

Parks Meeting Minutes
October 21, 2020

Ashlee called the meeting to order at 6:30

Members present: Ashlee Hawkins, Scott Weaver, Marty Hura, Don Buchert

Others present: Cookie Vanek and Mayor Clark

No meeting in September no quorum no minutes

Review of letter from DMRC (notes from parks are **in BOLD**)

Dear Parks Committee and others,

DMRC was created by Mantua Village Council 11 years ago or so to provide the matching funds and public / private partnership needed for many activities or grants the Village wanted to pursue. Our goal is to help improve the village! The parks, trails and river are such an integral part of enhancing the quality of life for residents and visitors. There are grants available for parks and trails. We have received many Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) grants from Clean Ohio Trails Funds (COTF) and Recreational Trails Funds (RTF) over the years. For example, The Headwaters Trail and Buchert Park Walking Trails. The Village and DMRC submitted an ODNR grant for the next phase of the Buchert Park Walking Trail and should know the outcome in November.

I have attached the links and a couple pages of the ODNR grant applications that are due March 2, 2021 and June 1, 2021.

Areas at Buchert Park that would benefit from improvements: (many are based on the Parks Master Plan from 2016; however, the Parks Master Plan was created and never discussed after the initial unveiling to determine that part of the design really didn't make sense).

1. Katie's Meadow: There are many wooden electric poles in the green space. The mayor indicated they were owned by the Potato Festival. I spoke with Brian Perkins last week. He stated it would be very expensive to take them down. Then, he wondered where we would locate electric down in that area. He wasn't opposed, but he didn't have a solution. I agree. However, it makes sense to remove the poles and water faucets to 1 or 2 locations by the pavilion or somewhere in order to have an open green space that can be used for Frisbee, soccer, family picnic softball games, youth soccer, or just a green space to play catch. Will this be achieved overnight? No. It would be beneficial to develop an action plan with the Potato Festival Committee with timelines and a cost estimate, so planning could begin to raise funds to create a usable green space. Rationale for removal: portable temporary lighting can be brought in if necessary for an event. A festival or event involves maybe 7-10 days maximum per year out of a 365 day year. **THE CONTRACT WITH THE POTATO FESTIVAL IS WITH THE VILLAGE AND IS UP FOR RENEWAL IN MARCH OF 2021 THIS WILL BE DISCUSSED WITH THEM.**

2. The basketball courts are tired. The Parks Master Plan did have nicely redesigned courts, with improved surface, hoops, etc. It would be nice to develop a cost estimate to redesign the basketball area. If the cost was known, DMRC could work with parks to look into funding for the courts. The courts are in use daily! **PARKS IS OPEN TO REPLACE THE BACKBOARDS, REPLACE THE CENTER FENCE AND PAINT LINES AS MONEY AOLLWS.**
3. The volleyball courts don't exist. **THE VILLAGE WILL BE REDOING THE VOLLEY BALL COURTS WITH THE ROTARY CLUB.** The Parks Master Plan did have the volleyball courts redesigned and relocated. They were actually moved over to where the little softball field is located. But, then where do we put the softball field? I think it will take somebody to sit down with the measurements of softball and volleyball areas to figure it out. Maybe the current softball field can just be repositioned on the same location and allow for the volleyball to be moved by the basketball courts. Or, leave the volleyball courts in the same vicinity they are currently located and have them fully re-built. I have thought about this a lot. I'm not sure that moving the location of the sand volleyball court is ideal. The mayor did mention that Dean Olson and The Rotary club want to help donate sand toward the volleyball court. I researched it. It is not as easy as it sounds to just pour sand for a new court. It needs designed in advance, then dug to the proper depth. Possible drainage and proper materials and sand installed so that the court does not become a mud pit. Plus, proper poles and nets need used so we can attract good volleyball players to play. **THEY WILL NOT BE RELOCATED. THE S.D. IS PUTTING A PLAN TOGETHER.** Maybe even have a sand league? If a design, action plan, timeline and cost estimate are developed, DMRC is available with Rotary to fund it. We just need your guidance.
4. Playground equipment: The current equipment needs cleaned, painted and maintained. There needs to be work with a park equipment design team to figure out what new pieces of equipment should be added to update the park. Plus, the surface underneath needs work for safety. Then, a cool, colorful playground style fence needs installed around the playground equipment area. Include some benches in the area for the chaperones to sit on. (I have pictures if anyone wants to contact me regarding cool, colorful kid friendly fencing). (PS. Yes, it is expensive! But, how do we achieve a goal and raise funds? We finalize a plan, then get a cost estimate so we can do a fundraiser or find a grant to help fund it. The Kiwanis Club of Mantua and Dottie Summerlin have been in contact with me that the Kiwanis is interested in helping with playground equipment funding.) **PARKS WILL CONTACT DOTTIE ONCE THEY DECIDED WHAT THEY WANT TO REPLACE.**
5. Chain-link Fence along the trail and river: Needs removed. Eric Hummel has agreed to take it down for free. It won't be needed once the cool, colorful playground fence is installed around the playground equipment area. **IT WILL NOT BE REMOVED UNTIL THE PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT IS REPLACED AND FENCING IS PUT AROUND THE EQUIPMENT.**
6. Bathrooms: Could be called bathrooms for the Buchert Park Walking Trail Trailhead location which is a connector to The Headwaters Trail (See COTF

