neill, yes; John McCreery, yes; Joe Herczak, no; Motion Carried 3-1.

Dugouts – Varsity Field at Munson Township Park

Keith Patterson, a parent volunteer involved with the Chardon High School Baseball team, attended to discuss dugouts. He would like to use the existing slab, dig footers and construct new dugouts with concrete block the same style as the softball dugouts that Stewart Landies replaced this past spring. The current varsity dugouts are rotting out and falling apart. The varsity dugouts are longer than the softball dugouts since there is storage for equipment, tools and tractors. Mr. Patterson would like to add roll-up garage doors since it would make it easier to get equipment in and out. Mr. Bushman stated that the garage doors must be on the sides or back of the dugout and not face the ball fields. Mr. Patterson has a concern regarding the way the dugouts are currently setting and feels that they should all be contained. If the doors are on the front of the dugout, nylon netting can be placed in front to stop baseballs from coming in. Brian Long, the coach of Chardon Baseball team, will check to see if fences are required by the dugouts. Mr. Bushman was adamant that the fences will stay as they are. Mr. Patterson admitted that he tore down the baseball dugouts with no permission and he used a mini excavator

for the demolition. Mr. Patterson went on to confess that they got so excited about the project and got carried away. He wanted to let the record reflect that Stewart Landies never at any point told him to knock down the old dugouts. Regarding the funding of this project, Mr. Landies is working with the generous donors that helped him with the two new dugouts located on the lower softball field which were completed last spring. The Chardon Baseball League would like to complete the new varsity dugouts for the opening game which is typically in April/May (weather depending). They play approximately fifteen (15) games on this particular field each year with other teams such as Junior Varsity, rec and travel teams who also use the field. Bert Diehl made a motion which was seconded by John McCreery to approve the concept Stewart Landies submitted, a conceptual drawing for the baseball dugouts with changes noted to go to the Munson Township Zoning Inspector. Motion carried.

A wish list for the Varsity Field was emailed to Park & Recreation Board members. Mr. Diehl commented that the ideas are great but the list needs to be prioritized since it will take many years to fund and complete all of the desired field enhancements. John McCreery asked who is going to take care of the repair and replacement costs when the items break or wear out over time. Mr. McCreery was also curious to know if a new field is planned for the new high school someday. If so, who will pay for the varsity field maintenance costs at Munson Township Park?

Batting Cages - Varsity Field at Munson Township Park

Mike Corsillo is heading up the Chardon High School senior project. There are six (6) high school seniors who would like to install batting cages at Munson Township Park on the varsity field. The batting cages would be a benefit to the baseball team since it will allow them to warmup before games and practice hitting baseballs. All of the netting would be taken down for the winter months and put back up in the spring. The base of the batting cages would be tampered crushed limestone topped with artificial outdoor turf (drawing attached). Coach Brian Long put in a good word about the group of high school seniors and that they know people who have built batting cages who have offered their professional advice. There are four (4) turf mounds at the high school that the baseball team can bring to the park and use during the season. Mr. Patterson commented that the grass will need to be scraped and reseeded in some area due to the construction. He feels it is better to get as many projects done during this time so the field will not have to go under repair work twice. Bert Diehl made a motion that was seconded by John McCreery to approve the construction of the batting cages at the varsity field at Munson Township Park as part of the high school varsity senior project. Motion Carried.

Old Business

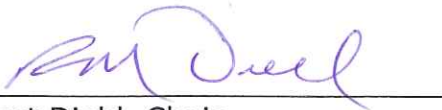
Grants - Scenic River Retreat Trails

The grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (Nature Works \$23,290) and the grant from the Geauga Parks Foundation (\$8,250) have both been awarded to Munson Township. Trustee Andy Bushman does not believe that the township will have to provide a wetland delineation since Scenic River Retreat is under a nationwide permit. The Park & Recreation Board needs to know this information since they would like to get the plans in motion. Mr. Bushman will look into getting a letter providing the information in question. Zoning Inspector Jim Herringshaw will talk to contractors regarding the trails. The Park & Recreation Board would like for the Trustees to keep them informed. There was a quick discussion regarding the landscape and trees at Scenic River Retreat.

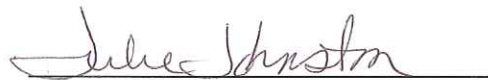
Protect Geauga Parks

Residents Dave and Barbara Partington attended the meeting to introduce themselves to Park & Recreation Board members. They support helping nature and getting children involved with nature. They commented that each park serves a purpose and that they are all well used. They are also involved with Protect Geauga Parks, a non-profit organization that has been in existence for over three (3) years. Their mission statement is: To promote, support and actively campaign for Conservation, Preservation and Protection of Nature as the primary mission of our parks. They commended Munson Township for owning and managing their own parks.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09pm. The next meeting will be held Monday, December 10, 2018 at 6:15pm at Munson Town Hall.



Bert Diehl, Chair



Julie Johnston, Secretary

cc: Township Trustees
Fiscal Officer
Road Superintendent