

**PARKS BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES**

**October 20, 2021**

**6:30 PM**

Scott called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

**Roll Call:** Don Buchert, Marty Hura, Nina Schroeder, Cookie Vanek, Scott Weaver

**Other Village Personnel Present:** Mayor Linda Clark

**Citizens Present:** Phil Rath

- ❖ Motion to accept amended minutes from September 22, 2021 made by Scott, seconded by Don; all “ayes” given.

**Old Business:**

- Phil Rath, representative for the Downtown Mantua Revitalization Committee (DMRC), and the Board further discussed prioritizing projects.
  - The Board’s priority is still to be brainstorming, researching, and furthering the planning stage of restroom construction at Buchert Park
  - Don advises that we need to be especially leery of vandalism at park facilities, especially when considering the construction of restrooms; this has been a concern of the Parks Board since conversations about building restrooms commenced years ago, but Don brings increased attention to the matter by acknowledging recent vandalism in neighboring communities like Shalersville and Ravenna, which he says cost them tens of thousands of dollars.
    - Brainstorming and researching includes considering how the Village would afford vandalism (and ongoing costs) of this magnitude.
    - Methods to secure and circumnavigate vandalism (e.g., timed locks; remote locks; additional security cameras) were discussed.
  - The Mayor reached out to Tim Robinson from Nature Works; the application for the grant needed to help fund Phase 4 is due in February. This grant (worth approximately \$30-40K) could be applied toward (but is not necessarily limited to) the construction of bathrooms; the replacement of concrete pavilion floors; basketball court fence and concrete pad replacements; and sidewalk replacements.
    - Because CT Consultants estimates that restrooms will cost the Village at least \$100K, and because the Nature Works grant is not nearly enough

money to warrant its expenditure on restroom construction, the Board agrees that the grant should be applied toward the Phase 4 safety-related repairs and replacement projects.

- Edie Benner of the DMRC and Gene Arters of CT Consultants met at Buchert Park and conducted a walkthrough to discuss coming Phases.
  - Nina notes that she would have appreciated being invited, as was discussed at last month's meeting (see: "Attendants will likely include at least one Parks Board representative and one CT Consultants representative" passage from September minutes).
- Because there has been some confusion about what each "Phase" entails, the Board clarified that Phase 4 will be dedicated to safety issues.
  - Phil says he addressed this with the DMRC, reiterating that safety is the Board's (and everyone's) paramount concern; because all agree to proceed with improving and implementing more safety measures first, the Board proposes that Phase 5 be dedicated to the construction of restrooms.
- Phase 4 priorities are decidedly as follows:
  - Replacing the basketball court's concrete pad to correct the heave in the middle;
  - Paving an ADA-compliant sidewalk to the western pavilion;
  - Replacing the concrete floors in the pavilions;
  - Adding an ADA-compliant picnic table in each pavilion;
  - Replacing the dividing fence and perimeter fence at the basketball court.
    - Mayor Clark will work on quotes for proposed projects and pricing for concrete replacement.
    - Don recommends putting some kind of barricade around walkways to deter people from driving on and damaging them.
- Phil Rath says he met with his contact, an architect well-versed in designing and enhancing parks in nearby communities (such as Berea and Medina), who offered insight regarding where a bathroom can be placed and, if possible, tied into existing sewer/water lines.
  - The architect looked at Buchert Park buildings and suggested a "bump-out" on (or addition to) the Lodge, where the closets/walkout are.
    - This would be a less expensive option, given that there would be no need to adjust the grade of the land near the Lodge—which the Board factored

into costs when they considered placing the restrooms where the handicap parking spots are located now.

- This “bump-out” may also allow for a consolidated water bill.
  - The architect requested paperwork for water and sewer lines; Don, too, wants to know how deep the sewer lines are; this is critical in determining the location of construction.
  - Phil’s contact will also work on design.
- Several deteriorating benches on the north side of High St. still need to be removed.

**New Business:**

- At the November meeting, the Board will discuss making a motion to move the aforementioned matters (costs/pricing for Phase 4 and application for the Nature Works grant) to Council.
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- ❖ Motion to adjourn made by Don at 7:32 p.m., seconded by Scott; all “ayes” given.