grant funding specifications below). The plan indicated putting something between the Spudsy and Legion buildings. If a permanent building isn't wanted, there are many fairly decent designs of bathrooms that are pre-engineered and brought onsite. Just look at many of the state parks and online. I'm sure there may still be a private donor that was interested in funding bathrooms 5 years ago or so. Again, there just needs to be a design, plans and a cost estimate in order to raise funds. DMRC is willing to help. **NO TO THE BATHROOMS AT THIS TIME.**

7. Fishing access. Designate some areas. Why not? Not my area of expertise. **THERE IS NO FISHING AT THE PARK AND WOULD REQUIRE CHANGES TO THE LEGISLATION TO ALLOW IT.**
8. Dog Park: Obviously, the 2 grant funding attempts have not been successful. I believe a scout figured out how to build and fund one in Garrettsville. (I think). It can't be that expensive. I looked online. There are about 4 or so fence companies in the Mantua area. Couldn't somebody figure out the total lineal footage? Contact each company. See if they would like to be a part of the Mantua Dog Park and donate some of the split rail fence material to the project? Or at least find out a price, so DMRC can help with raising funds. If it is planned out, there is probably a group of volunteers that can bring post hole diggers and help with the installation. Again, set out an action plan, design, seek donations, set dates and do the install. **PARKS HAS ESTIMATES FOR FENCING THAT CAN BE UPDATED, THE MAYOR WAS ASKED TO PULL HER FILE.**
9. Pavilions and picnic areas: The new picnic tables look nice. Why are some of the green ones intermixed with the new ones? It doesn't look very consistent. The green concrete picnic tables are kind of gross. **CAN BE REPLACED AS FUNDS ALLOW.** They have black grime or mold all over them. Not sure about the grills. Maybe updating? The benches could use a coat of paint too. **BENCHES WILL NOT BE PAINTED EVER AGAIN, REPLACE WITH TREATED LUMBER AS NEEDED AND PUT A SEALER ON THEM.**
10. Parking and driveways: needs improved. Needs some kind of design and plan. DMRC can try to help in any way possible.

Also, please remember that DMRC gave the village and parks committee \$5,000.00 five years ago to begin to create a design to upgrade the park. We have been patiently and optimistically awaiting guidance from the village and parks in order to help with funding or labor to improve the park. We look forward to assisting in any way possible.

Please realize, that DMRC is your partner. We are willing and interested in helping the Mantua Village Parks Committee achieve their goals of having a village park that residents, kids and visitors to the community would love to visit. PS. Please don't hate me for writing this. I think we are all interested in the same outcome and even though this is from DMRC, I must say that I will take the blame for the content. Thank you in advance for all you do for Mantua.

Motion to cancel parks meeting November, December, January and February by Scott second by Don all yeas

Motion to adjourn at 7:25 by Scott second by Don all yeas

